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Implementing Farmers' Rights in Ethiopia

Results from an evaluation of
a programme funded by the
Development Fund, Norway

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Side event on Farmers' Rights implementation
at GB8, 13 November 2019, at the FAO in Rome

The evaluation

- **Topic:** The community-based agrobiodiversity programme of the Development Fund in Ethiopia 2011 – 2016
- **Focus:** Impact, relevance and sustainability of community seed banks and related community-based agrobiodiversity management measures in Ethiopia



The Development Fund

Fighting hunger and poverty

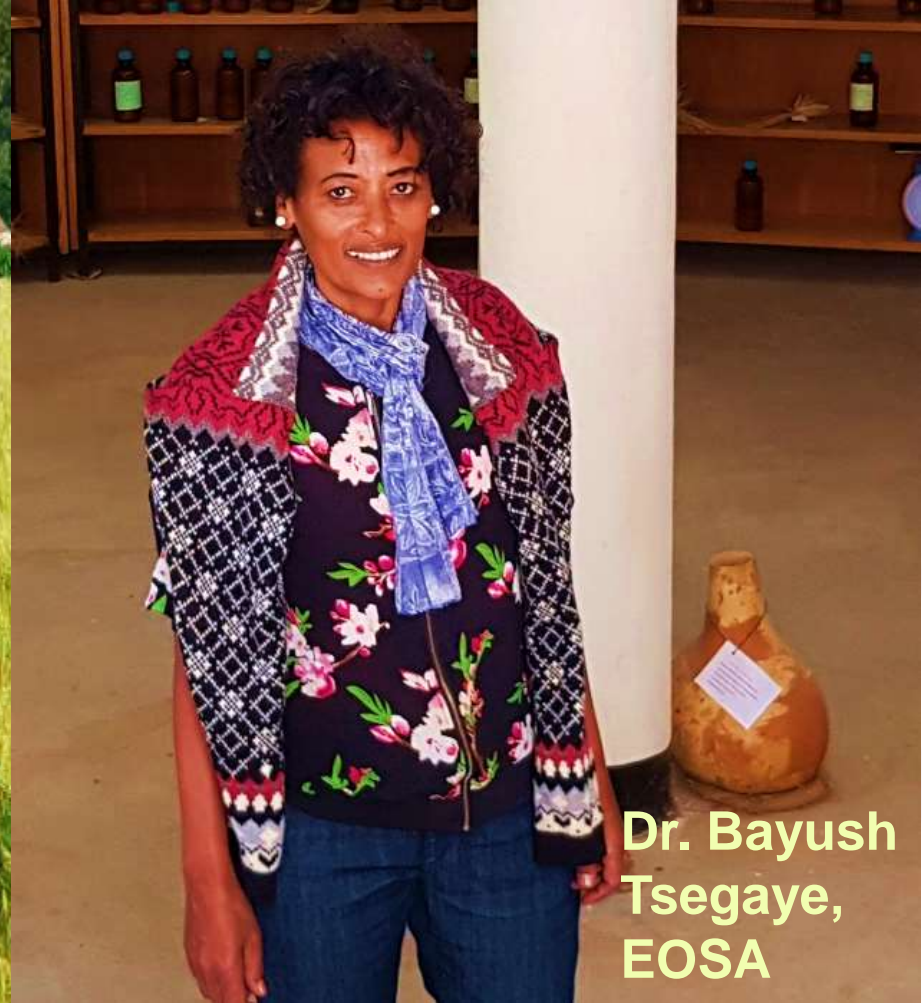
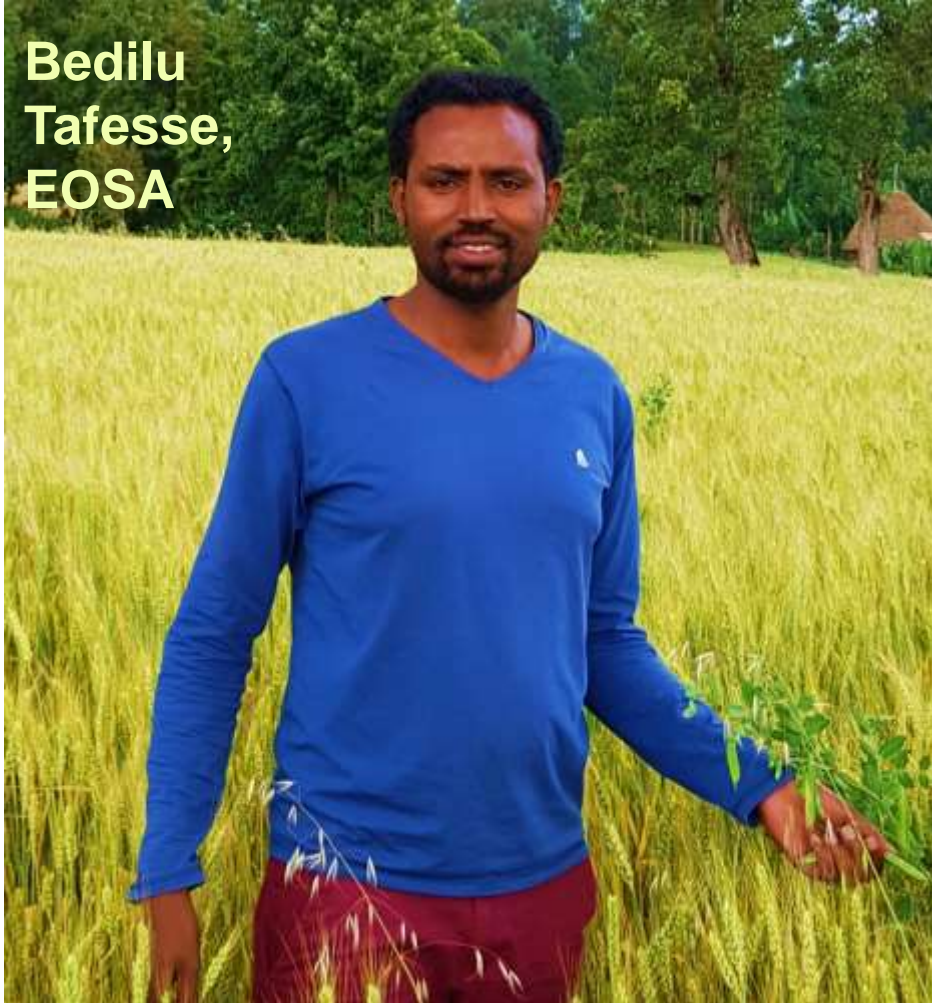


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Evaluation team members

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The programme in Ethiopia

- **Partner:** Ethio-Organic Seed Action (EOSA)
- **Goal:** Sustainable climate change adaptation among farmer communities through enhanced capacity of farming communities to sustainably manage, develop and utilize local agro-biodiversity as an adaptive mechanism to climate change in Ethiopia
- **Number of CSBs:** 13
- **Project period:** 2011/2014–2016
- **Focus of presentation:** Ejere CSB, Oromia, and brief info on developments in the SNNPR







How it all started



Ejere Community Seed Bank

- **Origin:** 1990 (SoS programme, USC Canada)
- **CSB established:** 1994-95 (IBC/GEF-support)
- **Supported by EOSA/DF/CBDC** from 2003
- **Supported by EOSA/DF** 2011–2016 ++
- **Members today:** Ca 600 households (21 %)
- **Covering:** 8 villages with groups
- **Conserved crops:** 142 varieties of 15 species
- **Developed with PVS:** 9 new varieties
- **Revolving Seed Fund:** Members receive seed as a loan and pay back with 20 % interest
- **Capacity building and income generation**



Long-standing CSB members



Seed storage facility



Annual germination tests



Regeneration, participatory variety selection, multiplication



Locally adapted varieties



Ayelu
Dinku



Training in organic methods & income generating measures



Great benefits for families



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Realization of Farmers' Rights

- Traditional knowledge is shared and maintained
- Through benefit sharing channeled through EOSA, farmers have substantially improved seed security, food security and nutrition, income and livelihoods.
- Through close interaction with local and regional authorities, conducive policies have been developed addressing CSB's and Farmers' Rights
- Seeds are saved, used, exchanged and sold.



Custodians of agrobiodiversity



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Southern Nations Nationalities and Peoples Region



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**Sigeda Community Seed Bank, SNNPR
as one of 12 examples of scaling up**

Categories of the FR inventory

- Recognition of local and indigenous communities', farmers' contributions to conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA, such as awards and recognition of custodian/guardian farmers
- Financial contributions to support farmers conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA such as contributions to benefit sharing funds
- Approaches to encourage income-generating activities to support farmers' conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA
- Catalogues, registries and other forms of documentation of PGRFA and protection of traditional knowledge
- In-situ/on-farm conservation and management of PGRFA, such as social and cultural measures, community biodiversity management and conservation sites
- **Facilitation of farmers' access to a diversity of PGRFA through community seed banks, seed networks and other measures improving farmers' choices of a wider diversity of PGRFA.**
- Participatory approaches to research on PGRFA, including characterization and evaluation, participatory plant breeding and variety selection
- Farmers' participation in decision-making at local, national and sub-regional, regional and international levels
- Training, capacity development and public awareness creation
- Legal measures for the implementation of Farmers' Rights, such as legislative measures related to PGRFA.
- Other measures / practices



CSBs: Realizing Farmers' Rights

- Platforms for sharing traditional knowledge keeping it alive and further developing it, some become knowledge hubs (*IT Art. 9.2.a*)
- Platforms benefit sharing: Facilitated access to seed diversity, participatory plant breeding, developing capacity and livelihoods (*IT Art. 9.2.b*)
- Platforms for participation in decision making: Breeding decisions, influence of local and national policies and priorities (*IT Art. 9.2.b*)
- Platforms for enhancing farmers' rights to (9.3) **save, use, exchange & sell farm-saved seed**



Realizing Farmers' Rights: Options

- CSBs are the missing links between national gene banks and farmers – facilitating access and promoting active use and innovation
- Models of CSBs have been developed around the world that are highly successful: Need to derive conditions for success
- Scaling out successful CSBs is a means of realizing Farmers' Rights: Promoting the active sharing of traditional knowledge, boosting benefit sharing, enhancing the participation in decision making and farmers skills of managing farm-saved seed





Thank you for your attention!



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