

Bahir Dar University Cluster Quarterly Newsletter, September 2020

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Success stories on food insecure households

BENEFIT REALISE programme Bahir Dar University Cluster has started interventions in its ten target woredas in 2019. From the targeted food insecure households' stories of success emerged and presented below for selected farmers in Tach Gayint woreda from one timad package pilot activity and Simad woreda pre-scaling up of Awash-2 haricot bean.

Success stories from Tach Gayint woreda

Fikire Alebachew is one of the beneficiaries of BENEFIT REALISE Bahir Dar University Cluster. In 2019 he has participated in one timad package and attained better yield than other year despite rodent attack and excessive rainfall.

According to him the better harvest from last year has helped to feed his household for a longer period than other fellow farmers who sold their animals to purchase food grain. Despite the increase in the price of food grain and decrease the price of livestock due to the COVID-19 pandemic, he indicated his gratefulness for the programme for saving his three ewes with their lambs from sale to purchase food grain, unlike his fellow farmers

He also indicated he used the last year harvest for seed this year to cover 0.25 ha and this also saved the cost he otherwise would have incurred to purchase seed. Moreover, he shared the seed with his relatives and they got the new variety from him.



Fikire also indicated last year he was not well aware of the variety but this year he understood that for the fear of heavy rain and early maturity he planted the crop late and currently the crop is performing well and he is expecting even better yield from last year

About BENEFIT-REALISE

BENEFIT- REALISE Programme has taken lessons from the WUR CASCAPE and ISSD programmes to PSNP target woredas. The goal of the BENEFIT-REALISE Programme is to enhanced human, organizational and institutional capacities to adapt, validate and scale best fit practices to improve the resilience of chronically food insecure households in PSNP woredas

Success stories on food insecure households



Kolela Abebe, a beneficiary from 2019 one timad package indicated that she used the seed for this year from her last year harvest and saved seed expense. This year she went to the market to purchase food grain in May, unlike those previous years she went to the market in February.

Since the price of food grain increased recently due to COVID 19 she expressed her thanks to the program for extending the months she can feed her household from her harvest.

She also indicated this year she used 25kg for seed and she is expecting better yield, unlike other fellow farmers.

Success stories from Simada woreda



Yezab Biru is one of the beneficiaries of Haricot bean pre-scaling up in 2019 and harvested better yield. From which she has planted 0.375ha of Awash-2 haricot bean since she observed hope in it to improve her livelihood.

She also covered about ETB 2000 cost of fertilizer from last year haricot bean harvest.



Adugna Moges, a farmer who participated in haricot bean pre-scaling up by the programme last year indicated harvest of better yield than his local variety. This year he reported he has cover 0.25ha with his last season harvest.

He also indicated he has distributed about 30 kg of his harvest to other fellow farmers so that they cover their land this year with this variety as well. He also indicated he has covered ETB 1600 expense for fertilizer from his harvest and used about 33kg for himself. ■

Strengthen open field potato seed production undertaking

Improved and quality seed shortage is one of the major constraints for boosting agricultural production and productivities to sustain food security for smallholder farmers. Supplying of quality seed in the farming community is also the greatest bottleneck due to lack of public and private seed producers especially for potato tubers. By considering this bottlenecks BENEFIT – REALISE programme BDU Cluster supports two seed producer cooperatives namely Woken at Dabat and Nigat at Wogera woredas with the collaborations of Gondar Agricultural research center in the 2020 main cropping season.



Two improved and recommended potato varieties namely, Belete and Gudeni were used. Both varieties are well adapted to the targeted woredas. The source of tuber is Gondar Agricultural Research Center under G2 seed class and it's important to further seed multiplication. The seed multiplication were conducted under open field condition in three clusters per woreda. A total of 40 farmers from which 29 were male and 11 were female-headed households were participated. A total of two hectares of land were covered for this purpose and 40 quintals of potato tuber were used. ▶

The performance of both varieties is very interesting at field conditions in both locations and farmers are also happy what they have seen in the field condition. All agronomic practices and seed production techniques were implemented through this process. Farmers are very encouraged by the activity in both woredas.

The BENEFIT-REALISE programme BDU Cluster seed experts gave technical feedbacks to woreda expert and farmers. To use the seed for further multiplication and strengthen the seed linkage central Gondar zone seed laboratory and quarantine office have been started to inspect the field. At Woken the first-round field inspection was accompanied by the communication of Gondar agricultural research center, Gondar seed laboratory, and quarantine office and woreda office of agriculture.

At Wogera the seed laboratory and quarantine people they tried, but unfortunately, they did not do the first-round field inspection task due to road sliding problem. The second-round inspection will be processed under Diffused Light Store(DLS) condition after harvest. ■



Nutrition focused agriculture: Home gardening and Maradol Papaya Production

BENEFIT-REALISE Programme BDU Cluster mainstreams Nutrition activities in all its target woredas, which explicitly aim to improve nutrition through home gardening and Maradol papaya interventions, are often designed in line with improving household's access of nutritious food and reducing the food gap months through diversification. In 2020, alone the programme targeted more than 1300 and 510 households in home gardening and Maradol papaya respectively to enhance households' food and nutrition security.

Home gardening with an emphasis on nutrient-dense varieties of vegetables and fruit trees has demonstrated the potential to improve diet quality, and raise levels of nutrition for producing households. The programme tried to ensure the production of a variety of nutritious vegetables such as Carrot, Beetroot, Swiss Chad and Kale to improve the dietary requirements of the family. Besides, ToT training on the production and management of home gardening was provided to all the programme target Woreda and Kebele agricultural experts which was cascaded to beneficiary farmers, so that they will be aware of the production and utilization of various vegetables and papayas fruit. ►



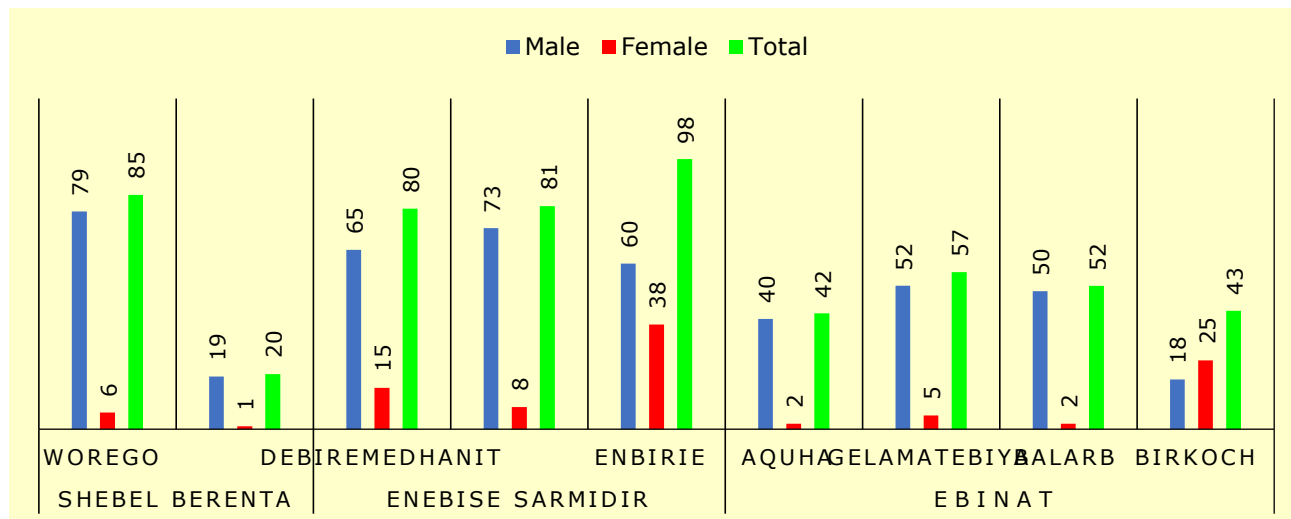
W/ro Ziyen Yemam, head of a household and mother of four children has received vegetable seeds of Carrot, Beetroot, and Swiss chard. She explained: "The training helped me to have awareness on home gardening production and the nutritional benefit of vegetable crops. I tried to follow what I have learned during the training and DAs advice. I prepared the land together with my family. All the family members were active participants during seeding, transplanting, and overall management. We harvested fresh vegetables from our garden. We got a good harvest from Swiss Chard and Beetroot."

Improving the household's awareness of nutrition-sensitive agriculture is crucial, given the importance of fresh fruits and vegetables for achieving healthy diets and preventing micronutrient deficiencies. In this regard, the 2019 distributed Maradol papaya seedlings are now ready for consumption and market. The beneficiary farmers are interviewed for their opinion regarding fruit and vegetable production and utilization. The variety is early maturing and one Maradol papaya tree variety can yield up to 59 fruits. Over 1085 farmers in 2019 and 2020 are growing the newly introduced papaya variety, most of the 2019 growing farmers are harvesting for their consumption and sold the surplus to their neighbors in the local market at between 15 & 20 ETB per fruit.

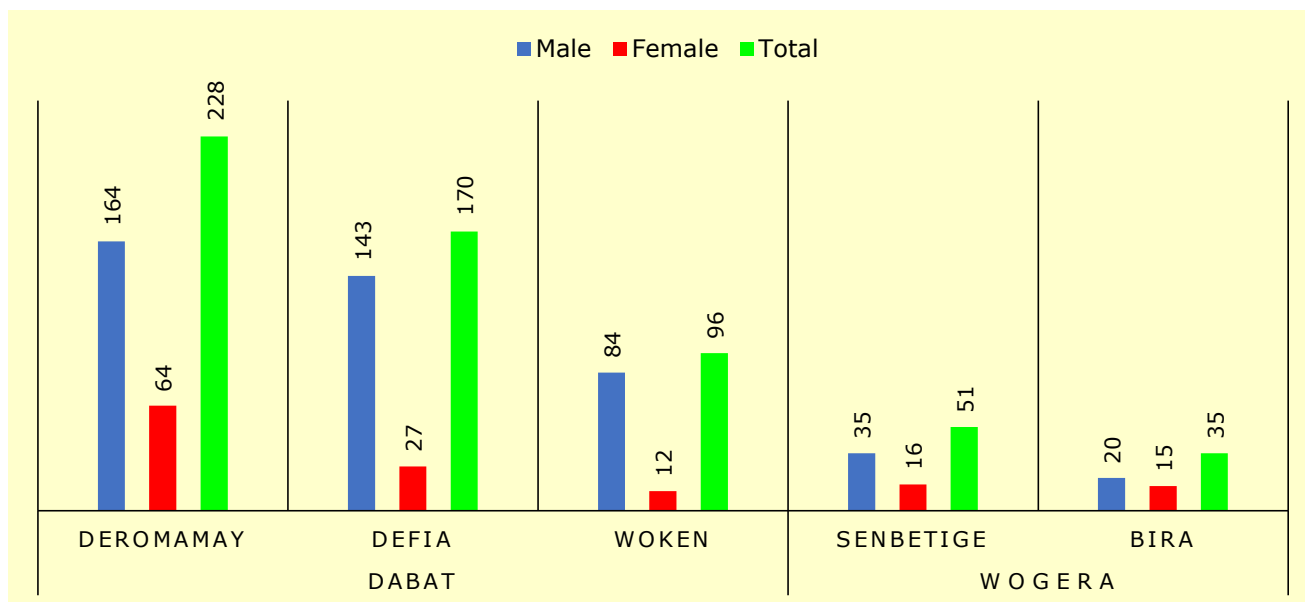
Awokech Aragie developed a garden by constructing a table terrace behind the house. She had planted Maradol Papaya in the 2019 growing season. She also prepared compost and used as a fertilizer to improve the fertility of the soil. Apart from Maradol papaya, various vegetables are grown in Awokech gardens. "I started with five trees and got over 59 fruits per plant which encourage me and neighbors to demand more seedlings. This would now be my main source of fruit to the family and all the family members are happy for planting the early maturing, very tasty papaya fruit in our garden" says Awokech, one of the PSNP beneficiaries and a mother of four children from Ebinat Woreda, Gelamatebia Kebele. Awokech is happy to share the knowledge and experience she acquired through observation and trial with the neighboring farmers. ■

Kebele level farmers field days held in intervention kebeles

Kebele-level farmers field days are being undertaken in the target woredas and kebeles on the different technologies introduced by BENEFIT-REALISE BDU Cluster. The field days have attracted 460 participants mainly farmers in Shebelberenta, Enebise Sarmidir, and Ebinat woredas. Of the total participants about 14% were females.

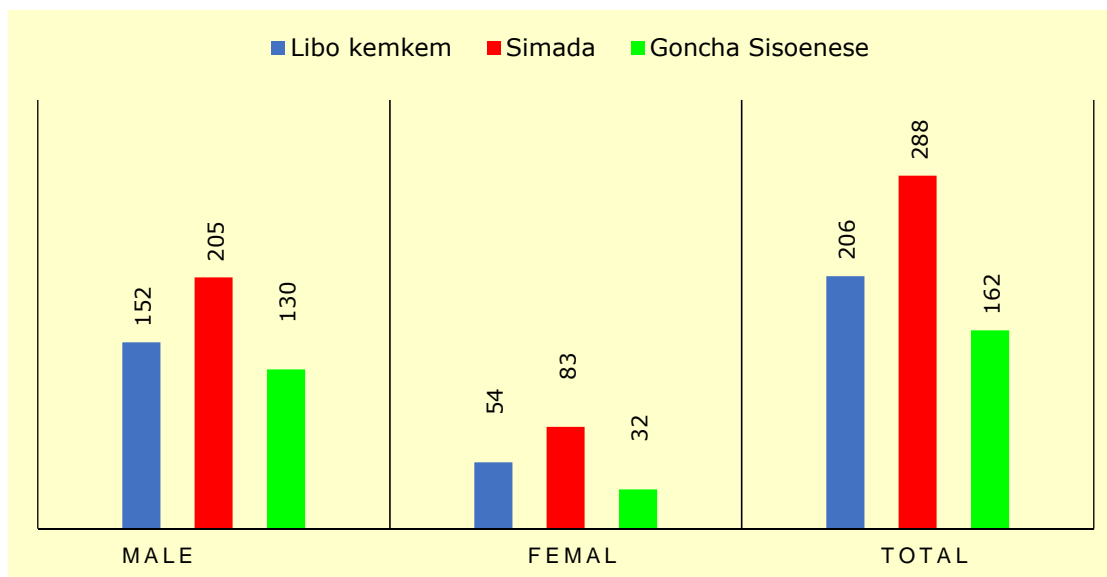


In Dabat and Wogera woredas the kebele level field days have attracted 580 participants with a 23% share of women. The field days were on bread wheat, food barley, and potato seed technologies introduced by the cluster in collaboration with partners.

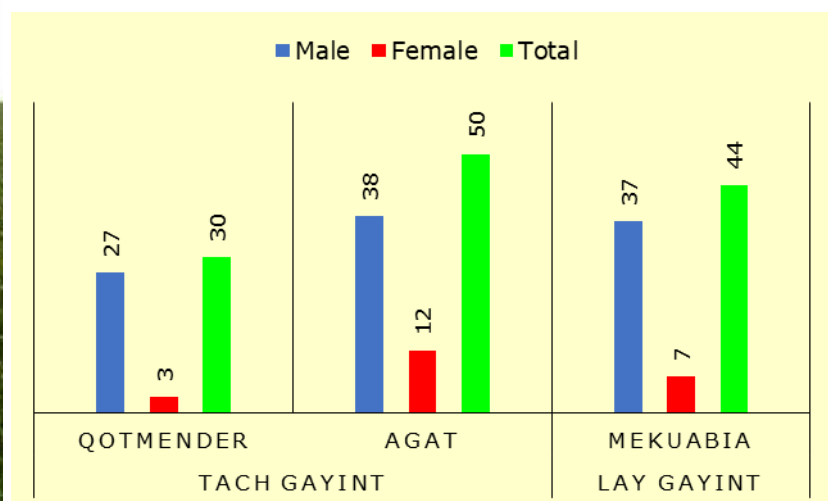


Kebele level farmers field days held in intervention kebeles

Kebele level farmers field day events were also undertaken in Libo kemkem, Simada, and Goncha Sisoenese woredas target kebeles. The field days were on improved bread wheat, maize, and vermicompost as well as teff technologies. A total of 656 participants attended the events with a share of 26% of women farmers.



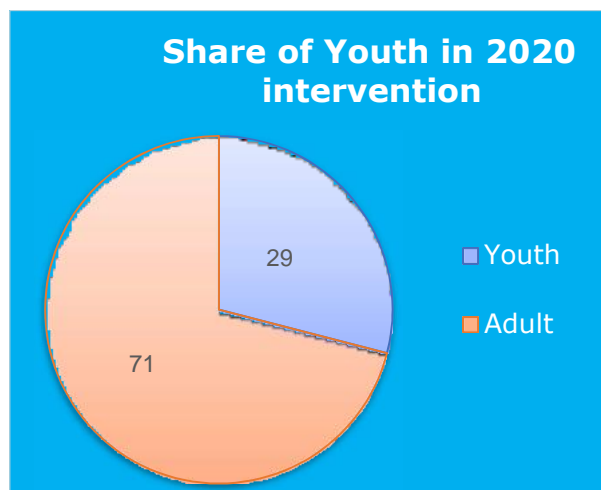
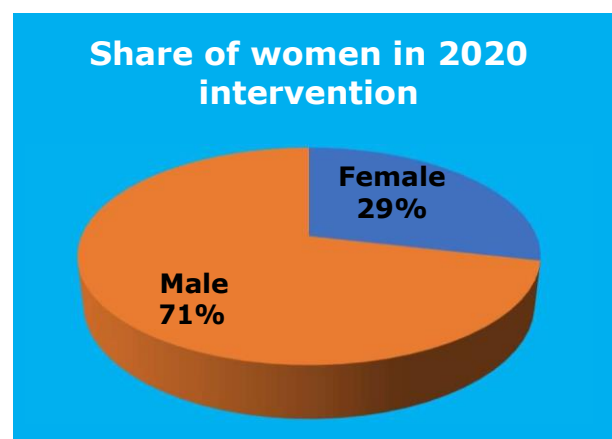
In Lay Gayint and Tach Gayint woredas kebele level field days were undertaken which have attracted 124 participants. On these events, the share of women farmers was 18%. The field days were on bread wheat pre-scaling up and one timad package technologies introduced by the cluster.



Targeting women and youth in BENEFIT-REALISE intervention to ensure food security

BENEFIT-REALISE's priority has always been the poorest and most vulnerable household in the community with low productive potential. According to the 2020 programme activity plan and implementation: BENEFIT-REALISE is committed to mainstream both women and youth in all its intervention.

The data in its four pathways show up to 29% women participation and significant number of youth participants.



For instance, female and youth farmers are witnessing household access to various improved seeds, vegetables, and Papaya fruit to the family from their farm, and generating additional income due to the sale of crops, vegetables to the nearby market and Maradol Papaya interventions introduced by BENEFIT-REALISE Programme.



Landlessness is a major challenge in Ethiopia and contributes to the vicious circle of poverty to the rural youth. Asefa Worku, 28, is a PSNP beneficiary young farmer in Libokemkem Woreda, Shamo Kebele. He participated in a participatory variety selection (PVS) of Maize in 2019 and Demonstration of Vermicomposting in 2020. Due to the better performance and farmers' preference of Gibie-3 maize variety in the Kebele, Asefa aspires to cover his rented in 0.25 ha of land with Gibie-3 variety and sold the rest seed to the neighboring farmers in a good price and earned ETB 1000 from 100 square meter of land in 2019. In this year, he received training on vermicomposting preparation and management as well as vermicomposting worms. According to Asefa, this year he saved more than ETB 1500 due to the vermicomposting and his maize seed which he would have been spent for chemical fertilizer and improved maize seed. He also added that his life shows progress and hoping a better future with the programme intervention. ■

BENEFIT-REALISE BDU Cluster in pictures



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