



## **ILRI-N2Africa Rhizobiology Team Annual Planning Meeting**

**11 April 2016, ILRI Campus  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

### **Introduction to the meeting:**

N2Africa, a large scale R4D project, aims to bring benefits for smallholder farmers in Africa through application of effective grain legumes production technologies. In this process, rhizobial inoculants play a pivotal role to enhance grain yield and close yield gaps. Thus, rhizobiology research constitute an essential element for the project.

Strain improvement over existing strains is a process of screening and improvement continuum so any significantly strain of superior performance, and stable under laboratory and field conditions can be moved along the development pipeline towards production. Previous research efforts have been sporadic, and coordinated rigorous screening of large numbers of isolates and widespread field trials is therefore necessary. A regular annual rhizobiology team meeting and planning is vital for increased performances and sustainability of impacts.

Therefore, the objectives of the ILRI-N2Africa Rhizobiology Annual Planning Meeting is to highlight rhizobiology activities in institutions collaborating with the project on this specific subject and to develop annual work plan. Also, issues on quality control, location specific non-responsiveness to inoculants and challenges will be discussed.

### **Expected outputs:**

- Rhizobiology activities in partner institutions highlighted, and achievements during 2016 reviewed
- Annual rhizobiology work plan will be developed and agreed among the rhizobiology team
- Experiences with location specific results/problems will be discussed
- Concerns on QC (quality control) issues at different levels in the supply chains will be discussed

### **Process to meet expected outputs:**

Presentations and discussions. Groups will come up with their respective brief joint PowerPoint presentations – (collections/bioprospecting - elite strains symbiotic effectiveness test - specific researches), QC issues and issues to stipulate discussions)



Participants will arrive at their respective Hotels by 10 April 2017.				
Time	Activity	Presenter	Facilitator	Rapporteur
8:30 - 9:00	Arrival and Registration		Simret	
9:00 – 9:10	Welcome & Introduction to the workshop	Endalkachew		
<i>Rhizobiology activities- highlights by collaborating institutions &amp; PhD fellow.</i>				
9:10 – 9:30	Overview of rhizobiology activity in N2Africa: Progresses, opportunities and challenges	Mahamadi Dianda	Endalkachew	Birhan
9:30 – 9:40	HwU	Tulu		
9:40 – 9:50	EIAR-HARC	Abere		
9:50 – 10:00	EIAR-DZARC	Sofia		
10:00 – 10:10	MBI	Asnake		
10:10 – 10:20	PhD Fellow	Ashenafi		
10:20 – 10:30	Discussions			
10:30 – 11:00	<b>Coffee/Tea Break &amp; Group Photo</b>	Organizers		
11:00 – 11:15	Outline and preparations for 2017 planning	Endalkachew/ Birhan		
11:15 – 12:30	Group work			
12: 30 – 13:30	<b>Lunch Break</b>	Organizers		
13:30 – 15:00	Group work continue			
15:00 – 15:15	<b>Coffee/Tea Break</b>	Organizers		
15:15 – 15:45	General discussions		Endalkachew	Birhan
15:45	Wrap up/closing	Endalkachew/ Mahamadi		

\*Wednesday, 12 April 2017: Mahamadi Dianda will visit the EIAR-HARC rhizobiology laboratory in the morning and MBI in the afternoon.