

Tigrai Agricultural Research Institute (TARI)



Mid-year 3: Successes, Lessons and Moving Forward with PBS production

Major accomplishments



1. Pre-basic seed production

TC activities	Unit (& size)	Planned	Achieved	% achievement	Remark
Greenhouse	Cuttings	30,000	8000	26.6	Ratoon from 756 pots of Tulla and 832 pots of Kulfo 1588 in total will be used for planting in the mobile net tunnels
Mobile net tunnel	Cuttings	600,000	112,500	18	6 net tunnels of Tulla and 3 net tunnels of Kulfo were maintained as a source of planting for basic seed multiplication (2 nd ratoon)
Open field	Cuttings	1,200,000	-	-	One hectare of basic seed planted at Mekele Agr. Res. Center

2. Implementation of business plan

	Political	Technical	Administrative
Actions implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ TARI officially approved the Business plan and given a directive to Mekele RC for implementation. Prebasic seed was sold as per the price set in the business plan➤ Center committed one hectare of land for SP basic seed production	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Greenhouse plants maintained for further ratoon harvest➤ Net tunnel plants maintained for their ratoon to serve as sources of planting for basic seed	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Different institutions purchased cuttings from TARI directly

3. Implementation of revolving fund

3.1 Revenue received from sale of cuttings

No.	Buyer institution/farmer	No. of cuttings sold	Unit price Birr	Total price Birr
1	Helvetas Tigrai	10,000	0.37	3,700
2	Relief Society of Tigrai (REST)	60,000	0.37	22,200
3	BoA (GIZ fund)	250,000	0.37	92,500
	Total	320,000	0.37	118,400

3.2 Disbursements from the revolving fund for pre-basic seed production costs

- No disbursements made yet. Utilization of the fund will improve during the production of basic seed using irrigation

4. Promotion and marketing activities

- No Promotion activities during this period

5. Seed standards and inspection protocol

5.1 Current status of preparation and approval of standards

- Draft copy submitted and waiting for a feedback from the national committees

5.2 Field inspections conducted during period and results

- Three farms producing sweetpotato seed were inspected and all were approved

Major challenges



- Power failure and fluctuation in the lab and greenhouse
 - Loss of lab equipment's such as laminar flow cabinet, weighing balances etc.
 - Loss of light and temperature control system in growth room hence loss of plantlets
 - Temporary termination of TC activities
 - Very high temperature due to failure of a cooling system in the greenhouse
- Measures taken
 - 60 kVA power generator being installed
 - Power system of the whole lab being maintained in consultation with the power authorities
 - Purchase of lost lab equipment's by TARI and partners

Major activities to be undertaken in the remaining half of the year



- **Seed system stakeholders' planning meeting**
 - This meeting is planned for December to review seed demand/requirements for next season on a date that has yet to be fixed dependent on the suitability to all stakeholders
- **Follow up of the installation of deionization plant**
 - Water tankers are on the process of purchase and installation should start in December
- **Basic seed production**
 - Land preparation completed and planting underway to produce one hectare of basic seed at Mekele Research Center using budget from the revolving fund and/or TARI budget

- **Maintenance of lab, greenhouses and net tunnels**
 - Maintenance of electric system
 - Re-designing of lab
 - Maintenance of electric system and irrigation system in the greenhouse
- **Re-establishment of clean sp invitro plantlets**
 - Virus Indexing
 - DNA Finger printing of varieties being promoted

**Thank you for
your
attention!**