

ISSD Africa



ISSD Africa Ethiopia National Seminar

Addis Ababa, 26th of March 2016



Participants of the Seminar

Organized by:

ISSD Ethiopia

Commissioned by:

ISSD Africa (Partnership between Tegemeo Institute, CDI-Wageningen UR, Future Agricultures Consortium, and Royal Tropical Institute, KIT)

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1 Introduction

In ISSD Africa we see integrated seed sector development as an approach to enhance reliable access of male and female smallholder farmers to sufficient quantities of quality seed of superior varieties at the right time and at an affordable price; and to increase male and female farmers' choice in terms of crop varieties, and seed quality, price and availability. Using the ISSD approach we work on four important challenges in the seed sector in Africa: (1) how to promote seed entrepreneurship; (2) how to increase access to varieties in the public domain; (3) how to match global commitments with national realities; and (4) how to support seed sector development under CAADP. For each challenge, a thematic working group has been created.

The first two phases of the ISSD Africa project have been concluded. The first phase, the Launch phase, involved the institutional embedding of the project, the start of thematic working groups and the preparation of the action-learning projects. The second phase, the Action-learning phase, involved the implementation of the action-learning projects and the validation of preliminary project results (partly concluded). We are currently preparing the third phase, the Consolidation phase, in which we will be synthesizing and sharing results of the action-learning projects.

During the inception meeting on 16 and 17 September 2014, thematic working groups reflected on the current framing of the themes, considered where a breakthrough is needed in the context of each theme, and formulated three to five action-learning questions to be addressed per theme; find the questions in Annex 4.

Based on the discussions during the inception meeting four theme scoping papers have been developed. These papers provide an introduction to the themes, with the current state of affairs, areas of breakthrough needed, and delineate the themes in the research questions. The scoping papers can be found at www.issdseed.org/issd-africa

From 9-11 February 2015, a three-day ISSD Africa training was organized in Kampala, Uganda, for national partners and country focal points. Following the ISSD Africa training, we organized a two-day action-planning meeting for the final preparation of the proposed action plans for the action-learning projects under each theme. Participants of the workshop were thematic working group members, as well as the national partners and country focal points.

The action-learning projects for thematic working groups have been implemented over the period of March 2015 – March 2016. The results of the projects of thematic working groups have been shared, discussed and synthesized during 3-day cross case analysis meetings, organized in Nairobi from 7-12 December 2015.

1.1 Background to ISSD Africa

The goal of ISSD Africa Programme is to support the development of a market-oriented, pluralistic, vibrant and dynamic seed sector in Africa for providing both female and male smallholder farmers access to quality seed of superior varieties.

The Programme uses the [ISSD approach](#), which has been endorsed by the African Union Commission as contributing to the implementation of the African Seed and Biotechnology Programme (ASBP) and the seed agenda of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP).

[Click here](#) to read more on ISSD Africa.

2 Objectives of the National Seminars

The ISSD Africa project is currently running national seminars organized in 10 countries where action-learning projects have been implemented.

The national seminar in Ethiopia is part of the referred series of National Seminars.

The objectives of these seminars are:

- i. To present the synthesized findings of the action learning project across the continent to national seed sector stakeholders and policy makers
- ii. To embed the synthesized results of the different action learning projects in a wider seed sector and policy context and link the synthesized findings to national policy processes
- iii. To discuss how to translate these synthesized results into change agendas and to propose concrete entry points for change, as input for the proposal for a Comprehensive programme on ISSD in Africa

3 Seminar Methodology

(i) Mapping of policy makers and other stakeholders

In preparation of the national seminars and to be able to achieve objectives (ii) and (iii), a mapping of the national seed sectors and policy contexts was conducted, to get an understanding about the relevant organizations, projects/programmes involved in seed sector development and relevant seed sector events in the different countries. These mappings were conducted in the period 15 December 2015 – 31 January 2016. The results were be used as input for the discussions of the national seminars held on 26th of March 2016. Following the national seminars an advocacy strategy will be designed, building on the results of the mapping and the national seminars, on how to achieve breakthroughs on the ISSD Africa themes.

The mapping consists of three steps; (1) a mapping of relevant organizations; (2) a mapping of relevant projects/programmes; and (3) a mapping of relevant seed sector events. A detailed description and format for each step can be found on the next pages.

(ii) In the workshop a synthesis of key lessons of the different themes was provided, while the Action Learning Projects (ALPs) of the particular country was presented.

(iii) Presenters provide a list of key lessons/issues for follow-up (general and case study specific).

The provided list (depending on topics) was used in the working groups: Priorities and links with policy making: So some 6-7 issues listed for each working group.

Table 1 CAADP, ASBP and Integrated Seed Sector Development in Ethiopia

(Sub) theme	Which policy makers?	Which stakeholders?	Which projects?	Which events?
Further engage with the different programs for alignment and consideration of promotion of pluralistic seed system	Federal	MoANR EIAR	AGP, SLMP, PSNP and PCDP	Program annual meetings
Organize a platform for actors in the community-based seed system, especially those involved in seed producers' cooperatives and local seed businesses (LSBs)	Federal and regional	MoANR EIAR	ATA Inputs program	continuous
Strengthen the role of the Ethiopian Seed Association (ESA)	Federal	Seed producers	ATA Inputs program	continuous
capacity of the National Agricultural Research System to produce the required type and amount of Early Generation Seeds	Federal and regional	Public and private seed companies, Federal and regional directorates for agricultural inputs marketing	ATA Inputs program	continuous
promotion of institutional innovation in the area of quality assurance given the recognition of diverse type of seed (approved, prescribed, quality declared, and emergency seeds)	Federal and regional	Federal and regional directorates for agricultural inputs marketing	AGP and others	continuous
Establish and promote a National Seed Reserve and Marketing System	Federal	MoANR	ATA seed program	continuous

Table 2 The Common challenges to promoting entrepreneurship in seed value chains

(Sub) theme	Which policy makers?	Which stakeholders?	Which projects?	Which events?
Inadequate technical and financial capacity of seed producers	Federal and regional	Policy makers, practitioners and seed sector producers	-	-
Lack of standardized protocols for quality assurance to different seed producers (farmers, cooperatives, and seed companies)	Federal and regional	Policy makers, practitioners and seed sector producers	-	-
Centralized seed marketing resulting in limited accountability and responsibility	Federal and regional	Policy makers, federal and regional seed regulatory organs, and seed sector producers	ATA Inputs program,	continuous
Non-competitive pricing based on quality	Federal and regional	EIAR and RARIs, Inputs Marketing Directorate of MoANR	ATA Inputs program,	continuous
Demand for quality becoming an issue	Federal and regional	EIAR and RARIs, Inputs Marketing Directorate of MoANR, seed sector producers		
End-users trust on suppliers matters	-	Seed Producers' Association, Public Seed Enterprises, and Private seed companies	-	continuous
Lack of clear incentive for private sector development	Federal and regional	Inputs Marketing Directorate at MoANR and RBoANR	-	continuous

- (iv) During a plenary presentation of the working group results and the following discussion, possible changes were made to the referred list of priority issues.
- The priority issues identified were recommended to be further consolidated into specific and higher level issues and concrete modifications were made
- (v) The priority list was further discussed in the working groups for desired change and action as well as role for ISSD Africa

Table 3 Suggested interventions to achieve the goals of CAADP and its ASBP for Integrated Seed Sector Development in Ethiopia

(Sub) themes	Desired change(s)	Key steps	Stakeholders/ partners to be involved	Possible support of ISSD Africa (non-financial)
Seed governance	Establishment of stronger seed governance	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Documenting Evidences on missed opportunity 2. Identify development scenarios based on existing and other countries' experience 3. Conscientization of relevant high level decision makers 4. Follow up 	Seed sector actors	Documentation of evidences
Alignment and engagement with different programs for pluralistic seed sector development	Existence of diverse seed actors		MoANR AGP LSMP PSNP PCDP	Facilitation
Role and responsibility of different actors	Clarity in roles between private and public seed actors, regional and federal, etc		MoANR Eth. Seed Association	Documentation of evidences
Implementation capacity	Strengthen implementation capacity of existing policies and regulations at all levels			Documentation of evidences

Table 4 Suggested interventions to address the Common challenges to promoting entrepreneurship in seed value chains

(Sub) themes	Desired change(s)	Key steps	Stakeholders/ partners to be involved	Possible support of ISSD Africa (non-financial)
Inadequate technical and financial capacity of seed producers	Better access to finance, know-how, and post-harvest facilities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Performing an advocacy role to equip key stakeholders with appropriate and relevant information; 2. Support for the provision of enabling environment for doing seed business (e.g., facilitating cross-border trade and support for the implementation of the regionally harmonized seed regulations) 3. Capacity building and support for public-private partnerships in seed quality assurance 4. Promotion and awareness creation for early generation seed (EGS) processes 	MoANR AGP, ATA	Provision of training
Lack of standardized protocols for quality assurance to different seed producers (farmers, cooperatives, and seed companies)	Developing inclusive guideline for quality assurance		Regulatory directorate of MoANR ESA ATA	Facilitation, Evidences from other countries Advocacy
Centralized seed marketing resulting in limited accountability and responsibility	Pluralistic, competitive and demand driven seed marketing		MoANR ESA ATA	
Non-competitive pricing based on quality				
Demand for quality becoming an issue				
End-users trust on suppliers matters				
Lack of clear incentive for private sector development	Directives targeting private sector involvement			

(vi) In the plenary session working group matrices were presented and discussed.

(vii) The final next steps discussion is based on the expected role of ISSD Africa, as presented by the working groups and based on the evaluation forms, which also refer to the expectations for ISSD Africa

(viii) Closure

4 Plenary presentations

4.1 Opening

Following the welcoming remarks and introduction of the program by Mohammed, introduction of participants were made. This was followed by subsequent opening remarks by Dr Zewdie Bishaw, Head of Seed Unit of ICARDA, and Dr Walter de Boef, BMGF. Dr Milton then gave an overview Intro to ISSD Africa and objectives of seminar.

4.2 Synthesized findings for TWG on the Common challenges to promoting entrepreneurship in seed value chains

4.2.1 Summary of the presentation

The major focus of the presentation was on how to facilitate the development of entrepreneurship, through seed quality assurance in different seed systems. Four different seed quality assurance systems were discussed each with different advantage and disadvantages. These are self-controlled, truthfully labelled, quality declared and certified seed, which fit to different seed systems. Self-controlled and truthfully labelled seed are cheap and are based on reputation of the seed producers. However, self-controlled seed are subjective and difficult to sell outside the area. Similarly truthfully labelled seed only works when the company wants to maintain its name. While internal seed quality control is basic, the external seed quality assurance gives confidence to the seed buyer promoting seed business. Though expensive, the cost per unit of seed of external seed quality assurance is modest and as such seed buyers are also willing to pay for quality. The challenge of external seed quality control is rather the effectiveness of centralized quality assurance system. Regardless of limited laboratory test, quality declared seed can serve better under African condition. However, it is important to note that QDS is associated with low quality, which limits its extensive use. Moreover, external certification system hardly works very well and simplification and decentralization of the certification system is important. On the other hand, it is critical to have external quality control for Early Generation Seed Production, as this is the base for the subsequent seed production

4.3 Synthesized findings for TWG on CAADP and its ASBP for Integrated Seed Sector Development in Ethiopia

4.3.1 Summary of the presentation

The key messages of the presentation were:

- This assessment of key strategies, programmes and case studies reveals that there is promising trend in the development of a pluralistic seed sector in Ethiopia;
- This is demonstrated by the content and coverage of the National Seed Sector Development Strategy, the different agricultural sector plans, including the Agricultural Sector Policy and Investment Framework (PIF) and Accelerated Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP II), different programs (AGP, SLMP, and PSNP, PCDP) and by evidence from the 'success stories' and early attempts and integration documented in this study;
- In order for these positive trends to continue, there is a need to:
 - Further engage with the different programs (AGP, SLMP, PSNP and PCDP) for consideration of promotion of pluralistic seed system;
 - Organize a platform for actors in the community-based seed system, especially those involved in seed producers' cooperatives and local seed businesses (LSBs), to improve coordination and learning, scale up innovative approaches and increase their voice in decision-making;

- Strengthen the role of the Ethiopian Seed Association (ESA) to ensure that key policy challenges facing the different formal and informal actors to improve seed sector performance are negotiated with policy makers;
- Improve alignment of the different agricultural investment programmes and plans, along with ensuring the equitable investment among the different actors of the seed system, especially actors of the so-called intermediate seed system (e.g. seed cooperatives, LSBs);
- Strengthen the capacity of the National Agricultural Research System to produce the required type and amount of Early Generation Seeds to ensure better access to ensure adequate production of demanded seeds by seed producers;
- Invest in promotion of institutional innovation in the area of quality assurance given the recognition of diverse type of seed (approved, prescribed, quality declared, and emergency seeds) that covers not only production but also marketing; and
- Establish and promote a National Seed Reserve and Marketing System to address the needs of producers living in drought-prone regions

5 Main outcomes of the working groups

Arising from the group discussions and plenary session, a number of issues emerged that could inform the comprehensive phase of ISSD Africa. With respect to Support to CAADP, ASBP and the seed sector development, lack of clarity in budget allocation at various levels of the government, governance, roles and responsibilities and limited capacity for implementation were noted challenges in the seed sector development leading to missed opportunities for achieving the targets proposed in the CAADP's Maputo declaration and re-affirmed in the Malabo declaration. A clear role for ISSD Africa could be to facilitate the documentation of evidence on missed opportunities, identification of best-case scenarios and other country experiences on how to deal with these, sensitization of relevant high-level decision makers and follow-ups to ensure the mandates are achieved.

With respect to common challenges to entrepreneurship (TWG 1), a number of mechanisms for quality assurance were discussed, including, self-control, truthfully labelled, group control, QDS, and Certification, each with their advantages and disadvantages. It was noted that quality criteria and protocols for vegetatively propagated crops and seed from informal as well as intermediary seed systems were generally lacking and most of the quality control mechanisms (for the formal seed) were centralized. In addition, implementation capacity was lacking to give adequate services. In Ethiopia seed marketing is centralized and seed producers are neither accountable for the poor quality seed they supply, nor awarded for their good quality seed. This affected entrepreneurship development in the seed sector of Ethiopia. On one hand farmers started looking for quality and were observed that they pay for quality. On the other hand, this opportunity was not used by government to develop the entrepreneur capacity of companies involved in seed sector. An assessment of missed opportunities in the seed entrepreneurship could be an entry point for the comprehensive phase of ISSD Africa. For example, a gap analysis of the seed sector development to understand the challenges facing seed entrepreneurs (capacity, incentives, competencies, cost of doing business, yield gaps) could be undertaken. Although there is general talk about private sector incentive, this has never been specific to the seed sector affecting entrepreneurs to enter the seed sector. This could be one area that ISSD may work in terms of advocacy so that government make clear directives to incentivize the private sector to engage in the seed sector.

6 Conclusions and future focus areas of ISSD Africa

With the overall understanding of the role of CAADP and its ASBP in promoting Integrated seed system in the country and also the prevailing national seed related policy environment especially in promoting entrepreneurship across the seed value chain, the participants of the seminar has prioritized and suggested the follow issues as a focus of ISSD Africa:

- Documenting Evidences on missed opportunities due to the prevailing challenges related with seed governance, limited alignment of investments in the seed sector, and capacity limitations;
- Documentation of best practices in promoting integrated and pluralistic seed system at regional and continental level and creation of opportunities for experience sharing;
- Documentation experiences for establishment and promotion of a National Seed Reserve and Marketing System to address the challenges of climate change;
- Performing an advocacy role to equip key stakeholders with appropriate and relevant information
- Based on the evidences design a mechanism to 'conscientize' relevant high level decision makers

7 Annexes

7.1 Seminar Programme

Time	Topic	Who	Facilitator
08.30 – 08.45	Registration		Mohammed
08.45 – 09.00	Introduction participants		
09.00 – 09.15	Zewdie – Remark on Ethiopian SS Miltone – Remark on continental Walter – Remark on international perspective	To be identified	
09.15 – 09.30	Intro to ISSD Africa, objectives and programme seminar	Miltone Ayieko	
09.30 – 10.15	Presentation and discussion on synthesized findings of action learning projects across the continent: - Synthesis of TWG on: The Common challenges to promoting entrepreneurship in seed value chains	Mohammed	
10.15 – 10.45	Coffee/tea break		
10.45 – 11.30	Presentation on synthesized findings of action learning projects across the continent - Action learning project Ethiopia – Seed Sector Development to Support CAADP Implementation within the Framework of the African Seed and Biotechnology Programme	Dawit Alemu	
11.30 – 12.30	Discussion groups: (sub) theme analysis and linkages to national policy processes	Groups	
12.30 – 13.30	Lunch		
13.30 – 14.30	Plenary presentation and feedback	Groups	
14:30 – 15.30	Discussion groups: Identifying concrete entry points for change (input for proposal development)	Groups	
15.30 – 16.00	Coffee/tea break		
16.00 – 16.45	Plenary presentation and feedback	Groups	
16.45 – 17.15	ISSD Africa beyond 2016	Miltone Ayieko	
17.15 - 17.30	Evaluation and closing	Miltone Ayieko	

Annex 1 List of participants in the ISSD AFRICA National Seminar

	Name	Organization	Email address
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25	Walter de Boef	Gets Foundation	Walter.deBoef@gatesfoundation.org

Annex 3 - Mapping of National Seed Stakeholders – Organisations and Projects/Programmes

7.2 Map the organizations which are active in seed sector development in your country and indicate by which development partners they are funded.

Name organization?	From which sector?	Funded by?	Involved in which seed system?	Which seed topics are they working on?	Influential in which policy processes/dialogues?	Opportunities for linking with ISSD Africa?	Name contact person	Email address
ATA	Public/Donor	IrishAid, DANIDA and CIDA	Intermediate	Major crops	recognition of CBS in the seed system seed market liberalization	high	Dr Yitbarek Semeane, Director, Seeds program	Yitbarek.Semeane@ata.gov.et
EIAR/RARIs	Public	Public	Intermediate	Major crops	The need to promote integrated seed system	high	Addisu Bezabih, Coordinator, research extension program of EIAR	addisu.bz@gmail.com
AGRA/ SSTP	Donor	USIAD	Formal	Major crops	Seed regulation	high	Yonas Sahelu, Country coordinator	YSahelu@agra.org / sahlu_yonas@yahoo.com
MoANR/ AGP II	Donors	Multidonor	Formal	Major crops	Source seed	high	Keberu Belayneh, AGP II coordinator	keberu.belayneh@yahoo.com
SelfHelp Africa	NGO		Intermediate	Major crops	CBSS	high	Wubshet Berhanu Country Director, SHA Ethiopia	wubshet.berhanu@selfhelpafrica.org
AgroBig	Donor	Finland	Formal / Intermediate	Maize, rice, potato, and onion	Seed business	high	Berhanu Ayichew, Programme Director	berhanu.ayichew@agrobig.org berhanuayichew@gmail.com
CIMMYT/EIAR	CGIAR/EIAR	USAID	Formal	Wheat	Response to rust	high	Bekele Abeyo, CIMMYT Ethiopia Abebe Atilaw, EIAR	B.Abeyo@cgiar.org abeatilaw@gmail.com
CIMMYT/EIAR	CGIAR/EIAR	AusAid	Formal	Major crops	Policy process	High	Moti Jaleta, CIMMYT, Dawit Alemu, EIAR	M.Jaleta@cgiar.org Dawit96@gmail.com

7.3 Map the project and programmes which are active in seed sector development in your country and can potentially influence national level seed sector development processes.

Name seed related project/ programme?	From which sector?	Funded by?	Involved in which seed system?	Which seed topics are they working on?	Influentia in which policy processes/ dialogues?	Opportunities for linking with ISSD Africa?	Name contact person	Email address
Building Capacity and operation modality of CBS producers	ATA (semi-public)	IrishAid, DANIDA and CIDA	intermediate	Major crops	CBSS	High	Dr Yitbarek Semeane, Director, Seeds program	Yitbarek.Semeane@ata.gov.et
Direct Seed Marketing	ATA (semi-public)	AGRA/SSTP	Formal/intermediate	Major crops	Liberalization on seed market	High	Dr Yitbarek Semeane, Director, Seeds program	Yitbarek.Semeane@ata.gov.et
Scaling Seeds and Technologies Partnership (SSTP)	AGRA/SSTP	USIAD	Formal	Major crops	Seed quality regulation Seed marketing	High	Yonas Sahelu Country coordinator	YSahelu@agra.org sahlu_yonas@yahoo.com
Source Technology Production by the Research component of AGP II	Multidonors	AGP II	Formal	Major crops	Availability of EGS	Medium	Keberu Belayneh AGP II coordinator	keberu.belayneh@yahoo.com
The Agro-Business Induced Economic Growth (Agro-BIG) Programme	Donor	Finland	Formal	Maize, rice, potato and onion	Entrepreneurship	High	Berhanu Ayichew Programme Director	berhanu.ayichew@grobig.org berhanuayichew@gmail.com
Seed Multiplication and Delivery of High-Yielding Rust-Resistant Bread and Durum Wheat Varieties to Ethiopian Farmers	CIMMYT	USAID	Formal	Wheat	Response to disease incidence	High	Bekele Abeyo CIMMYT Ethiopia Abebe Atilaw EIAR	B.Abeyo@cgiar.org abeatilaw@gmail.com
Linking microdata to policy process	CIMMYT /EIAR	AusAid	Formal	Major crops	Policy process / access to source seed	high	Moti Jaleta CIMMYT Dawit Alemu, EIAR	M.Jaleta@cgiar.org Dawit96@gmail.com

7.4 Map relevant forum/events/policy dialogues/meetings/workshops that will take place in 2016 in relation to seed sector development.

Name forum/ event/ policy dialogue/ meeting/ workshop	Date	Topics of discussion	Open/closed event?	Opportunity for linking with ISSD Africa?
African wide workshop on " Early Generation Seed production (EGS)	Feb 26-27, 2016	Early Generation Seed production (EGS)	Open organized by AGRA/SSTP	High opportunity
Training for local seed producers at Amhara, Oromia, SNNPR and Tigray	Feb 20 to March 20, 2016	Seed production based on ATA developed manual on seed production	Closed organized by ATA seed program	High opportunity
Training on Seed production management for members of seed cooperatives at Amhara, Oromia, SNNPR and Tigray	Dates note fixed	Seed production techniques	Closed organized by ATA seed program	High opportunity
Training on Seed Cooperative management for cooperative managers at Amhara, Oromia, SNNPR and Tigray	Dates note fixed	Seed cooperative management	Closed organized by ATA seed program	High opportunity
Training on direct seed marketing for agents (seed marketers) at Amhara, Oromia, SNNPR and Tigray	Dates note fixed	Seed marketing	Closed organized by ATA seed program	High opportunity
Stakeholders' meeting on linking microdata to policy process	Feb 13, 2016	How to link microdata to policy processes	Open to be held at EIAR	High opportunity
Policy submit under Adoption Pathways 2016 Meeting (linking microdata to policy process	May 16-20, 2016 at Addis Ababa Ethiopia	How to link microdata to policy processes	Open, place to be identified	High opportunity