



National Partnership

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"When asked to formulate ideal characteristics of an agricultural innovation system, the main ones mentioned were: 'demand driven', 'participatory', 'well facilitated', 'adaptive', 'opportunities for networking', and 'multi-stakeholders'. However, limited financial services in rural communities where most agricultural innovation is taking place, affects the innovation process"

(CDAIS country report, 2016)

"A well-functioning agricultural innovation system is based on broad dialogue and a bottom-up approach"

(CDAIS country report, 2016)

Global
partnership



Agrinatura is a grouping of European universities and research organizations supporting agricultural development.



The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations leads international efforts to defeat hunger.

PILOT COUNTRIES

Central America : Guatemala, Honduras

Africa : Angola, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Rwanda

Asia : Bangladesh, Laos

This flyer is intended as one of a series that will report the many and varied activities of CDAIS in each country, including, for example, policy dialogues, 'marketplaces', and specific outcomes.



ETHIOPIA



Introducing innovation niche partnerships

STRENGTHENING CAPACITY FOR AGRICULTURAL INNOVATION IN ETHIOPIA



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Chickpea Production and Marketing Niche

The N2Africa project is supporting public-private partnerships in the chickpea value chain. Tsehay Farmer Cooperative Union, one of the strongest in Amhara Regional State, is spearheading this process, with the famous Dembia chickpea belt in North Gondar at the centre. Fragmented production, chickpea diseases and pests and poor coordination among value chain actors were identified as key challenges. The CDAIS project is addressing these through capacity strengthening of the Tsehay Cooperative Union and other stakeholders. Chickpea 'cluster farming' is being piloted, as a new institutional arrangement that facilitates input supply, coordinated agro-technical operations, marketing and lobbying through creating a space for stakeholder interaction. This demands a consistent and timely participation of diverse actors, particularly frontline farmers and those involved in the supply of inputs and services.

EDGET Community Based Seed Production and Marketing Niche

Shortage of improved seed varieties is one of the major challenges undermining smallholder productivity in Ethiopia. Currently, only 20% of the demand is met from within the country. In response to this, Self Help Africa assisted the establishment of EDGET Seed Production and Marketing Cooperative Union which produces certified seeds and supplies to farmers in the Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Regional State (SNNPR). Quota-based seed marketing systems is a critical challenge, and currently, the Regional Bureau of Agriculture allocates quotas and instructs cooperatives to sell seed to a specific district based on quota share. Districts often tend to be opportunistic, however, and fail to take the full amount of seed they might have committed to buy, thus reducing sales by the cooperative and risking financial losses. In partnership with Ministry of Agriculture district and regional offices, agricultural research institutes, the seed quality control agency and other stakeholders, CDAIS is supporting the EDGET Cooperative Union to establish enforceable contracts with districts for seed marketing. The aim is for increased dialogue with regional policy makers, and the drafting of new directives for improved and unrestricted seed marketing systems, and their passing into law.

Malt Barley Seed System Niche

Driven by increasing beer consumption and investment in breweries, the market for malt barley is growing at 15-20% annually. However, domestic production of malt barley is not keeping pace with the growing demand, and the country imports around 60% of its malt barley from abroad. However, Arsi and Bale zones of central Oromia regional state have tremendous potential to meet this growing demands, but stakeholders have identified shortage of quality malt barley seed as a key issue. CDAIS project is assisting Kulumsa Agricultural Research Centre in partnership with relevant government organizations, breweries and NGOs, in supporting farmer cooperatives in Arsi zone to increase the production of quality malt barley seed.

In Ethiopia, capacity is being developed through the following CDAIS innovation niche partnerships

Milk Demand Stimulation Campaign Niche

Average annual milk consumption per person in Ethiopia remains very low at around 20-25 litres, as compared to 120 litres in Kenya and 180 litres in Sudan. Particularly, the consumption habit of pasteurized milk is underdeveloped among adults. Inadequate awareness about the benefits of pasteurized milk and the health risks associated with drinking unpasteurized milk among consumers are some key challenges contributing to low consumption of processed dairy products in the country. CDAIS project supports the Ethiopian Milk Processor Industry Association (EMPIA) and stakeholders in their effort to create demand for locally produced pasteurized milk through media campaigns, a school milk pilot programme, and influencing policy through multi-stakeholder process.

Feed Safety and Quality Innovation Niche

Meeting the quality and safety of livestock feed, vaccines and drugs remain a critical challenge in livestock production in Ethiopia. Stakeholders are working to enhance feed safety and quality and build consumer confidence in animal products. In collaboration with a national task force including governmental and intergovernmental bodies, industry and farmer associations, donors and other NGOs, CDAIS project supports this niche to develop a legal framework and guideline for feed risk assessment, risk management and risk communication. The Veterinary Drugs and Feed Administration and Control Authority (VDFACA) is a government institution which leads this process.

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT FOR AGRICULTURAL INNOVATION SYSTEMS

CDAIS enhances innovation in agriculture by improving the functional capacities of individuals, organizations and systems. It brings partners together and uses continuous learning cycles to address the challenges and opportunities in and around selected 'innovation niche partnerships' in eight pilot countries in Central America, Africa and Asia. Agricultural innovation systems have been repeatedly shown to have great potential for driving sustainable growth, poverty reduction and in helping to meet the Sustainable Development Goals