N2Africa - Putting nitrogen fixation to work for smallholder farmers in Africa

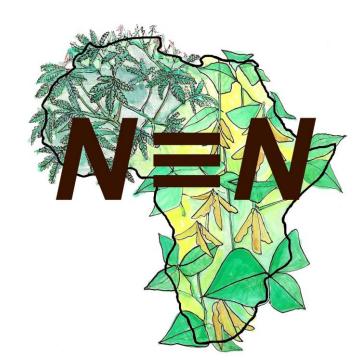
Experiences with out-grower farming schemes Balegreen in Ethiopia: Experiences of Balegreen

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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 Megenagna 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





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- 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
- Sesides, Balegreen has established an out-grower scheme with smallholder farmers in five Kebeles of Ginir Woreda for

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



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.



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

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