

A REVIEW ON THE SEED SECTOR OF ETHIOPIA: PROSPECTS AND CHALLENGES OF FABA BEAN SEED SUPPLY

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ABSTRACT

This paper was aimed to review faba bean seed production, productivity and to identify the systemic bottlenecks that constrained the seed sector. The study is primarily based on secondary data reviewed from different sources. Pulses, which occupy approximately 13 per cent of cultivated land and account for approximately 10 per cent of the agricultural value addition next to cereal crops, are critical to smallholder livelihoods in Ethiopia. Faba bean is the most important pulse crop in both area coverage and volume of annual production in Ethiopia. To boost production and productivity, increased use of inputs crucially improved seeds is imperative. A seed is one in every of the foremost necessary sources of innovation, notably in resource-constrained small farm environments. In Ethiopia, the informal seed system is still the primary source of seed for smallholder farmers. Although the formal seed sector started about six decades ago, the commercial seed sector supplies less than 10% of the country's seed demand per year. Hence the majority of the farmers show a tendency of depending on the informal system. However, in Ethiopia, a successful seed program that supplies sufficient quantity of high-quality seed of adapted varieties on time and with reasonable cost remains to be a significant constraint.