



Chewaka Cluster Partnership: Achievements, Challenges, Lessons & Way Forwards

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Introduction

- Target grain legumes: soybean and common
- Location: altogether five Woredas (Bako-Tibe, Gobu-Sayo, Ilu-galan, Dano, Wayu Tuka).
- Implementing Partners & collaborators: OARI-BARC, MfM, MBI, Gut-Agro Industry, Anno Agro Industry, IFDC-2SCALE, Bore Bako Union, five primary cooperative, Woreda BoAs, CHAI, Self help Africa.

Main Achievements/Progresses

Capacity Development

- ToTs offered for 363 participants (36% women)
- Topics covered: soybean/common agronomy; inoculation application & handling, post harvest, soybean recipe preparation, agribusiness development, input and market access.
- One motor-bike provided for Bore-Bako Union, an Msc research fellowship.

Dissemination

- Demonstrations, adaptations, evaluation and field day events were the main dissemination activities/approaches used.
- # of beneficiaries reached through:
 - Demonstration & adaptation = 507.
 - field days were 1680m+386f = 2,066
- Amount of inputs disseminated:
 - Soybean seed (4.8 tons by BARC and 1.5 tons by MfM),
 - Common bean seeds (0.4 tons by BARC and 0.3 tons by MfM);
 - Inoculants (400 sachets by BARC and 160 sachets by MfM)



Input Supply

- Soybean seed was supplied by Ano Agro Industry through MfM & BARC.
- Inoculants were supplied by MBI for direct beneficiaries through BARC and MfM whereas chemical fertilizers were supplied via FCU and PC
- Three varieties of soybean were planted on 3.5 ha by farm management of the center to produce certified seed (4.8 tons obtained).
- Ano Agro Industry produced soybean seed on 25 ha (15 MT).

Market Linkage

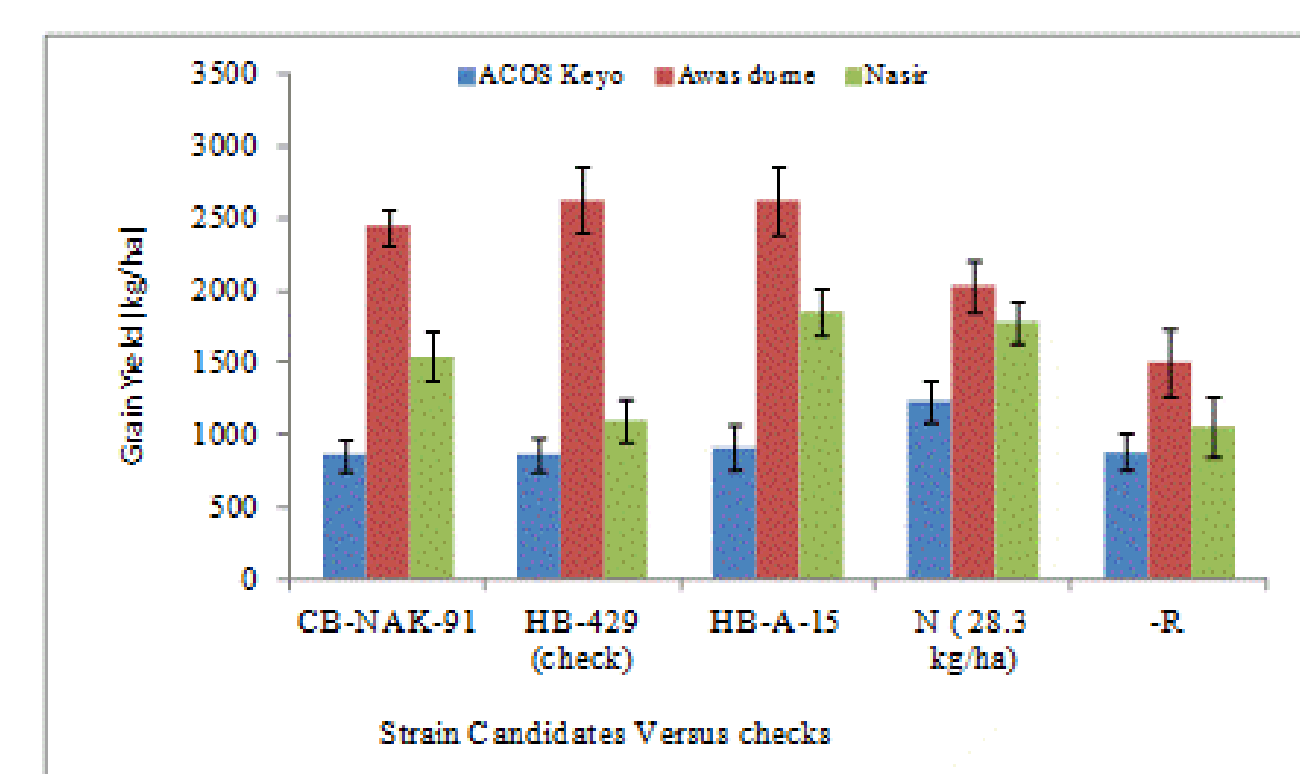
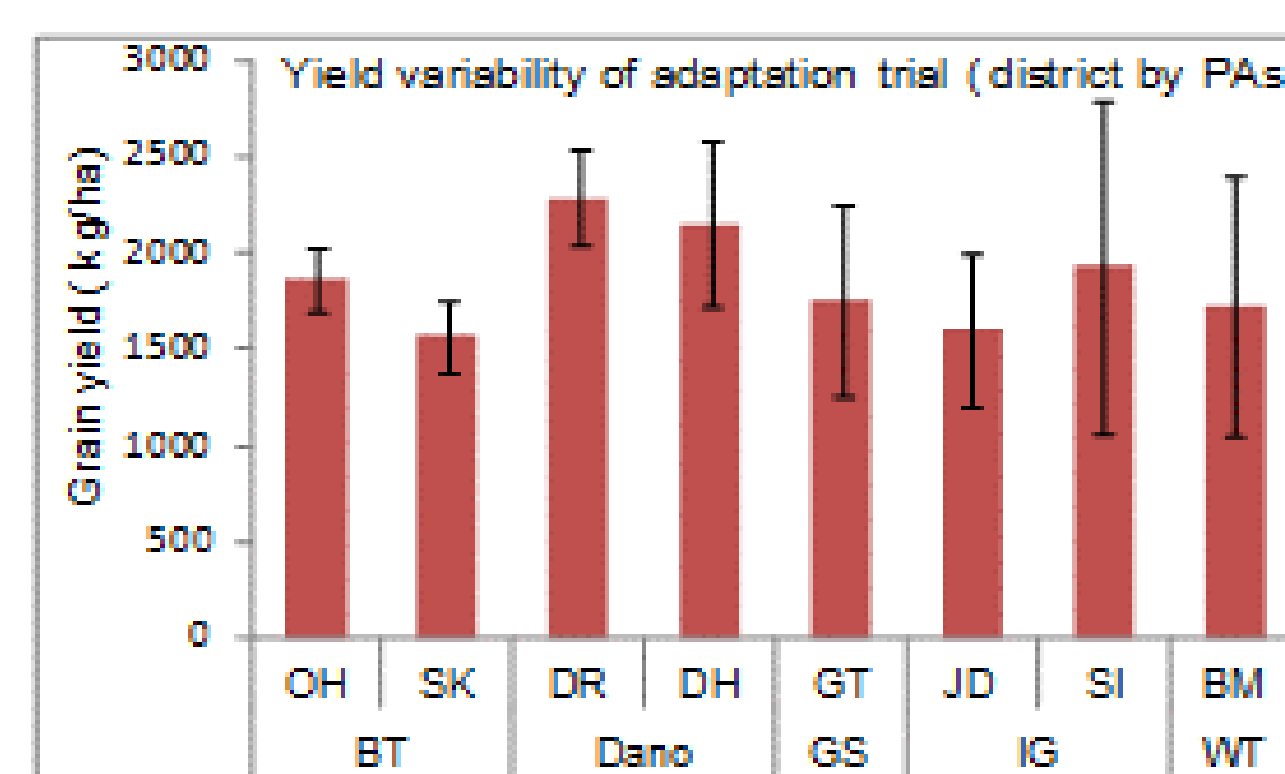
- Contract agreements signed between Gut-Agro Industry and Bore-Bako Union BBU) & Nano Sayo PC. Besides BBU signed an agreement to supply the product for Oromia Agricultural Cooperative Federation (OACF).
- Four PCs signed with Bore-Bako Union to collect the produce from the farmers, now the collection is on progress.
- 390 farmers were benefited through collective marketing
- At least 35 MT volume of grains marketed.

Challenges faced in Implementations

- Lack of women labor saving tools (thresher & soya milk processor).
- Weak commitment & linkage among PPP partners and poor trust between PCs/Unions and buyer.
- Low financial capacity of PCs to collect & bulk the produces in time.
- Soybean strain (*legume fix*) was not responded across all sites in this year.
- Soybean recipe preparation is labor intensive, weed problem at early stage, doubt about lack of local market/ no market linkage

Lessons Learned

- Adaptation and Demos cost-effective dissemination approaches and innovative to reach more farmers through PCs and/or Unions.
- Increased Interest of PCs/FCU for input supply & collective marketing Some of PPP partners have got business opportunity
- PPP approach is useful for sustainable soybean marketing technology dissemination and should be further strengthened
- Common bean variety by strains interaction trial indicates strain specificity to variety and location



Opportunities Identified

- N2Africa outputs attracted NGOs for soybean dissemination (e.g. Self help, CHAI, CASCAPE)
- Formally organized women groups have been identified in three PAs at Dano, with a potential for women-led agri-business development.
- Bore Bako Union interested to supply all legume inputs and collective marketing.
- Government's interest to break mono cropping of maize in the region is an important initiative to strategize legume technology dissemination widely and rapidly.

Way Forwards

- Further trainings on post harvest handling, recipe preparation, value addition processing, market development will be delivered.
- Inoculant quality is a concern and should be followed by appropriate regulatory body
- More grain buyers should be identified and to avoid dependency only on one buyer.
- Introduction and demonstration of labor saving tools are crucial
- Research on non-responsive soils to address the existing high yield variability across farmers fields
- Capacity building for researchers.



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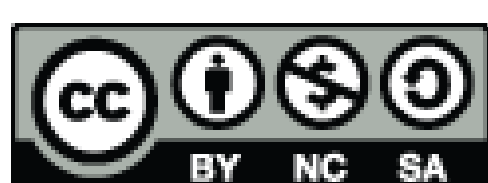
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