

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The major achievements of the three components are presented as follows:

Component I

Value Chain Development supports systems for increased production and agribusiness activities, as well as develops markets, through networking and strengthening organizations. During the reporting period, AgroBIG participated at stakeholder's forum of ATA's horticulture strategy development and GRAD's 8th Vegetable MSP. In the meetings AgroBIG learned from others and others also shared its experience to others which created synergy for the sector development. Rice linkage forum was also organized at Debre Markos city by link with facilitated trade fairs and exhibition. During the forum the producers understood the interest of buyers and vice versa.

Component II

Service Delivery Development builds the capacity of both the private and public service providers. During the reporting period, on the private side, a field day event has been organized in selected farm plots in Koga irrigation command area, to demonstrate certified onion seed multiplication, improved quality onion bulb and ware potato production.

TOT training programme have been organized and conducted on rice agronomic and post-harvest handling before the onset of rice planting season. The training was delivered by senior researchers assigned by the Fogera national rice research and training centre. The preparation of the rice manual on good agronomic and post-harvest handling practices has been completed in the preceding year, Hence in the reporting period the rice manual has been further polished and 1000 copies published. The rice manual is prepared in local language and distribution carried out to the respective woreda office of Agriculture and Kebele experts and farmers.

Component III

Access to Funds and Inclusive Financial Services develops improved financial services and funding sources that are appropriate for the critical needs of the value chain actors, who often are outside the reach of normal banking channels. AgroBIG has introduced three types of grants which are open to all value chain actors on the selected commodities.

So far 75 value chain fund projects awarded in 2014 have been completed and audited. Two field days events were organized on IDRf projects implemented by Bahir Dar University. During the reporting period facilitation of the procurement of rice processing and thresher machines, which was conducted by the Regional procurement agency on the behalf of MGF applicants, was done.

Gender balanced family financial literacy training is an important instrument for families to make informed decisions of their farming business and to make sound household investments by using the financial opportunities that are available to the families to reach their goals. Gender balanced family financial literacy training was conducted at 6 ACSI branch offices, accordingly 1865 (1326 Females) family members have participated in the training.