Farmer to Farmer Seed Exchange Among Africa RISING Beneficiary Farmers

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1. Introduction

The initial scaling years of Africa RISING faced critical constraints in seed supply. As a result, the project resorted to supplying the initial seeds and encouraged local seed production. The locally produced seed is then shared among other farmers in the area. This created direct and spill over beneficiaries.

2. Objectives

Assess how Africa RISINING promoted crop and forage innovations diffused through farmer to farmer exchange approach.

3. Methods/ approaches

The study was conducted in Africa RISING operational areas, namely North Shewa (Amhara), Bale (Oromia) and Hadiya (SNNP). Data was collected using personal and institutional surveys. Data was collected from direct and spillover farmers. Spillover beneficiaries were identified using snowball sampling method. A total of 351 personal and 13 institutional interviews were conducted.

5. Conclusion/ messages

- Seed exchange among farmers happened mostly at a level of 1st generation. Afterwards, the seeds either lose their vigor or are considered too local.
- Bread wheat is among the highest shared among farmers and oat/vetch are the least shared.
- Seeds are often shared among family members, neighbors and local cooperatives.
- Capturing the whole extent of seed exchange among farmers is a complicated task, especially when it involves multiple years.
- A more rigorous approach, with good data management and beneficiary tracking tools is required to capture the full extent of seed exchange among farmers.

6. Acknowledgement

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4. Findings

Beneficiary categories

Beneficiary category	Region					
	Amhara		Oromia		SNNP	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
	87	72.5%	77	67.0%	82	70.7%
Direct	81	67.5%	70	60.9%	64	55.2%
Spillover: 1st generation	34	28.3%	40	34.8%	50	43.1%
Spill over: 2nd generation	5	4.2%	5	4.3%	2	1.7%

The frequency of the farmer shared improved crop varieties to others.

Improved crops	North Shewa	Bale	Hadiya
	% (n=120)	%(n=115)	%(n=116)
Bread wheat	76.2%	46.9%	66.7%
Durum wheat	14.3%	20.4%	0.0%
Malt barley	22.6%	12.2%	0.0%
Food barley	3.6%	2.0%	0.0%
Faba bean	20.2%	20.4%	21.7%
Oat	2.4%	18.4%	25.0%
Vetch	2.4%	0.00%	0.0%
Total	43.5%	25.4%	31.1%

Number of farmers shared improved crop seed from a beneficiary farmer of Africa RISING project.

Improved crop types	North Shewa			Bale			Hadiya		
	Mean	Min	Max	Mean	Min	Max	Mean	Min	Max
Bread wheat	3	1	10	3	1	12	5	1	25
Faba bean	2	1	3	5	1	20	6	2	16
Oat	2	1	3	5	1	20	5	2	12
Durum wheat	1	1	2	7	1	35	-	-	-
Malt barley	1	1	3	2	1	2	-	-	-
Food barley	4	1	6	3	3	3	-	-	-