



FEED THE FUTURE

The U.S. Government's Global Hunger & Food Security Initiative

Feed the Future Ethiopia Supporting Seed Systems for Development (S34D)

ACTIVITY OVERVIEW

The Feed the Future Global Supporting Seed Systems for Development activity (S34D) is a five-year Leader with Associates (LWA) award, funded by the Feed the Future Initiative through the Bureau for Resilience and Food Security (RFS) and by USAID through the Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA). With a USAID Ethiopia buyin, S34D focuses on the livestock sector, specifically on seed policies and regulations as well as forage seed, cultivated forages and feed reserves. S34D is promoting resilient, nutritious, productive and profitable seed systems to contribute to the agriculture-led inclusive economic growth objective of the Government of Ethiopia and USAID.



Photo for CRS by Nancy McNally.

ACTIVITIES

Based on consultations with the government of Ethiopia, national seed actors and USAID Ethiopia, S34D commenced in FY20 two scoping activities: one to assess the forage seed value chain to evaluate roles of cultivated forages that could bridge gaps between highlands and drought-prone lowlands through sustainable business models, and another to assess the role of feed reserves in smoothening out fluctuations in high-quality feed supply. While conducting these studies, S34D initiated a third activity to evaluate and assess the current process and system to forecast seed demand in Ethiopia.

In FY21, S34D developed and compared regulatory seed systems maps, developed forage informatic dashboards using seed data and metrics and a policy brief on forage seed systems. In addition to this, at the request of key national stakeholders, S34D embarked on a study to determine the constraints and bottlenecks in scaling up specific high-priority seed policies and directives.

Both FY20 and FY21 activities were prerequisites to develop the follow up activities (such as implementing business models on the ground) for FY22 and beyond. The follow-up activities are grouped under two thematic areas: seed policies and regulations (Thematic Area A), and forage seed and cultivated forages activities (Thematic Area B).

Ethiopia's mission is to "build modern seed industry to ensure users' timely access to required seed at the right quality" (National Seed Policy, 2020). There are several factors that contribute to the realization of this mission – two of which are particularly important (and align well) with the S34D's goals.

- Effective development, release, and registration of high-quality varieties, and;
- A vibrant market environment which enables public and private producers to produce, market and distribute seed effectively through multiple channels.

Specific activities that fall under Thematic Area A are:

- Facilitate and conduct a stakeholder discussion session on seed reserves;
- Establish a seed production and marketing information network at the national and regional levels;
- Establish a variety registration system dedicated to farmers / pastoralists, separate from the regular variety ownership registration system, and;
- Digitize seed systems regulatory roadmaps.



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S34D’s propositions under Thematic Area B are mainly based on creating a new demand avenue for cultivated forages by using demand-pull mechanisms through introduction of densification technologies. And, from the supply side, strengthening and increasing the production of high-quality forage seeds of improved varieties.

It is the combination of these two simultaneous approaches that will increase livestock productivity in Ethiopia. Furthermore, S34D proposes to mobilize high-quality feed preparation and preservation technology (densification of cultivated forages in the form of pellets), which will create a new avenue of demand for cultivated forages to cater to demand sinks such as dairy, fattening industry and quarantine centers. This would also be particularly helpful in the drought period – thus smoothening fluctuations in high-quality feed supply and prices.

The specific forage seed and cultivated forages activities under Thematic Area B are:

- Strengthen the supply of Forage Early Generation Seed (FEGS) supply;
- Strengthen capacity of forage seed production;
- Develop content and train actors on feeding cultivated forages, and;
- Pilot the cultivation of forage production and densification of pellets.

PROGRESS

In January 2021, S34D disseminated the findings of the forage seed and feed reserve at a [global webinar](#) comprising multiple donor partners, government institutions (such as ATA, EIAR), and USAID Implementing Partners.

In May 2021, S34D conducted a hybrid workshop (in-person and virtual) to validate findings of the seed demand forecasting study. Federal, regional, and local actors from Amhara and Oromia attended the validation workshop to help finalize the roadmap to modernize the seed demand forecasting system in Ethiopia.

S34D STRATEGY

S34D’s vision is to provide a wider choice of high-quality crop seeds (resistant to biotic and abiotic stresses, climate-smart) to smallholder farmers at the last mile. This vision rests on the underlying principle of bridging gaps between formal and informal seed systems. S34D has aligned the proposed activities with the Results Framework objectives and results in the USAID’s Ethiopian Country Development Cooperation Strategy objectives DO1 (Disaster risk management strengthened) and DO3 (Private sector led economic growth promoted).

| QUICK FACTS | |
|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| LWA Life of Activity | 2018-2023 |
| LWA Donor | USAID RFS and BHA |
| LWA funding ceiling | \$49.5m |
| LWA Consortium | Catholic Relief Services (Prime), the Alliance for Bioversity International and CIAT, PABRA, Agri Experience and Opportunity International. |
| USAID Ethiopia Buyin (FY20, 21 and 22) | \$1,527,799 |
| Ethiopia Buyin Consortium | Catholic Relief Services (Prime), the Alliance for Bioversity International and CIAT. |
| Ethiopia Buyin Service Providers | Hedbez Business and Consultancy, Bright Consulting, New Markets Lab |
| Ethiopia Collaborators | WCDI-ISSD, ATA, MoA – Input Directorate, EIAR, USAID Implementing Partners (LGA, RiPA), ILRI. |
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