Programme on Integrated Seed Sector Development in Ethiopia

Centre for Development Innovation
Bahir Dar University
Hawassa University
Haramaya University
Mekelle University
Oromia Seed Enterprise

Midterm Report
January – June 2013
Centre for Development Innovation (CDI) of Wageningen UR works on processes of innovation and change in the areas of secure and healthy food, adaptive agriculture, sustainable markets and ecosystem governance. It is an interdisciplinary and internationally focused unit of Wageningen University & Research centre within the Social Sciences Group.

Through facilitating innovation, brokering knowledge and supporting capacity development, our group of 60 staff help to link Wageningen UR’s expertise to the global challenges of sustainable and equitable development. CDI works to inspire new forms of learning and collaboration between citizens, governments, businesses, NGOs and the scientific community.

More information: www.wageningenur.nl/cdi

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The aim of the ISSD programme is to strengthen the development of a vibrant, commercial and pluralistic seed sector in Ethiopia. The programme is a joint effort of Bahir Dar University, Haramaya University, Hawassa University, Mekelle University, Oromia Seed Enterprise, the Ethiopian Seed Producers and Growers Association and CDI. Partners include governmental organizations at federal, regional and local level, non-governmental organizations, development organizations, and seed businesses operating at different scales. The programme is funded by the Directorate General for International Cooperation through the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Addis Ababa.
# Table of contents

List of abbreviations and acronyms ........................................................................................................ 4

1 Introduction ........................................................................................................................................... 5
   1.1 ISSD approach and programme structure .............................................................. 5
   1.2 Programme partners ............................................................................................................. 6

2 Progress in programme components ................................................................................................. 7
   2.1 Local seed business development – consolidation .................................................. 7
   2.2 Local seed business development – scaling up ......................................................... 13
   2.3 Private small and medium-scale seed producers ....................................................... 18
   2.4 Seed companies ................................................................................................................... 23
   2.5 Partnerships and innovation ......................................................................................... 23
   2.6 Enabling and evolving seed policies ........................................................................... 29
   2.7 Research and studies ........................................................................................................ 31
   2.8 Sharing experiences and lessons learnt ....................................................................... 34
   2.9 Capacity development ..................................................................................................... 40

Separate Annex – Financial report
## List of abbreviations and acronyms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Full Form</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACDI/VOCA</td>
<td>Agricultural Cooperative Development International and Volunteers in Overseas</td>
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<tr>
<td>AGP</td>
<td>Agricultural Growth Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AGP-AMDe</td>
<td>Agricultural Growth Program - Agribusiness and Market Development Ethiopia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARARI</td>
<td>Amhara Region Agricultural Research Institute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASE</td>
<td>Amhara Seed Enterprise</td>
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<tr>
<td>ATA</td>
<td>Agricultural Transformation Agency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ATVET</td>
<td>Agricultural Technical and Vocational Education Training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BDU</td>
<td>Bahir Dar University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BH</td>
<td>Bako Hybrid</td>
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<tr>
<td>BoA</td>
<td>Bureau of Agriculture</td>
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<tr>
<td>CDI</td>
<td>Centre for Development Innovation</td>
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<tr>
<td>CSF</td>
<td>Critical Success Factor</td>
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<tr>
<td>DA</td>
<td>Development Agents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DBARC</td>
<td>Debre Berhan Agricultural Research Center</td>
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<td>DSM</td>
<td>Direct Seed Marketing</td>
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<td>EGS</td>
<td>Early Generation Seed</td>
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<tr>
<td>EIAR</td>
<td>Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EKN</td>
<td>Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESE</td>
<td>Ethiopian Seed Enterprise</td>
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<tr>
<td>ESPGA</td>
<td>Ethiopian Seed Producers and Growers Association</td>
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<tr>
<td>ETB</td>
<td>Ethiopian Birr</td>
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<tr>
<td>FAO</td>
<td>Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nation</td>
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<tr>
<td>FARC</td>
<td>Fedis Agricultural Research Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>FRG</td>
<td>Farmers Research Group</td>
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<tr>
<td>GLRA</td>
<td>German Leprosy Relief Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HARC</td>
<td>Holeta Agricultural Research Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>HCS</td>
<td>Hararghe Catholic Secretariat</td>
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<tr>
<td>HU</td>
<td>Haramaya University</td>
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<td>HwU</td>
<td>Hawassa University</td>
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<tr>
<td>IEGDS-MU</td>
<td>Institute of Environment, Gender and development Studies – Mekelle University</td>
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<tr>
<td>ISSD</td>
<td>Integrated Seed Sector Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>KSBD</td>
<td>Knowledge Sharing and Capacity Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>LSB</td>
<td>Local Seed Business</td>
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<tr>
<td>MARC</td>
<td>Melkassa Agricultural Research Center</td>
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<td>MCARC</td>
<td>Mechara Agricultural Research Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>MoA</td>
<td>Ministry of Agriculture</td>
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<tr>
<td>MoU</td>
<td>Memorandum of Understanding</td>
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<td>MSc</td>
<td>Master of Science</td>
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<tr>
<td>MU</td>
<td>Mekelle University</td>
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<tr>
<td>MU- CoDANR</td>
<td>Mekelle University College of Dryland Agriculture and Natural Resources</td>
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<tr>
<td>NGO</td>
<td>Non-Government Organization</td>
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<tr>
<td>OARI</td>
<td>Oromia Agriculture Research Center</td>
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<td>OSE</td>
<td>Oromia Seed Enterprise</td>
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<tr>
<td>PBR</td>
<td>Plant Breeder’s Rights</td>
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<td>PMU</td>
<td>Programme Management Unit</td>
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<td>PPP</td>
<td>Public Private Partnership</td>
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<td>PVVS</td>
<td>Participatory Variety Selection</td>
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<td>RARI</td>
<td>Regional Agricultural Research Institute</td>
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<td>REST</td>
<td>Relief Society of Tigray</td>
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<tr>
<td>SARC</td>
<td>Sinana Agriculture Research Center</td>
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<td>SARI</td>
<td>South Agriculture Research Institute</td>
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<td>SG-2000</td>
<td>Sasakawa Global 2000</td>
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<tr>
<td>SNNPR</td>
<td>Southern Nations, Nationalities, and People’s Region</td>
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<tr>
<td>SPC</td>
<td>Seed Producers’ Cooperative</td>
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<td>SPMC</td>
<td>Seed Producer and Marketing Cooperatives</td>
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<td>SSE</td>
<td>South Seed Enterprise</td>
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<tr>
<td>SWOT</td>
<td>Strength Weakness Opportunity and Threat</td>
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<tr>
<td>TARI</td>
<td>Tigray Agriculture Research Institute</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wageningen UR</td>
<td>Wageningen University &amp; Research centre</td>
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<tr>
<td>WCPO</td>
<td>Woreda Cooperative Promotion Office</td>
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<td>WoA</td>
<td>Woreda office of Agriculture</td>
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<td>WV</td>
<td>World Vision</td>
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1 Introduction

This document serves as the narrative report of the programme on Integrated Seed Sector Development in Ethiopia (ISSD Ethiopia) for the period January – June 2013. In this chapter, it shortly introduces the ISSD approach, and the objectives, structure, and partners of the programme. The next chapter highlights for each programme component the objectives, activities, and key outputs in this project period.

1.1 ISSD approach and programme structure

The programme on Integrated Seed Sector Development in Ethiopia (ISSD-Ethiopia) aims to support the development of a vibrant, commercial, and pluralistic seed sector in Ethiopia. The goal is to increase farmers’ access to quality seed of farmer-preferred varieties for increasing agricultural production and productivity, thereby contributing to food security and economic development in the country.

The concept of Integrated Seed Sector Development (ISSD) recognizes the relevance of informal and formal seed systems, as well as the complementary roles of the private and public sectors. ISSD promotes entrepreneurship and market-orientation in seed sector functions. ISSD guided programmes are built upon a variation of seed systems, fostering pluralism, and matching food and seed security to private sector development. Through enabling and evolving policies, ISSD supports a dynamic seed sector.

![Figure 1. Components of the ISSD Ethiopia programme](image)

ISSD Ethiopia supports the development of different seed systems, including private seed companies (operating at an (inter)national scale), private seed producers (operating at a (sub)regional scale), and local seed businesses. It works through regional partnership platforms on seed systems innovation, and assists in policy
development and policy implementation. Moreover, it supports evidence based seed sector innovation through research and studies; promotes continuous learning and sharing of experiences; and strengthens the capacities of seed sector stakeholders at all levels. See in Figure 1 the different components of the programme.

1.2 Programme partners

The ISSD programme is coordinated by five Ethiopian partners, which host regional ISSD units at: Bahir Dar University, Haramaya University, Hawassa University, Mekelle University and Oromia Seed Enterprise (OSE). The partners are supported by a Programme Management Unit (PMU), hosted by Haramaya University, and located in Addis Ababa. For the private sector component of the programme, the PMU closely collaborates with the Ethiopian Seed Producers and Growers Association (ESPGA). Centre for Development Innovation of Wageningen UR (CDI) is the Dutch programme coordinator. All organizations above are represented in the programme’s national executive committee, which is the decision making body of the programme. The programme is supported in its implementation by the EKN in Addis Ababa.

Partner organizations in programme implementation at federal level include the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), Agricultural Transformation Agency (ATA), Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research (EIAR), and the Ethiopian Seed Enterprise (ESE). At regional level the programme closely collaborates with the Bureau of Agriculture (BoA), Regional Agricultural Research Institutes (RARIs), NGOs, and seed companies. At local level important partners are the Woreda Office of Agriculture (WoA), the Woreda Cooperative Promotion Office and farmer seed producer groups.
2  Progress in programme components

Find in the different sub-chapters below, the objectives, activities and key outputs for each programme component for the project period January – June 2013.

2.1 Local seed business development – consolidation

Objectives

- Support and consolidate 34 Local Seed Businesses (LSBs) in their professionalism, autonomy and seed entrepreneurship;
- Study and accompany their development ensuring innovation of the LSB process supporting LSB scaling up and partnerships.

Activities and results

All five regional ISSD units have a team of agribusiness, farmer organization and seed experts (called innovators) supporting the farmer groups in their business development efforts. Find below a description of the activities in the first half of 2013 and their main results.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>LSB performance assessment</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>In the national workshop in Mekelle (25-30 March 2013) the CDI team has presented the synthesis of the results of the regional assessments on LSB performance in ISSD Ethiopia phase I, using the framework on critical success factors (CSF) for LSB development.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Result: prioritization of intervention areas for 2013; specific focus on issues related to seed value addition and seed marketing, increasing the benefits of LSBs working on highly demanded niche products.</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Review of LSB approach at the national ISSD-Ethiopia workshop</th>
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<tr>
<td>In the national ISSD workshop in Mekelle (25-30 March 2013) the LSB expert teams have presented and discussed their regional activities and achievements through interactive poster sessions, and peer reviews.</td>
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<td>Result: identification of opportunities for strengthening this component; and based on this, revisited action plans for 2013.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Simplifying the CSF framework</th>
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<tr>
<td>Based upon the analysis of the LSB performance of phase I, CDI in collaboration with the regional units has started to simplify the CSF framework, allowing for a quick assessment, and directly related action planning, for the farmer groups and partners participating in the LSB scaling up. Regional units have tested the draft framework with partners in the field and have provided suggestions for improvement.</td>
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Programme on Integrated Seed Sector Development in Ethiopia

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<th>Result: tested simplified CSF framework; the framework will be finalized in August.</th>
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**Amhara**

**Regional LSB workshop**
The one-day workshop on 22 June gave specific focus to scaling up of LSBs. The 70 participants included scaling up partners, second generation LSB members, first generation LSBs members and regional and woreda level partners.

Result: Experiences were shared among partners on achievements and challenges; and future direction were discussed for both first and second generation LSBs. Critical issues like access to basic seed and cooperative legality have been put on the regional agenda.

**Establishment Woreda Seed Core Groups**
To promote autonomy and ownership, the ISSD team facilitated the organization of Woreda Seed Core Group Committees at all the eight LSB cooperative woredas.

Result: Institutional linkages established with woreda partners; problem solving related to marketing and organizational issues through woreda seed core groups; kebele level steering committee established (Goshiye); woreda pays the salary for the experts that will be hired by the LSB (Woken); access to credit for the LSB becomes easier (Chankie).

**Training on participatory varietal selection (PVS)**
In collaboration with Adet Agricultural Research Centre a one-day training in June was organized on PVS of the major crops produced in the region. Participants included 35 farmers, 14 woreda experts and seven development agents.

Result: 80 farmers are now involved in PVS experiments with six different crops; the ISSD unit collaborates with WoA in follow up.

**LSB investment grants**
All eight LSBs at the consolidation stage received a grant of 23,000 ETB in April (total of 184,000 ETB).

Result: Grants have been used for office and store maintenance, coaching, training and seed marketing; the capacity of LSBs is improving from day to day.

**Finance fair**
On 6-7 April Agri-ProFocus and ISSD Amhara jointly organized a finance fair specifically targeting access to finance for LSBs, linking banks and micro-finance institutions and their products and services with farmer seed producers. 250 participants attended.

Result: participants were able to access information on the regulations of finance institutions; finance institutions got better insight into realities of farmer seed producers; connections were established between the potential financial services suppliers and clients; conducive forum created for finance institutions and ISSD partners to discuss the development of specific strategies for LSBs to get access to loans.
**Linking with other NGOs for value addition**

The ISSD team prepared detailed project proposals for four LSBs and submitted these to ACDI/VOCA to request support in acquiring four seed processing machines, opening eight seed selling shops and upgrading four stores.

Result: A grant of 3,052,000 ETB has been approved by ACDI/VOCA (requested co-funding from ISSD is 10%).

**Facilitating access to basic seed**

Five first generation LSBs have seed production contracts with public enterprises. The remaining three LSBs exercise local seed marketing. The ISSD team facilitated access to 850 quintals of basic seed for potato and 1060 quintals of basic seed for the major crops, including teff, maize, wheat, and malt barley.

Result: A total acreage of 1,164 ha of land has been covered for seed production of various crops and varieties.

**Oromia South and West**

**Regional LSB workshop**

On 19 June the ISSD team organized a regional workshop for regional and local partners and LSB representatives; 75 participants attended the workshop. The objectives of the workshop were to share the ISSD program and the experience of 1st generation LSBs with new partners and new LSBs participating in the scaling up programme.

Result: problems and opportunities for LSB consolidation and areas for intervention identified.

**Strengthening of institutional linkages with regional stakeholders**

LSBs have been linked with cooperative offices (responsible for input distribution), research institutes and BoA. Linkages are facilitated through visits (e.g. cooperative agency experts visiting LSBs) and meeting forums. Five LSBs were linked with ACDI/VOCA to get support in acquiring tractors.

Result: All LSBs have secured basic seed; and four SPCs applied for a grant from ACDI/VOCA to acquire a tractor. Other SPCs now also look for opportunities to get access to external funding.

**Linkage between first generation LSBs and new LSBs**

Linkages are facilitated between first generation LSBs and LSBs involved in the scaling up programme, specifically for access to basic seed.

Result: Jeldu has been serving as a source of basic seed potato for other LSBs producing commercial seed potato.

**Training on post-harvest, marketing & financial management for executive committees**

In June the ISSD team provided a one-day training for LSB executive committees on post-harvest activities, addressing seed cleaning, storage and packaging and marketing. In another one-day training, also in the 2nd and 3rd week of June, 43 LSB
Executive committee members received a one-day training on financial management, addressing record keeping and preparation of financial reports.

**Result:** LSBs executive committee knowledge in the area of post-harvest operations and financial management improved.

**Training on LSB organizational structures, seed production techniques and marketing**

Following requests of the executive committees, three one-day trainings were organized on the above mentioned topics, for all members of Nano Bonay SPC, Jalala Gudina SPC and Ifa Bari SPC. 152 LSB members participated in this training.

**Result:** Relationship between members and the committee strengthened; good insight in the commitment on quality seed production and collective seed marketing.

**LSB investment grants**

The ISSD programme allocated a total grant of 240,000 ETB for the ten LSBS in the consolidation stage. Facilitated by LSB experts the SPCs identified priority areas and developed MoUs.

**Result:** LSBs are ready to utilize the grant according to their plan in consultation with the innovators and district concerned government bodies.

### Oromia East

**Regional LSB workshop**

On 24 June the ISSD team organised a the regional workshop. The objective was to share key issues and progress on LSB scaling up with new partners and LSBS. A total of 85 invited participants from zone and woreda BoA, cooperative promotion, NGOs, Regional Research Centres and representatives of LSB participated in the workshop.

**Result:** Experiences and achievements of ISSD were shared between first and 2nd generation LSBS and existing and new partners; specific topics discussed included LSB scaling up support and critical success factors (CSF) in LSB development.

**Institutional linkages established with basic seed providers**

ISSD facilitated access to basic seed for LSBS.

**Result:** Two quintals groundnut and 48 quintals improved seed potato were received from Haramaya University free of charge and distributed to four LSBS. Six quintals of three varieties bread wheat basic seed were acquired from SARC and ESE. Haricot bean from Haramaya University was purchased and distributed to Kersa and Chiro LSBS.

**Field day**

18 June a field day was organized at Kersa and Haramaya sites. More than 150 people participated in the field day.

**Result:** The field day created an opportunity to establish market linkages and share experience for 2nd generation LSB participants from six sites, partner organizations (unions, NGOs, Haramaya University staff in different disciplines, zone and woreda level BoA and cooperative promotion offices).
**Participatory Variety Selection (PVS) of wheat**

Eight improved wheat varieties (Kulkulu, Kakaba, Danda’a, Digalu, Madda-Walabu, Yerer, Hawi and Back-purunto) and one local wheat variety were used in PVS experiments at Chiro and Kersa LSB sites.

Result: The LSBs evaluated and identified locally demanded varieties for future seed multiplication; LSBs were visited frequently by different zone and woreda level officials and complimented for their exemplary work done.

**Seed promotion through local media and conferences**

The activities of LSBs have been intensively promoted though Hayu FM and Fana FM radios. In addition, representatives of LSBs explained the value of their quality seed on local conferences arranged by local administrations; more than 500 farmers in different districts of east and west Hararghe zones participated in these conferences.

Result: promotion of quality seed produced by LSBs and the increased awareness of local farmers on the use of quality seed.

**SNNPR**

**Regional LSB workshop**

The regional LSB workshop was organized on June 17. 55 participants from existing and new strategic partners, regional partners and LSBs attended the workshop. The workshop specifically focussed on LSB scaling up.

Result: participants shared experiences on the LSB scaling up process and progress.

**Core-group formation at woreda level**

Core group formation workshops were conducted in five woredas from 20-24 May. In each woreda, 12 individuals participated in a one-day workshop.

Result: understanding of the concept, tasks and importance of the woreda core group; in each woreda problems were identified and prioritised and follow up agreed.

**Participatory Variety Selection (PVS) for product diversification**

LSB farmer research committees are implementing PVS trials on different crops and varieties (including faba bean, field pea, wheat and teff) that have strong potential for local seed business.

Result: Informed decision making to adapt the crop variety portfolio; increased demand for seed of superior and improved varieties.

**Accesses to post-harvest technologies**

Three LSBs (Kayo, Amard, and Nepileka Nesi) are involved in value addition and local seed marketing. Using the project's small grant fund, these LSBs have acquired small-scale seed cleaner machines, moisture testers and fumigation canvas.

Result: LSBs are able to supply superior quality seed of common bean, teff, and wheat to the local market.
Advise on packing and access to packaging material
The use of proper packaging materials in an appropriate size is key to LSB's value addition. Kayo and Napilaka Nasi SPCs have been assisted in identifying the optimum pack size for their seed and helped with acquiring labelled packaging materials.

Result: Napilaka Nasi and Kayo SPCs have ordered labelled sacks for 15 and 50 kg seed with their respective names.

Assistance on seed processing and marketing
Kayo, Amard, and Nepileka Nesi SPCs were advised by LSB innovators on cleaning, packaging, storing and marketing their haricot bean and teff seed to local customers and neighbouring woredas.

Result: The LSBs are able to satisfy their local seed market customers needs in terms of quality, packaging size, time of supply and price. As a result, there was no carry over seed and the LSBs obtained reasonable prices and profit.

Facilitate the employment of book-keepers
Because of record keeping problems, the ISSD team facilitated the employment of book keepers for four LSBs.

Result: Good record keeping is observed at each LSB and now auditing and calculation of profit and loss takes only 2-3 days.

Facilitation of auditing
Due to the presence of only few auditors in the woredas coupled with delayed demand for auditing services service by the LSBs, timely auditing is challenging. ISSD assisted in having the accounts of three SPCs audited.

Result: the audit of three SPCs is completed and two are in progress.

LSB investment grants
Selected LSBs were supported with small innovation grants. The grants were mainly used for value addition and post-harvest handling (seed cleaner, moisture tester, fumigation canvas), financial management (bookkeepers), promotion (sign boards), and basic infrastructural facilities (office furniture).

Result: SPCs were able to market quality seed at local level, and improve their financial management and record keeping.

Tigray

Regional LSB workshop
In the regional workshop in Mekelle on 20 June, the ISSD team presented lessons learned in LSB consolidation and scaling up, and participants discussed the current challenges. A total of 108 people from regional, woreda and tabia level participated. Participants included private seed producers, representatives from BoA, WoA, LSBs, scaling up partners, universities, TARI, ESE and the media.

Results: first and second generation LSBs exchanged experiences; access to basic seed and post-harvest technology were considered the most urgent topics be addressed.
**Institutional linkages established with TARI, BoA and Mekelle University**

Ongoing exchange is taking place between all stakeholders on the challenges and possible strategies to support LSB development in Tigray. LSBs source inputs for their seed production with TARI and Mekelle University (e.g. access to basic seed of faba bean) and links with BoA for seed selling (e.g. for seed potatoes).

Result: institutional and business linkages strengthened between LSBs, research institutes and BoA.

**Training on marketing, LSB organization and quality seed production**

In June a two-day training workshop was conducted with 13 members of six LSBs. The workshop facilitators included ISSD innovators, and experts from BoA and the cooperative agency. The focus of the training was on marketing, LSB organisation and pre- and post-harvest quality assurance.

Result: all LSBs improved their business plan and three are planning for market assessments through their marketing committees; knowledge on pre-harvest skills has led to improved productivity per hectare and improved seed quality.

**LSB investment**

In February, two grants of 7,790 ETB were handed to Tslal and Zeresenay SPCs. Furthermore, 20,400 ETB was allotted for buying six sewing machines for each first generation LSB.

Result: Tslal and Zeresenay SPCs improved their storage capacity; the first generation SPCs can now meet market demand with smaller size packages of seed.

**Coaching on business planning, financial management and quality seed production**

In March, LSB innovators and partners have been coaching 31 SPCs in the preparation of business plan, financial management and quality seed production.

Result: the SPCs have improved their record keeping and now include all the cost elements as well as a marketing strategy in the business plan.

### 2.2 Local seed business development – scaling up

**Objectives**

- Promote the support and establishment of 170 – 340 LSB groups in such a manner that they get a significant share at local seed markets for food and semi-commercial crops;
- Share the LSB approach and promote its use for commercial local seed supply in at least 20 organizations.
### Activities and results

The same regional teams of agribusiness, farmer organization and seed experts support partners in their application of the LSB approach in new sites. Below the activities in the first half of 2013 and their main results are indicated.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>General</strong></th>
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</table>
| **Review of LSB scaling up approach at the national ISSD-Ethiopia workshop**  
In the national ISSD workshop in Mekelle the LSB expert teams have presented and discussed their activities and achievements in LSB scaling up through interactive poster sessions, and peer reviews.  
Result: experiences shared, and new opportunities identified of engaging various partners in the LSB scaling up process. |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Simplifying the CSF framework</strong></th>
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| In the regional workshops LSB scaling up partners have been exposed to a simplified version of the CSF framework for measuring progress in LSB development. Regional units have field tested the draft framework with selected partners and LSBs and have provided suggestions for improvement.  
Result: tested simplified CSF framework for LSB scaling up partners; the framework will be finalized in August. |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Amhara</strong></th>
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| **Regional LSB workshop**  
The workshop focussed on LSB scaling up. In the workshop on 22 June, 24 farmers from LSBs and 12 experts from scaling up partners participated.  
Result: participants from new partners and LSBs shared experiences with first generation LSBs. |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Facilitating institutional linkages for LSB scaling up</strong></th>
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</table>
| The ISSD program has facilitated the linkage of institutions in the region.  
Result: 12 institutions (6 universities, 3 research centres 1 local NGO and 3 government organizations), two of which joined in 2013, are involved in the scaling up of LSBs. As a result, 62 LSBs have been established and are engaged in seed production, cultivating more than 1000 ha of land. |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Training on critical success factors (CSF) and business model canvas</strong></th>
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</table>
| A three-day training was organized in May for 34 experts on ISSD principles, CSF, and the business model canvas for navigating business.  
Result: participants are able to use the business model canvas; participants can undertake a baseline survey based on the four quadrants of key performance areas for the LSBs, and rank LSBs based on the key indicators. |
**LSB scaling up grants**

The ISSD team has supported the preparation of proposals for LSB scaling up, including co-funding budgets, and has facilitated the signing of MoUs. Twenty-five percent (2.1 million ETB) from the total co-funding budget has been transferred. The team has been closely following the implementation of the activities and co-funding budget.

Result: Through the LSB scaling up programme the number of LSBs supported through partners grew from 24 in 2012 to 62 in 2013.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Oromia South and West</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Regional LSB workshop focusing on scaling up</strong></td>
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</table>

The one-day regional workshop on 19 June united key stakeholders from regional and local partners and LSB representatives. Specific attention was given to informing regional key stakeholders on the scaling up process and identifying needs and contributions from all partners in the scaling up process. Presentations included (i) process and current status on LSB scaling-up in the region and (ii) experience of scaling-up by one of the partners.

Result: First generation and new scaling-up partners and farmers shared experiences; challenges and opportunities in scaling-up were identified; intervention areas for supporting partners in the scaling-up process were identified.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Institutional linkages established/strengthened with existing and new partners</strong></th>
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</table>
The ISSD team established linkages with 14 scaling-up partners: six 1st generation and eight new partners. The new partners include federal research centre (Kulumsa Agricultural Research Centre), Universities (Adama Science and technology University and Wollega University), Cooperative Promotion Agency (6 district cooperative offices).

Result: 67 SPCs organized of which 37 of them are under new partners; LSB model shared with new three partner institutions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Training on LSB scaling-up model and critical success factors (CSF)</strong></th>
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</table>

A one-day training workshop (24 May at Bishoftu) has been conducted on the LSB scaling-up model and CSFs. Twenty-five participants from new generation scaling-up partners (three representatives per partner) joined the training.

Result: consensus on the LSB scaling-up approach; opportunities and intervention areas were identified for new SPCs.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Coaching of scaling-up partners</strong></th>
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The LSB team has been coaching the new scaling-up partners since the beginning of the year. Coaching has been provided on facilitating team formation, implementation of the LSB model, on seed production, organizational management and entrepreneurial skills. Also, the ISSD team has been coaching the partner organization in institutionalizing LSB scaling-up.

Result: Partners increased their performance in the implementation of the LSB model.
**Support to new LSBs**
The ISSD team has also been working directly with SPCs supported by the scaling-up partners. This year, 37 LSBs were organized under the scaling-up programme and most of them have been visited by LSB team together with the focal person of the partner. LSBs are advised on seed business development.

Result: The current status/progress of the LSBs is known; the partner focal person has been exposed to methods of coaching and advising LSBs.

**Handover of SPC support from FAO to Adama Science and Technology University**
Adama Science and Technology University, Asela Agricultural Campus has taken up the support of five SPCs which were organized under FAO in the scaling up. The ISSD team has facilitated this process.

Result: The university started supporting the SPCs by identifying gaps and trained 35 committee members and 20 experts from local partners.

**Grant for scaling up partners and establishment of support providing team of experts**
The ISSD program allocated grants to the scaling up partners for facilitating different activities supporting their respective SPCs. For each LSB, partners defined areas of prioritization after carefully looking into the strengths and weaknesses of the SPC. Fifty percent (720,000 ETB) of the grant has been transferred to the partners’ account following the signing of a MoU.

Result: Partners supported their SPCs on identified gaps using the grant and co-funding 75% themselves.

**Oromia East**

**Institutional linkages established with basic seed providers**
Three partners, i.e. FARC, HU College of Agro Industry and Land Resource Chiro campus, and HU Research Extension and Community Outreach assisted to access basic seed of different crops from HU, MARC and ESE.

Result: All partners acquired appropriate types of basic seed on time from basic seed providing institutions.

**Training and experience sharing for 2nd generation LSB sites**
Two-day trainings were organized at the Chiro campus on 12-13 March for 23 participants (Chiro campus experts, local partners, LSB representatives) and on 5-6 April for 75 participants (farmers and DAs). Another two-day training and experience sharing was organized in May at FARC for 131 participants (farmers, DAs, experts) in collaboration with HU-research extension and FARC.

Result: 229 participants have increased skills and technical capacities in LSB implementation modalities, seed production, field clustering, organizational aspects, marketing and financial management.

**Establishing new LSB sites through partner organizations**
Three partners which already started LSB scaling up in 2012 also assisted to establish additional LSBs in 2013.
### Progress in programme components

**Result:** An additional 12 LSB sites have been supported by three partners. A total of 591,814 ETB (i.e. co-funding from the ISSD programme) was transferred to two partners supporting 18 LSB sites.

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<th>Region</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SNNPR</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Regional LSB workshop</strong></td>
<td>In the regional workshop (17 June) specific attention was given to scaling. One of the partners in scaling up presented their process and progress in LSB development. New partners and new LSBs exchanged experience on the LSB approach with first generation LSBs and partners. Result: Sixteen new LSBs and four strategic partners participated in the workshop and got clear understanding on LSB development from the 1st generation LSBs and other participants.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tool kit on LSB model</strong></td>
<td>A tool kit on the LSB model was prepared and provided to LSB scaling up partners and their respective partners to guide their LSB support activities. Result: Partners are guided in the implementation of the LSB model.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Identification of partners and LSBs</strong></td>
<td>In 2013, additional partners were identified by contacting four zone government offices and three universities. During this identification process, the ISSD team explained the LSB model and the partnership in scaling up. Result: Four partners (Hawassa University Community Linkage, Research Development Directorate, Kafa and Guraghe zonal offices) signed an agreement with the ISSD team to work with 17 LSBs in the region.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Training service to strategic partners’ local level staff</strong></td>
<td>The LSB team provided training to local level staff of partners on financial management (record keeping, accounting and book keeping) and LSB development. Result: 108 participants, including woreda experts, development agents and LSB management committee members, were trained.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Region</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tigray</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Regional LSB workshop</strong></td>
<td>The regional workshop was held on 20 June in Mekelle with the main theme LSB scaling-up. More than hundred people participated. LSB innovators presented the results and challenges of the regional scaling up activities. Also, the new simplified CSF framework, including the key performance indicators, was discussed. Result: Awareness among scaling up partners about the LSB model; experiences shared among 1st generation and new LSBs; key challenge identified; future intervention areas have been prioritized by scaling up partners; and new partners (Adigrat...</td>
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</table>
University and Axum University) committed themselves to join the scaling up efforts.

**Establishment of institutional linkages**
Through continuous discussions with stakeholders, institutional linkages for scaling-up have been established, particularly with BoA, TARI and SG-2000. In this year new partners have joined the programme namely, ACDI-VOCA, IEGDS-MU, Adigrat University, Axum University and REST.

Result: MoUs have been signed and 8 new LSBs were established. MU facilitated access of new LSBs to basic seed of faba bean and barley.

**Training on LSB development**
ISSD innovators and BoA experts trained local scaling up partners in different areas related to LSB development.

Result: 34 Tabia DA’s and 26 woreda experts (cooperative & seed) are trained; village level training was provided to 260 LSB members. All new LSB executive bodies participated in the training.

### 2.3 Private small and medium-scale seed producers

**Objectives**
- Promote and support the system of small and medium-scale seed producers; and
- Facilitate their collaboration with other companies and research.

**Activities and results**

Each ISSD unit has an expert supporting private seed producers in their region. This sub-chapter describes progress in this programme component in the first half of 2013.

**General**

**Review of approach on strengthening private seed producers at the national ISSD-Ethiopia workshop**

In the national ISSD workshop in Mekelle the private sector experts presented and evaluated the results in this programme component through interactive poster sessions, and peer reviews.

Result: need emerged to critically review interventions in this seed system for a niche of seed producers in the Ethiopian seed sector, and establishment of CSFs for seed producers; revised action plans. Based on the above a national coaching workshop has been planned to work on the indicated issues.
<table>
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<th><strong>Amhara</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Institutional linkages established between seed producers and research</strong></td>
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</table>
| In May a consultation workshop was organized in Bahir Dar to create linkages between seed producers and major partners like research institutes. The workshop had 30 participants.  
Result: In the workshop major bottlenecks were identified; a linkage between seed producers and major partners has been created; support areas were identified. In addition, a model private seed producer from SNNPR shared his experiences with the participants of the workshop. |
| **Institutional linkages established between seed producers and seed companies** |
| Currently two national seed companies are operating in Amhara region. These companies have licences to produce basic seed and certified seed. To create linkages between these seed companies and the small and medium private seed producers, an experience sharing visit was arranged at the companies’ farms.  
Result: Discussions were held on ways to strengthen linkages specifically to support small and medium seed producers to get access to basic seed from seed companies. |
| **Consultancy study on position of private seed producers** |
| A study entitled ‘Status, challenges and opportunities of private seed producers in Amhara Region’ is being done by a team of experts from research centers, BoA, private seed producers and ISSD staff. The major objectives of the study are to assess the current production, marketing and partnership status, and to identify the major challenges and opportunities of private seed producers so as to suggest alternative solutions especially in the linkage between seed producers and companies in basic seed supply and knowledge transfer.  
Result: Study data have been collected, analysis and report preparation is on-going. |
| **Management and business training** |
| Following a needs assessment, a proposal has been prepared for a training to upgrade the theoretical and practical knowledge of seed producers and major implementing partners in the areas of seed business management, entrepreneurship and post-harvest handling methods.  
Result: The training will be conducted at the beginning of October. |
| **Partnership incentive fund** |
| Co-funding has been provided to four private small and medium seed producers. The co-funding (75%) is provided to purchase capital goods only; private seed producers have to co-fund 25% of the total costs. The funding provided is 4,000 Euro per grant; only small and medium seed producers whose current capital is less than 2 million ETB are eligible.  
Result: Four private seed producers have signed a contract with ISSD Amhara to utilize the fund for the intended objectives. |
**Registration and licensing of private seed producers**
The ISSD team organized different promotional activities to attract potential grain producers to engage in seed business.

Result: Two new private seed producers are now registered and licensed; one of them for forage seed production. The latter has has already started seed production this year.

**Seed production plans private seed producers**
In the 2013 production year, 11 private producers are involved in the production of quality seed of the following crops:

- Maize (BH-660, BH-661 and BH-540): 1096 ha
- Teff (Kuncho): 49 ha
- Red pepper (Marcofana): 50 ha
- Wheat (Picaflour): 24 ha
- Forage (pigeonpea): 1 ha

**Oromia South and West**

**Institutional linkages established between seed producers and supportive institutions**
Linkages of private seed producers with research centres and public seed enterprises have been established for the purpose of basic seed sourcing based on the producers’ specific demand. The link has been made through field visits, exchange of experiences and discussion forums organized by the ISSD team in the presence of representatives from BoA.

Result: Small and medium private seed producers have easily acquired the basic seed they wanted. The linkages created smooth ground for those producing crops such as black cumin, onion seed and wheat.

**Consultation with small and medium scale private seed producers on business planning**
The ISSD team discussed with newly emerging small and medium private seed producers on the importance of a business plan and assisted them in its preparation.

Result: Two small and medium private seed producers who did not have a business plan before, have prepared a business plan for their seed business.

**Seed production and field management training provided to private seed producers**
A three-day training has been provided on seed production and field management and of major crops produced by seed producers in the region. Seed quality control and certification was also addressed.

Result: Nine people from private seed producers and two experts from partner institutions were trained. The training evaluation showed that the training was relevant and important for improving quality seed production of their enterprise.

**Implementation of incentive fund projects (PPP) followed up**
Implementation of last year co-funding projects through the private seed producer incentive fund has been followed up.
Progress in programme components

**Result:** The fund has been utilised for its intended purpose and important facilities for their seed businesses have been established by private seed producers’ own contributions and the ISSD grant. For instance, simple seed cleaning machines, weight balances and packing materials have been purchased and used.

**Oromia East**

**Institutional linkages established between seed producers and Haramaya University**

Two seed producers (Abebe agribusiness and Forole agribusiness) have been linked with Haramaya university and OSE to access basic seed of different crops.

Result: the two seed producers gained access to early generation seed, i.e. basic seed of maize and seed potatoes.

**Seed production training**

One seed producer has participated in a three day training on seed production techniques.

Result: the seed producer improved his skills on seed production techniques.

**Partnership incentive fund**

Two seed producers have been consulted about their needs. They prioritized the construction of a potato diffused store and the buying of a maize sheller.

Result: A PPP agreement for the two seed producers has been prepared for signing.

**HU Research and Extension Office buying potato seed**

One of the potato seed producers has been linked with the research and extension office of Haramaya University to market its produce.

Result: the HU research and extension office has reached an agreement with the seed producer to purchase 100 quintals of seed potatoes.

**SNNPR**

**Institutional linkages established between seed producers and seed companies**

A one day consultative workshop has been organized in March. Seventeen private seed producers participated in the workshop.

Result: Joint planning for contractual seed production has been made; producers have expressed their challenges and interests; the ISSD program identified critical intervention areas like facilitating private seed producers’ membership in ESGPA and a study on comparative advantages of seed production compared to grain production.

**Tigray**

**Institutional linkages established between seed producers and research**

Institutional linkages between Tigray Agricultural Research Institute and private seed producers have been established. The institute provided basic seed to private producers located in the southern zone of Tigray.
### Result:
Private seed producers are committed and show an interest to work in collaboration with research institutes and LSBs.

### Institutional linkage established between private seed producers and BoA in selling onion seed
Result: BoA has accepted the seed produced by the private producer and the local supply of onion seed substituted the imported seed in the region.

### Institutional linkages established between seed producers and seed companies
The private company Solagrow has been linked with a private seed producer.
Result: Solagrow agreed to start seed multiplication with the private producer as a trial.

### Consultancies on establishment of small and medium level private seed producers
Private sector and agri-business innovators have advised five members of seed business cooperatives on how to transform themselves to small and medium level private seed producers. The members want to be investors rather than only working as a member of an SPC.
Result: The five seed producers added five more non cooperative members, and have started asking land from the government for seed production.

### Management and business training
Business management and business planning training was given to 18 private seed producers at Humera (Western zone of Tigray) in May. The training was given by ISSD staff and TARI experts.
Result: The idea of seed business and marketing was better understood by private producers and they demanded additional training on seed quality, entrepreneurship, business planning.

### Partnership incentive fund
No additional partnership fund was provided so far in this year. One of the previously funded partners got support from AGP-AMDe to purchase machinery.
Result: The grants provided in 2012 have resulted in an increased motivation of investors to invest in seed production. Their relationship with the ISSD programme has become very strong.

### Coaching and monitoring
Private and agri-business innovators visited four small and medium level private producers to see their achievements in financial management, business planning and hiring of professionals like agronomists, accountants and marketing experts.
Result: A good business plan, proper land preparation for seed multiplication and hiring of professionals has been observed. The number of private investors showing interest to produce seed increased from five to eight.
2.4 Seed companies

Objectives

- Facilitate and promote investment in seed production and marketing by national and international seed companies

Activities and outputs

This programme component is supported at national level through the PMU, in close collaboration with ESPGA. The following activities have been implemented in the first half of 2013.

<table>
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<th>General</th>
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<tr>
<td>Consultancies on private seed business development</td>
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ISSD-PMU and ESGPA tried to contract a professional consultant on private seed business development, who will help private seed companies in Ethiopia to strengthen their seed business management. |

Result: So far, a competent and interested professional could not be recruited; further effort is underway.

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<tr>
<th>Partnership incentive fund</th>
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<tr>
<td>ISSD-PMU and ESGPA jointly identified thematic areas such as value addition to seed, setting up seed marketing sales points, and partnership with international seed companies for the partnership incentive fund and announced a call for submitting concept notes among seed companies.</td>
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</table>

Result: Applications are expected by 30 September 2013.

2.5 Partnerships and innovation

Objectives

- To institutionalize an approach allowing seed sector stakeholders to work in partnership on solving key bottlenecks in the seed sector;
- Develop and consolidate clear roles and responsibilities, and task division among seed sector stakeholders.

Activities

<table>
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<tr>
<th>General</th>
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<tr>
<td>Review of approach in partnerships at the national ISSD-Ethiopia workshop</td>
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</table>
In the national ISSD workshop in Mekelle the partnerships facilitators have presented and evaluated the results in this programme component through interactive poster |
sessions, and peer reviews.

Result: need identified to analyse the portfolio of innovation projects in their approach towards system change.

**Short movie “Partnerships in Seed Sector Development in Ethiopia”**

A professional 14 minute movie on the ISSD partnership and innovation process has been produced. The film gives an overview of the partnership process and the direct seed marketing innovations are used as an example. Various stakeholders share their views about the process and results.

Result: a high quality 14 minute movie and a short 5 minute version explaining the ISSD partnership and innovation component

**Amhara**

**Partnerships core group**
The regional partnerships core group has met two times in order to approve the identified and prioritized partnership projects by the platform.

Result: The core group assigned the partnership innovation projects (described in detail hereunder) to the key implementer organization and followed progress and status of the project implementation.

**Specific consultancies**
In order to assure seed quality in the region, improving the capacity and capability of seed laboratories is necessary. Therefore, assessing the status and gaps of the regional seed laboratories to assure seed quality was set a priority activity.

Result: A team of experts was convened, including ARARI, BoA, Private Seed producer and ASE. The status and gaps in seeds quality assurance of the four regional seed laboratories were identified by the team of experts.

**Partnerships project on Direct seed marketing demonstration**
Direct seed marketing was implemented in 7 selected woredas with the involvement of six seed growers. In each woreda, minimum three seed growers were assigned to supply seed through competition. On average one seed grower has supplied to 19 market centers.

Result: direct seed marketing shortened a formerly lengthy process, created accountability and tractability, saved time and costs of farmers in the process of acquiring seed, supplied seed on time, reduced the work burden of extension workers, generated better quality of seed and created a competitive culture of seed growers.

**Partnerships project on Establishing seed quality regulatory body in the region**
The major reason for poor seed quality was assumed to be the absence of an independent seed quality regulatory body in the region to control seed quality issues. Structure and regulations of a regulatory body were prepared and presented to the regional cabinet for feedback through organizing a one-day workshop. The edited document and regulations were submitted to the regional law adviser for comments.
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Partnerships project on Early generation seed multiplication</th>
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<tr>
<td>Appropriate quality and quantity of early generation seed, as input for commercial seed production is of key importance. However, currently the quality and availability of early generation seed is limited.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Result: In order to improve quality and availability of early generation seed, 69 ha pre basic and 1.4 ha breeder seed multiplication is being done in collaboration with research institutes.</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Partnerships project on Building technical and operational capacity of seed laboratories in Amhara</th>
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<tr>
<td>In order to build technical and operational capacity, a five-days practical training was organized for 21 seed lab technicians, inspectors and lab heads on the operation and maintenance of laboratory equipment and seed testing, at the national seed lab. Also, an experience sharing tour was carried out with participants of 24 seed inspectors at Bako research center and Ambo seed lab on seed inspection at field levels.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Result: Operational and technical skills of inspectors and technicians were enhanced, contributing to appropriate seed quality control in the region.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Partnerships project on Developing strategies for effective seed demand estimation in Amhara</th>
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<tr>
<td>Inappropriate forecasting of seed demand may lead to exaggeration or underestimation of seed demand, which results in high leftover or shortage of seed. A team of experts from different organisations is conducting a seed demand assessment to develop a strategy.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Result: Currently, data to analyse the seed demand assessment are being collected.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Partnerships project on Improving access to finance for seed producers through multi-stakeholder collaboration</th>
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<tr>
<td>In order to improve access to finance for seed producers, the ISSD programme in collaboration with Agri-ProFocus organized a regional finance fair was organized on 6-7 April at Bahir Dar, bringing together the finance demand and supply side, as well as capacity builders.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Result: some of the financial institutions have shown interest to provide credit for seed growers; a travelling workshop will be organized for seed growers, financial institutions and capacity builders to collaboration and linkage in the seed sector.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Partnerships project on Awareness creation on the new seed proclamation to the seed value chain actors</th>
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<tr>
<td>In 2013 the Ethiopian government endorsed a new seed proclamation. To effectively implement the proclamation awareness needs to be created. A partnership project has been formulated but its implementation did not start yet.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Result: In the second half of the year a one-day workshop will be organized to create awareness on the seed proclamation.</td>
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</table>
### Oromia South and West

**Partnerships core group**
The partnership core group has identified five partnership projects. The core group has followed and evaluated partnership projects and met twice to discuss the progress of each project.

Result: The overall status of the partnership projects was evaluated; project results provided evidence-based information to guide/convince policy makers.

**Partnerships project on Establishment of seed regulatory body**
This project is a continuation of 2012 focused on the amendment of the organizational structure to include other inputs regulatory issues with major focus on seed.

Result: The team has started preparing guidelines and procedures for the regulation. The structure will be finalized in the last quarter of 2013.

**Partnerships project on Direct seed marketing**
A direct seed marketing pilot study has been implemented in five districts. Both public and private seed producers have been involved. The share of public seed enterprises is 59%, while the share of private seed producers is 41%. A one-day stakeholder’s workshop with 36 participants has been undertaken to evaluate the performance.

Result: Challenges and opportunities identified for further scaling up. Timely supply, accountability and traceability ensured. Use of quality seed has increased in pilot areas.

**Partnerships project on Early Generation seed (EGS) production and distribution**
The objective is to increase the supply of EGS through strong linkages between research centres, and public and private seed producers.

Result: Partnership was created with one public seed producer and two research centres. Maize and wheat EGS are the major crops focused on.

**Partnerships project on Seed unit establishment.**
OARI is a leading partner for this project. The objective is to develop a structure and system responsible for coordination of sustainable supply of Early Generation Seed. A team organized from different research centres in the region identified the roles and responsibilities of the seed unit.

Result: A draft structure for the seed unit is prepared. A one day in-house consultative meeting was conducted to discuss the draft structure with key staff of three research centres.

**Partnerships project on Study on seed demand and utilization.**
The objective of the study is to make an analysis of the demand, supply and level of current practical utilization of seed by farmers. The lead partners are BoA and OSE. The study is undertaken in sample districts. A one-day workshop was conducted where 36 key stakeholders participated to discuss the results of the study.

Result: The document is ready to be presented and discussed with the regional decision making body.
**Oromia East**

**Partnerships core group**

Two partnership core group meetings were conducted.

Result: Partnership project opportunities for 2013 were identified; tasks were allocated to the different partner organizations; and an action plan was developed.

**Partnership project: Innovation and experimentation of post-harvest technologies (seed cleaning and grading) for LSBs**

The objective of the project is to experiment with seed cleaning and grading technology to enhance the competitive position SPCs; improve seed quality by improving farmers’ techniques required to harvest, clean and grade seed, hence; identify constraints and problems in the existing post-harvest systems of seed and guide improvements.

Result: a proposal was prepared and a MoU was signed between HrU and FARC. In addition, the budget was released for co-funding and activities have started.

**Partnership project: Cooperative community based alternative seed education project**

The objective of the project is to enhance demand for improved seed in Eastern Oromia through a cooperative based seed extension and education approach and to bring seed-oriented institutional change with-in three unions in Eastern Oromia.

Result: a proposal was prepared and MoUs were signed with three farmers union organizations. A seed education officer has been employed in one of the unions and alternative seed education activities have been started. A structural change has been introduced in the unions to accommodate seed education functions.

**Partnership project: Training on seed production techniques for grassroots agricultural technicians**

The objective of the project is to enhance the practical skills and knowledge of development agents and woreda experts on seed production techniques.

Result: the knowledge and skills of development agents and woreda experts on seed production techniques has increased.

**Partnership project: Institutionalizing seed quality advisory serves at Haramaya University**

The objectives of the project is to address emerging issues in the seed sector in eastern Ethiopia through institutionalized mechanism of seed quality advisory service at Haramaya University, thereby contributing to seed security in the region; and to provide professional support for different actors involved in seed production and marketing (seed producer cooperatives, private seed producers, research centres, NGOs, Unions etc.) in a sustainable and systematic way.

Result: A project proposal was prepared and a MoU has been signed between ISSD Oromia east and HrU presidents’ office. In addition, activities have started to incorporate the seed advisory service into the university structure.
**SNNPR**

*Partnerships core group*

The core group met two times to discuss on-going and planned activities. In each meeting the partner organizations like BoA, SSE, ESE and SARI have presented progress of their respective innovation projects.

Result: The core group is able to evaluate the previous experience of projects and plan for the coming activities with the necessary improvements. In addition a draft guideline which assists institutionalization of the core group has been prepared.

*Partnerships project on Formation of an Independent Regulatory Body*

A series of bilateral discussions were held with the regional key partners to discuss on the need to establish an independent regulatory body. This was followed by organizing a ten-days meeting with 15 task force members selected from different sector organizations to discuss the rationale and document preparation.

Result: The task force has identified the need for establishing the body by indicating the existing gaps in regulating seed quality and also reported the recommended body with its rationale, structure, workflow, required personnel's to high level officials of the region.

*Partnerships project on Direct seed marketing*

After identification of pilot woredas, the partnership facilitator has organized a field trip and the task force has visited the implementation process on spot. A regional DSM evaluation workshop has been conducted which will be followed by a field level core group visit to pilot DSM woredas.

Result: Sharing of achievements and lessons of the DSM approach for national level policy makers; identification of issues that need improvement.

*Partnerships project on Early generation seed (EGS) production*

The core group has evaluated last year’s achievements and challenges of EGS production at regional level and jointly planned for EGS production in the next cropping season. The team emphasized the need to working in systematic way in EGS production.

Result: the linkage between research institutes and seed producer enterprises has been strengthened on EGS demand identification and production.

**Tigray**

*Policy roundtable discussion on private sector involvement*

A policy round table discussion was conducted in the first week of January to discuss the role of regional partners in enhancing the involvement of private investors in seed production in the region.

Result: Challenges in the area of seed licensing, access to credit, land lease, agricultural investment, taxation of cooperatives, seed marketing, capacity building of cooperatives and the role of agricultural extension agents in relation to seed production were discussed; it was agreed that corrective action should be taken.
Annual meeting of regional seed core team
The regional seed core team has conducted its annual meeting in February 2013.

Result: The performance of 2012 was reviewed; strategic directions developed following identifying and prioritizing issues; tasks were assigned among partners for the implementation of the 2013 project activities in the region.

Core team visit to Shewit and Muuz SPCs
The core team visited Shewit and Muuz SPC in February for monitoring and evaluation.

Result: The shortage of storage facilities in Shewit SPC was observed and the core team agreed to contribute to the construction of storage facilities.

Curriculum development for DAs on seed science
The core team signalled the shortage of human resource in seed science and BoA now plans to train 50 DAs out of the 200 DAs to be enrolled BSc in MU in seed technology.

Result: ISSD is taking a leading role in the design of a curriculum for BSc degree programme on seed science and technology by forming a curriculum design team from MU-CoDANR staff.

Pilot direct seed marketing
Introduction of direct seed marketing is believed to enhance the efficiency of seed distribution in the region which will contribute towards mitigating the shortage of quality seed.

Result: The regional core team agreed on the importance of DSM and formed a team of experts and developed a roadmap for its integrated and sustainable implementation.

2.6 Enabling and evolving seed policies

Objectives

- Strengthen the development and implementation of enabling policy frameworks, guidelines and implementing capacity, recognizing the pluralistic nature and dynamics of the seed sector
- Support the development of policies, regulations, directives, standards, as well as guidelines and manuals for quality assurance, marketing, crop variety release and registration, and PBR.

Activities and results

National level

**ISSD linkage with government organizations and development partners strengthened**
ISSD-PMU has been liaising with government organizations such as ATA and MoA and development partners such as JICA, SHA and IFPRI while attempting to address seed value chain challenges such as seed production through LSBs, access to basic seed, marketing and quality control.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Result: ISSD interventions are widely recognized and being incorporated into government seed sector development policies and strategies; ISSD is being considered as government development partner.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **National Seed Policy Consultation Workshop**  
ISSD-PMU organized a national seed policy consultation workshop on 9 March in Addis Ababa. A total of 25 people, drawn from MoA, ATA, EIAR, regional BoA, and ISSD regional coordinators and PMU attended the workshop. The primary objective of the workshop was to share the achievements of regional multi-stakeholder seed core groups and to explore the possibility of establishing a National Multi-stakeholder Seed Consultative Team to enhance the implementation of the newly ratified seed law and address other seed value chain challenges.  
Result: A suggestion was made to establish a consultative team and the final decision to be made by the minister. Establishment of the team is in process (i.e., discussion with ATA and MoA is underway). |
| **Oromia South and West**  
**Assessment of seed demand and utilization in Oromia**  
The Oromia Bureau of Agriculture and OSE undertook a collaborative study on the practical seed demand and utilization in the region. The objective is to put forward suggestions and develop a framework that enables the farmers and the government make the right estimation of demand for certified seed (developing different mechanisms of assessing demand).  
Result: The study has shown the presence of a gap to be addressed in terms of demand and actual utilization of certified seed by the farmers. |
| **Proposed impact assessment of direct seed marketing**  
The regional core team assessed the impact of direct seed marketing by comparing DSM with the conventional seed distribution method. This has been done by visiting the woredas and discussing with farmers, dealers and government bodies.  
Result: Direction being given to the ISSD team to conduct an impact assessment study using consultants. |
| **Mini workshop on seed policy issues**  
The regional core team organized a one-day mini workshop in the presence of regional authorities on how to improve seed sector challenges identified through the study conducted by the regional ISSD unit in collaboration with OSE and BoA.  
Result: ISSD’s effort has been appreciated by the regional authorities and direction was given to support the program. |
| **Tigray**  
**Workshop for policy makers**  
A half-day consultative workshop was organized for policy makers drawn from Bureau of Agriculture and Rural Development, Mekelle University, Tigray Agricultural Research Institute and Ethiopia Seed Enterprise. |
Result: A better understanding about seed business and sense of collaboration among stakeholders was created.

2.7 Research and studies

Objectives

- To promote innovation in the seed sector, and evidence based documentation through supporting MSc and PhD research and studies;
- To enhance the capacity of own staff and associated partners through supporting BSc and MSc studies.

Activities and results

**General**

**MSc research studies**
Concept notes of 14 MSc students were selected for an ISSD MSc research grant for 2013. Coaching was given for the screened ones. Five students will do their research in Oromia, five in Amhara, three in SNNPR and three in Tigray. The research topics are focusing on LSB performance, seed and gender.

Result: So far six students have submitted their approved research proposal and research budget are released.

**PhD studies**
A total of 4 PhD students (ISSD staff) completed their proposal and course work at Wageningen UR and returned to Ethiopia in June. One PhD candidate is stationed at the PMU. His research relates to seed sector policy processes in Ethiopia.

Result: PhD candidates are collecting data for their study and at the same time support the ISSD programme in their formal position.

**Amhara**

**Eight DA’s study for BA and BSc**
ISSD Amhara has selected and enrolled eight DAs of partner woredas with a grant for BSc/BA study in plant science (six) and rural development (two) to enhance their capacity through their graduate training/BSC degrees and to facilitate further innovation in the seed sector through evidence based documentation and assessment.

**Five MSc grants**
In 2013, the ISSD project has given a grant to five MSc students (one grant was allocated with unused 2012 MSc grant budget) to conduct their research and studies. Research topics include gender role in seed production, marketing, decision making...
power and seed management practices. The MSc students will be able to develop innovative ideas related to seed sector development in the region.

**One PhD candidate from Amhara**
In 2013, the ISSD project sponsored one PhD candidate from the Amhara ISSD team to conduct his research on seed marketing in the context of LSBs of Ethiopia, and the contribution of seed business to the livelihood of seed grower farmers.

**Oromia South and West**

**Five DA’s and BSc studies**
Five DAs have started their study at Haramaya University in plant science in 2012. The regional Bureau of Agriculture is selecting new entrants for the year 2013. As a result farmers will have access to BoA experts with up-to-date knowledge.

**ISSD staff pursuing MSc in agribusiness**
One of the Oromia South West ISSD team members is completing an MSc in agribusiness at Haramaya University. He is now writing his thesis about the direct seed marketing pilot on Oromia South West.

**One PhD candidate from Oromia South West**
The PhD candidate from the Oromia South West ISSD team is focusing on the partnerships and innovation process and the extent to which innovations can be institutionalized.

**Oromia East**

**Five MSc grants**
The ISSD Oromia East unit provided MSc research grants to five Haramaya University MSc students from different departments. One grant was allocated with unused 2012 MSc grant budget. The students have prepared their proposals and have started their research work.

**PhD studies**
One of the ISSD Oromia east innovators, Mr Dandena Gelmessa, has been given the opportunity to pursue his PhD studies in the department of Plant Sciences in Haramaya University. Since his research fully fits within the framework of the ISSD programme, he will continue his work as seed expert in the ISSD programme at the same time.

**Six DA’s pursuing BSc studies**
ISSD Oromia east has provided full scholarships for six development agents from agricultural and cooperative offices in Babile, Haramaya, Kersa, Chiro and Tullo to pursue their BSc in the department of Rural Development and Agricultural Extension at Haramaya University for three years.

**Two ISSD staff pursuing MSc studies**
Two ISSD Oromia east staff are currently pursuing their Masters’ studies at Haramaya University in the departments of Rural development and Agricultural Extension; and Agricultural Economics. Both of the staff members have finished course work and are conducting their research work within the ISSD programme.
### SNNPR

**Issd staff pursuing MSc studies**
Two ISSD SNNPR innovators are completing their MSc study on Agricultural Economics and Rural Development at Haramaya and Hawassa university respectively (in a summer programme). One of the innovators is conducting thesis research entitled “Demand Analysis of Hybrid Maize Seed Using Contingent Valuation Method” and the other candidate is preparing his thesis proposal.

Result: the theoretical concepts the innovators acquired from their MSc study have enabled them to provide more advanced and concrete trainings for the ISSD partners and stakeholders.

**Three MSc research grants**
The ISSD SNNPR unit provided 3 MSc research grants. The students have prepared their proposals and have started their research work.

**PhD studies**
One innovator has been selected to pursue his PhD is elaborating his research proposal and at the same time managing the private sector component of the program. The PhD focusses on market orientation of the Ethiopian seed sector.

Result: the candidate is implementing the theoretical concepts he is acquiring in his PhD studies to his work in the ISSD programme.

### Tigray

**DA’s and BSc studies**
Five DAs are continuing their BSc summer program (this is the second year).

Result: The DAs have up-to-date knowledge and capacities to support farmers in LSB development.

**Three MSc research grants**
The ISSD Tigray unit provided 3 MSc research grants.

Result: the selected students are finalizing their research proposals and will start the research in the 3rd quarter of 2013.

**Issd staff pursuing MSc studies**
One ISSD staff is finalizing his MSc study. He is writing his final thesis and will soon defend his thesis and graduate.
2.8 Sharing experiences and lessons learnt

Objectives

- Foster the continuous sharing of experiences and lessons learnt, within the programme and beyond, using a diverse range of documentation materials and tools, and variety of communication channels.
- Foster the use of new concepts, methodologies, insights and practices among partners and stakeholders in various domains and at various levels.

Activities and results

Each ISSD unit has a knowledge sharing and capacity development expert in their region. This sub-chapter describes progress in this programme component in the first half of 2013.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>National level</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Visit of ISSD Uganda team to Ethiopia</td>
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<td>ISSD Ethiopia hosted an exchange visit of the ISSD Uganda team consisting of eight people, i.e. ISSD staff as well as a representative from EKN Kampala, from 18-24 February.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Result: experience sharing between the two programmes with specific focus on LSB development and partnerships and innovation; strengthened relationships between ISSD Uganda and ISSD Ethiopia.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Knowledge sharing meeting with regional KSCD innovators |
| A two-day KSCD meeting was held in Addis in June. All regional KSCD innovators presented the achievements, challenges and status of the KSCD action plan implementation in their respective regions. Two short hands-on trainings on ISSD website management and registering the geo-location of LSBs were provided. KSCD innovators and PMU staff also discussed on improving data management. |
| Result: the geo-location of all LSB sites is being registered; the ISSD website is being kept up-to-date by a web team; comprehensive data templates have been developed. |

| Story on direct seed marketing (DSM) |
| The story that narrates successes and challenges of piloting of direct seed marketing in Amhara (2011) & in Oromia & SNNPR (2012) was developed in February 2013 and shared with high level policymakers (ATA & MoA). |
| Result: The encouraging achievements of DSM in 2011 and 2012 convinced policymakers for widely scaling up (involving a higher number of seed enterprises in a larger number of woredas compared to previous years) of the DSM in Amhara, Oromia, and SNNPR in 2013. |
**Brochure on ISSD Ethiopia**
A brochure describing the ISSD Ethiopia background, vision, objectives and the project components was produced in February.

Result: The brochure was distributed to all stakeholders, ISSD family, visitors, and partners. Consequently, it contributes in promoting ISSD activities and in increasing its visibility among the broader society.

**ISSD Ethiopia newsletters**
ISSD Ethiopia publishes a bi-annual newsletter. Issue-2 was released in December 2012. Issue-3 will be released in September. These regular issues cover the overall activities of regional ISSD teams, the PMU and ISSD partners.

Result: ISSD partners and seed sector stakeholders are informed about the ISSD activities and seed sector issues and challenges.

**Short movie “Partnership in Seed Sector Development in Ethiopia”**
A professional 14 minute movie on the ISSD partnership and innovation process has been produced. The film gives an overview of the partnership process and the direct seed marketing innovations are used as an example. Various stakeholders share their views about the process and results.

Result: a high quality 14 minute movie and a short 5 minute version explaining the ISSD partnerships and innovation component

**Comprehensive data templates developed**
To facilitate easy aggregation of data and to make it easier to provide detailed data for different purposes, new comprehensive data templates have been developed in Excel.

Result: All regions are using these templates to share the data and information of the different programme components, allowing for easy (cross region) aggregation of data.

**Amhara**

**Newsletter/Magazine**
A bilingual (Amharic and English) newsletter that targets partners and LSBs which contains major results of 2012 and 2013 first half activities and lessons learnt has been published and distributed during the regional workshop. 150 Copies have been distributed to partners, farmers, BDU, other ISSD Ethiopia units and regional stakeholders.

**Development and distribution of other publications**
In addition to the regular publications of magazines and newsletters, other promotional publications have been also produced. *ISSD at a Glance*, a brochure that shows the objective, mission, components or focal areas and achievements since 2009 has been published in Amharic and English and distributed to partners and farmers (LSBs). An e-newsletter (e-version of regular newsletter) was also published using open software and was sent to all partners and stakeholders of ISSD Amhara and other ISSD units.
**Local Media – TV, radio and local newspapers**

Local media such as the regional television and radio have been used extensively for promotional and knowledge sharing purposes. Three TV news spots and two news features, five radio news, two live coverage of events, and one half-an-hour full program, and three news items on a newspaper were reported. The University newspaper covers regularly most activities of ISSD.

**Use of social and digital media**

Social media (facebook, blog, university website, ISSD Ethiopia website and dropbox) tools have been also used to continuously share experiences and lessons learnt. Through the integration of these media, 5 news releases, 54 posts, weekly updates and announcements have been produced, with an average number of visitors of 154 per week. Connected scaling-up partners have also used some of the tools to share information about their activities.

**Local Video Production**

A ten minute local video about the Addis Birhan LSB which started seed cleaning and packing by themselves using local materials was produced to be shared to other LSBs and supporting partners. It was shown to these key stakeholders at the regional workshop in June. The message was positively received and farmers and partners pledged to take the LSB as their model.

**Communication networking and assessment**

An assessment has been done with six scaling up partners to assess and understand their current use of communication and digital networking tools and their preferences. Online exchange was established with these partners and an office level coaching was provided on documenting activities and using communication tools.

Result: Partners are using the tools to share materials.

**Documentation of major activities**

All major activities, achievements and lessons are documented in photo, audio-video and text. So far, five workshops, two trainings, two meetings, a finance fair and first round direct seed marketing piloting have been fully documented and are made ready for use by innovators and partners.

**Oromia South and West**

**Development of different communication materials**

A bilingual brochure providing a summary of the different ISSD regional activities has been prepared and edited (and will be printed in October). Video registrations of workshops have been made; posters sharing the achievements of the different teams have been developed; press releases have been written and disseminated to different audiences during different events such as workshops, trainings and field seminars.

Result: brochure is ready for printing, video recordings ready to be edited, press realises disseminated.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Oromia East</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Newsletter</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>The second ISSD Oromia East newsletter was completed and distributed to staff. The newsletter provides a brief description of the different activities conducted by the regional unit during the first phase of 2013. The newsletter will be distributed to stakeholders and partners in October.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Result: Activities of Oromia east ISSD were documented and shared.</td>
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</table>

| **Leaflets** |
| Leaflets describing the consolidated seed producer cooperatives (SPCs) within the ISSD Oromia East were distributed to participants of the HrU farmers’ day and HrU graduation exhibition. The leaflets provided a description of the LSBs including location, date of establishment, number of members and activities. The leaflets were distributed to more than 400 people. |
| Results: Different stakeholders became aware of the LSBs the ISSD Oromia East team is working with and the activities they are conducting. |

| **LSB GPS data** |
| Data on the geographical location of all of the different consolidated and scaled up SPC sites were collected. In addition, the Oromia East innovation team had a chance to visit and evaluate the sites of scaling up partners. |
| Result: The basic data of the consolidated and scaling up LSBs were documented and sites were evaluated. |

| **SNNPR** |
| **Regional newsletter and flyer published** |
| An issue of the regional newsletter was published, sharing the overall progress and success stories of ISSD SNNPR. A flyer on the experience of Direct Seed Marketing has been produced and distributed among the partners and stakeholders. |
| Result: Partners, stakeholders and the wider public gained information about the interventions and the achievements of ISSD in the region. |

| **Regional FM radio broadcast on ISSD SNNPR program has been produced** |
| A weekly radio program which will be broadcasted every Saturday at noon for 15 minutes is under production. A campaign to promote the radio broadcasts to target audiences was launched. In the radio programme, the innovators and the programme coordinator are interviewed on the activities and achievements of the ISSD programme components. |
| Results: A radio station which can reach out to the wider public has been identified and the contract agreement has been signed. Through the radio programme, partners, stakeholders and the wider public will get a clear idea about ISSD activities. |

| **Locating LSBs with GPS** |
| GPS locations of both consolidated and scaling up SPCs (LSBs) have been recorded. |
Results: The exact GPS locations of LSB sites where ISSD SNNPR is working have been made available.

**Documentation of events**
Trainings by the LSB team, partnership workshops, private sector workshop, field events and other significant events have been documented with video and pictures.

Results: able to compile inputs for publications, website, posters, fliers and radio program production.

**Posters for the National ISSD workshop prepared**
Posters summarizing the regional activities, achievement and lessons learnt have been produced for each programme component and presented at the ISSD National workshop which was held at Mekelle (ISSD Tigray).

Results: the regional experiences, achievements and lesson learnt have been shared with other ISSD Ethiopia colleagues and colleagues from ISSD Uganda and CDI.

**Press releases and event news have been produced**
Press releases and event news have been produced and shared among the wider public through the blogging sites, the ISSD SNNPR facebook page, Hawassa University website and the ISSD National website.

Results: partners, stakeholders and the wider public have been informed.

**ISSD national website administration**
The national website of ISSD Ethiopia has been updated with latest news from program components. Articles have been uploaded to the website and the blogging site.

Results: the website is up to date with news, articles and pictures of recent events and regional and national updates are made available for viewers.

**Tigray**

**Banners**
Twenty banners (2m x 1m) have been printed and used to promote the activities and achievements of ISSD Tigray during workshops and events in the university campus and other workshop venues.

Result: Visibility of ISSD activities and achievements. Banners also make the venue more attractive and informative.

**Booklets about ISSD Tigray programme**
Booklets which describe the objective, activities and location of LSBs were printed and distributed to partners (200 and 150 copies of English and Tigrigna version respectively).

Result: The booklets are distributed to partners and LSB members and help in creating a clear understanding of the ISSD Tigray programme objectives and components. The different seed crops produced by LSBs and their locations are indicated.
### Poster
A poster (A1 size, 10 copies) was developed and printed to promote the seed fair event organized by Shewit irrigation potato seed producer cooperative.

Result: The poster helped in motivating the LSB and promoting the value addition and diverse seed production they practice.

### Newsletter
One newsletter with two language versions (50 copies English and 100 copies Tigrigna) was produced and distributed to LSBs and partners to share experiences and lessons. The LSB members are proud to see their innovations recognized and documented.

Result: The newsletters helped in informing partners and LSBs about ISSD activities.

### News items published on website
Two news releases have been posted on the Mekelle University website: (i) on the working visit of the Mekelle University president and institutional advisor of ISSD and whole ISSD staff (15 participants) to a private producer on May 10, 2013; and (ii) on the regional scaling up workshop conducted at Mekelle University on June 20, 2013 with a total of 108 participants.

Result: This helped to create awareness of the Mekelle university community and those who visit the website on the activities and progresses of ISSD in the region.

### Local media
Tigray Mass Media Agency journalists were invited to attend and produce news on the Tigrigna television program regarding the national workshop hosted by Tigray ISSD in March 2013, and the regional scaling up workshop on 20 June 2013.

Result: The activity of ISSD Tigray is being known by the wider community and policy makers. The new LSBs are also becoming more aware about seed business and related activities.

### Social media
Pictures of the national workshop and field visit were posted on face book and flickr and got likes from the ISSD family and other viewers.

Result: The pictures got likes from ISSD the family members and other viewers; information about ISSD activities shared through another channel.

### Video production
A 30 minute video in Tigrigna reflecting the activities and achievements of ISSD Tigray was produced. The video was distributed to 30 partners and also provided to the media. Mekelle University management requested to translate the video in English to allow them posting it on the university web page.

Result: Viewers have been informed about the approach and activities of ISSD Tigray; the video will help in influencing policy makers.
### 2.9 Capacity development

#### Objectives

- Develop modalities for capacity development at national and international level, for all sector components for ISSD-Ethiopia staff and partners.

#### Activities and results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>National level</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tailor-made training on the performance of producer organisations</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>A team of 25 ISDD innovators and professionals from different partner organizations have actively participated in the training “Optimizing the Performance of Producer Organizations” (OPPO) from 3-8 June 2013 in Bahir Dar.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Result: The trainees’ understandings and attitude that farmers are entrepreneurs and farmers organizations are business organizations enhanced; the trainees developed strategies to support LSBs in technical and business skill development.</td>
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<tr>
<th>International ISSD training in Wageningen</th>
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<tr>
<td>A total of 6 people drawn from regional ISSD units, MoA and ISSD-PMU have participated in the international training course “Integrated Seed Sector Development: Promoting coherence among practices, programmes and policies” in Wageningen, The Netherlands, from 27 May - 14 June.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Result: Participants broadened their experience through international exposure and strengthened their competencies to support seed sector development, taking an integrated perspective.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Amhara</th>
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<td><strong>Tailor made training (TMT)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>LSB innovators prepared and submitted a TMT request to Nuffic with the request to strengthen 20 professionals from ISSD staff, the College of Agriculture and Environment Science and BDU on seed sector development. The proposal has been approved and the training will start in July.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Result: Training proposal approved.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Training on presentation skills</th>
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<tr>
<td>A half-day training on preparing and delivering PowerPoint presentations was given to innovators with practical examples by the knowledge sharing and capacity development innovator.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Result: innovators are better equipped in preparing (PowerPoint) presentations.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
### TMT Training on Writing
Preparations for on-the-job training for innovators on writing (scientific paper writing, clear writing, writing for media, English Grammar and composition) have been completed. The proposal has been developed; topics and trainers have been selected. The training will be given in the second term.

### Oromia East

#### Regional training on LSB model and action plan
A two-day training on strategies and tools to implement the LSB model and action plan preparation for scaling up was conducted for Chiro campus experts, local partners and LSB representatives in March.

Result: the technical capacity of 23 experts from the Chiro campus LSB scaling up partner and local experts from LSB sites was strengthened.

#### Regional training on seed production and multiplication
A two-day training on seed production and multiplication was conducted in May for woreda experts, development agents (DAs) and experts from LSB scaling-up partners in East and West Hararghe in collaboration with the East Hararghe zone agricultural development office and Care Ethiopia. The objective of the training was to increase DAs’ and experts’ capacity in seed multiplication technologies; and strengthen the collaboration between all stakeholders for an “improved seed supply” mechanism in East Oromia.

Result: the capacity of 38 DAs and experts was increased and mechanisms to enhance their skills in improved seed supply were initiated.

### SNNPR

#### Training on LSB development for strategic partners’ local level staff
The LSB team of ISSD SNNPR has shared their experiences on LSB development with the scaling-up partners and stakeholders.

Results: the concept of the LSB model has been clarified among scaling-up partners and key stakeholders.