

Overview

- Balegreen Spice and Grain Development is a private agribusiness firm established under the Ethiopian Commercial Law
- It has its head office at Addis Ababa beside Megegnagna Square at Mulugeta Zeleke bldg.
- The company was established with the objectives of multiplying, and supplying seeds to farmers, supplying grains to exporting companies and traders
- Has a farm of 274 hectares strategically located in South Eastern part of the country at Ginir Woreda, Bale Zone, Oromia region at a distance of 550Kms from the capital
- Besides, it has established an Out-grower scheme with smallholder farmers in five Kebele of Ginir Woreda for growing Kabuli Chickpea grains.

Out-grower farming for Chickpea

- Being a pioneer at introducing use of combiner for chickpea harvesting, threshing and double cropping of chickpea and fenugreek with cereals, the company has been a means to knowledge transfer to surrounding farmers
- Besides, Balegreen has established an out-grower scheme with smallholder farmers in five Kebeles of Ginir Woreda for growing Kabuli Chickpea grains
- With a seed being multiplied on its farm, and inoculants from MBI, Balegreen is serving as input distribution channel to its out-growers
- Of the two Kabuli chickpea varieties that are being promoted under the Southeast public-private partnership that is facilitated N2Africa, ACOS Ethiopia has secured market for the ACOS Dube variety.



Challenges of out-grower farming

- Fluctuations in grain prices causing out growers frustrations
- Rainfall variability and sometimes reduction in yields
- Farmers ambition in getting more profit



Opportunities of out-grower farming

- Convenience for technology dissemination, input demand and market information delivery
- Ease for coordinating input and grain marketing between the main actors
- Increasing interest from farmers to be involved in the out grower scheme and favourable climatic conditions

Acknowledgements

- Cluster partners including ILRI-N2Africa, MBI, SSTP-AGRA, OARI-SARC and ACOS Ethiopia.

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