



Central Cluster Partnership: Achievements, Lessons & Way Forwards

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Introduction

- Target legume : chickpea,
- Location: Central parts of Ethiopia in the Oromia Region, in three Woredas.
- Partners: FCU (farmers co-operative union)- Becho woliso, and Erer Union, ACOS Ethiopia, MBI, SNV, Woreda BoA

Main Achievements/Progresses

Capacity Development

- TOTs for lead smallholder farmers, DAs, experts from BoA & members of FCUs and PCs, Community Seed Producers (31 male & 5 female = 36)
- Topics covered: Agronomic and Business:
 - Improved chickpea agronomic practices, quality seed production, post harvest, Bio-fertiliser handling, method & time of application
 - Chickpea farm business model, business profitability, Risks, Grain marketing, Overview of record keeping in chickpea business.

Dissemination

- Approaches:
 - a) Demonstration trials (on a total of 11 farmers fields)
 - b) Adaptation trials (with a total of 78 participants)
 - c) Field day (two farmers field days were organized and the total participants were 160)
- Disseminated inputs:
 - 34 quintals of chickpea seeds, 160 kg fertilizer, and 222 sachet inoculants disseminated for target farmers, and seed multiplication.
 - All the dissemination approaches are well but the better and cost effective one was the seed multiplication plots and field day
 - Farmers requested for further dissemination of the technology
 - However they complain chickpea disease and insect pest problem



Input Supply & Market Linkages

- Basic and Certified seed multiplication (26 hectares of basic and certified seeds were multiplied).
- Erer Union bought 157 qt of chickpea seed from seed producing PCs which is to be sold for chickpea producing farmers.
- DZARC produced about 33 quintal of chickpea seed (Arerti) which expected to be marketed for potential buyers (MoA, NGO and Universities).

Challenges faced in Implementations

- Late and insufficient release of budget
- Demonstration plots were harvested by the farmers (owner of the field) (At Bacho all farmers and at Adea one farmer)
- Limited bio-fertilizer supply (issue from farmers)
- Chickpea disease and insect pest problem

Lessons Learned

- Yield advantage of the inoculated plots is well perceived
- Existence of FCU & government extension channels enhances technology dissemination and Adoption
- Farmers motivation, & high demand for bio-fertilizer are great opportunities for further scaling up of the technology
- Disease control is essential for further dissemination & promotion of chickpea production in the area

Opportunities Identified

- The existence of FCUs & government extension channels.
- Farmers motivation & better understanding of the technology encouraging for further scaling of the technology

Way Forwards

- Need to focus in identifying ways to increase the supply of inoculants.
- Focus in strengthen Partnership collaboration
- Need to focus on chickpea pest control
- Increase seed multiplication plots

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