

Center

Name (long) International Potato Center
Abbreviation (short) CIP

Address

Street Avenida La Molina
Number 1895
Post Box 1558
Postal Code 1
City La Molina, Lima 12
Land Peru

Authorised Representative

Gender Mrs
Title Dr
Name (Second) Wells
First Name Barbara
Function Director General
To adopt? Yes
Street Av. La Molina
Number 1895
Postal Code 15023
City Lima
Country Peru
Phone 0051 11 349 6017
Email cip-dg@cgiar.org

Reporting Period

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To 31/12/2019

State of Project Implementation

This project was signed between GIZ and CIP in May 2019, followed by human resource mobilization and partner engagement. Subgrant contracts were signed in October 2019 and EIAR and ARARI initiated NARS-based project activities. The project will be implemented in Oromia, Amhara, and Southern Nations Nationalities and Peoples (SNNP) regions. Output 1: The first participatory variety selection with 20 clones was done in October 2019. Thirteen women and 12 men assessed agronomic and culinary attributes and Senselet Co. Ltd assessed processing quality. Data from both of these assessments are being analyzed for feedback to farmers and other users. Six clones are showing high promise for user acceptability. Output 2: gap analysis at all levels of project intervention began and will be completed in Q1 2020. Institutional needs assessment for laboratory and greenhouses for seed multiplication were identified; procurement is in progress. In this period a list of multi-attribute potato clones was submitted to CIP's regional genebank to start bulking of 1st generation (G1) seed for early generation seed (EGS) multipliers in Ethiopia. For sustainability Solargrow Co. Ltd has been identified to receive tissue culture (TC) plantlets for minituber production and G1 tubers for open-field bulking. At ARARI 20,000 G1 tubers of two main varieties were produced for bulking. Output 3: EIAR and ARARI identified project intervention zones and districts: 5 in Amhara, 4 in Oromia, and 2 in SNNP regions. In Amhara 15 intervention kebeles (wards) were selected. Thirteen farmer seed group cooperatives (FSGC) have been appraised for training in seed production. Two new diffused light stores (DLS) for FSGC with a capacity of 30 tons (t) are being built and 12 old ones are being repaired. Twelve men and 8 women from 2 FSGCs were trained in DLS construction. In Oromia and SNNP regions, district-level appraisal is in progress and will be completed in Q1 2020. The project implementing partners (IPs) are building the framework for initiating key activities first by identifying master trainers from key stakeholders to undergo training of trainers (ToT). Here, Senselet Co. Ltd, Netherlands Development Organization (SNV), and VITA (Fighting Hunger & Climate Change in Africa) are key, non-project-funded, potato value chain actors will participate in ToT and farmer training. Similarly, Integrated Seed Sector Development (ISSD) program will participate in seed potato value chain development, and Solargrow Co. Ltd pledged to engage in commercial seed production and distribution. Output 4: Most activities were postponed until Q1 2020 when beneficiary kebeles and corresponding trainees have been fully identified. Training manuals for farmers, seed producers, and seed inspectors are being prepared. Output 5: The project logical framework was refined and gender-related indicators included for monitoring, evaluation, and learning; key project stakeholders participated. IPs developed a monitoring tool for project targets to track project deliverables. A draft of a gendered project baseline survey tool has been developed and is at advanced stage of completion for pretesting. Output 6: The Irish Potato Coalition of Ethiopia (IPCE) has mobilized and enlisted 17

actors that would drive the potato value chain now and in future. The partners with CIP are developing means of communicating project results and sustainability of project outputs. Crosscutting objectives: The project launch conference was held in December 2019, involving 71 key stakeholders from the public, private, and NGO potato actors. The activity was also used to refine partner work plans and align project logframe and expected deliverables to gender-related indicators. At the same time, IPs were trained in technical and financial reporting.

General Achievements and Problems encountered

The key achievements in the first 6 months of the project included signing two subgrant agreements with EAIR and ARARI and holding a project launch conference where 71 key stakeholders and actors in the potato value chain in Ethiopia participated. The project has mobilized three private sector actors, one of whom has a TC laboratory, 10,000-plantlet aeroponic greenhouse, and 10 more ordinary screenhouses. This facility has capacity for 600,000 minitubers per year. Solargrow Co. Ltd, an EGS producer, has capacity for producing 500 t of quality seed per year. Senselet Co. Ltd, a potato chips processor, uses about 5,700 t of fresh potato per year at 60% operational capacity. The company is training farmers in improved agronomic practices and have agreed to partner with CIP in ToT and farmer training as well. In the 6 months of project initiation, key project stakeholders have shown enthusiasm and good acceptance of the project at all levels. In Amhara region, two seed potato stores are being constructed as part of the government's contribution to the project. In variety development, results from agronomic and user assessment will be used to identify clones to advance to candidate variety trials as a last step toward release of new processing and climate-resilient varieties—attributes that are lacking in most of the available varieties in Ethiopia. Some planned activities in each of the six outputs were temporarily suspended due to sporadic civil unrest in Oromia and SNNP regions. However, with time, these will be resolved without affecting expected project progress and generation of results. Often, these cases are experienced more in towns than rural areas, so farmers and rural-based implementing teams would be able to deliver results despite the sporadic unrest.

Progress Towards Outcomes (and Goal)

Since the project began in May 2019 and subgrantee agreements by EIAR and ARARI were signed in October, Holetta (for EIAR) and Adet (ARARI) agricultural research centers (ARCs) produced 20,000 minitubers for bulking and future distribution to seed multipliers. This is the beginning of building the seed production chain that will be linked downstream to lower level seed producers, especially decentralized, individual seed multipliers (DSMs). Additionally, two private sector EGS potato producers in Oromia and Tigray regions have been identified as off-takers of the project outputs. Importantly, both are partner members of the IPCE, a core IP of this project responsible for coordinating all potato value chain actors in Ethiopia. The two companies will be linked to TC laboratories at ARARI and EIAR for procurement of pathogen-tested plantlets while they produce seed for downward distribution to DSMs and ware potato farmers. This approach will build a business-oriented, demand-driven, well-linked, and sustainable seed delivery system to most farmers who currently have poor access to quality seed potato. Using the IPCE communication network, areas of seed demand and supply will be relayed to respective actors, thus linking seed potato producers and ware potato farmers. The strategy for reaching out to farmer seed group producers and cooperatives at grass-roots level has been designed. A rapid rural appraisal process has been initiated and will be completed in January 2020. This has set a foundation for ToT and farmers. Also, two non-governmental actors, SNV and VITA, are committed to the project by participating in ToT and delivering potato technologies beyond project intervention districts. This would improve synergy and complementary to the project, leading adoption of project outputs among actors other than just the IPs. This collaboration will build a strong base of knowledgeable cadres as trainers and reach more farmers where the project did not have operational mandates. This will result in mass dissemination of information and technology for improving potato production in Ethiopia, generating higher level project outcomes.

BMZ Outcome Target and IDO Contribution

Between the two project subgrantees, ARARI has selected 64 out of 141 kebeles from five districts in Amhara region. In those kebeles, there are 58,694 male-headed households and 11,361 female-headed ones. This is a long list that far exceeds the project target of 30,000 households. The number of selected kebeles will be reviewed and aligned to the project target relative to the population coverage and available resources. Additionally, each of the beneficiary farmers in the FSGC will exchange seed with another farmer of choice. There are also collaborating, non-project-funded partners whose trainers would benefit from ToT and who will train more farmers so that more men and women will be reached beyond the project intervention targets. For the project in Amhara region, 15 of 64 key kebeles have been finally selected for intensive training. Since these kebeles will be hosting FSGCs, they will be focal points for dissemination of potato improved technologies including seed. In Oromia and SNNP regions, intervention kebeles will be selected in January 2020. At the same time, the project team has begun identifying personnel at district level to be trained as trainers of kebele-based development agents (DAs). The DAs will in turn train members of the FSGCs and farmers. These activities will be coordinated by CIP through the EIAR and ARARI subgrantees. This will build a strong and knowledge team of trainers based closer to the farmers. Therefore, even after the project ends, they will be able to give potato advice to the farmers, including those who may not benefit from the project. In case of routine transfer, they will also take the knowledge to new kebeles of posting without needing to be trained again in potato production. During this reporting period, 10 researchers from ARARI (Adet ARC) and 12 from EIAR (Holetta ARC) were trained in gender-sensitive project implementation and reporting. This will form a foundation for gender-sensitive approaches in ToT and cascade down to farmers at kebele levels. The knowledge acquired is expected to be used in this and other projects where these research scientists may be involved.

Review of Impact Pathway

To build resilience and output sustainability, the project IPs have identified two private sector EGS multipliers linked to the EIAR and ARARI TC and minituber production facilities. The private sector companies will be used to deliver quality seed to more farmers in a demand-led, business-oriented, and more sustainable way. The FSGCs have been identified at community level as primary quality seed dissemination focal points in the project intervention districts. This will improve more farmers' access to quality seed than before. Two FSGCs in two kebeles have net houses with a capacity of 6,000 plantlets; more opportunities will be explored among other potato value chain actors to support more FSGCs and DSM to own net houses for minituber production. The FSGC members with net houses will be trained and assisted in production and management of EGS in greenhouse conditions. Production of potato TC plantlets and minitubers at Holetta and Adet ARCs has been initiated to feed into quality seed bulking and delivery systems along the potato value chain. Additionally, a TC laboratory owned by a private sector actor has been identified at Modjo in Oromia region and another in Tigray region. This will be linked to a similar laboratory at Holetta ARC for synergy and complementarity. Another TC laboratory has been contacted in Tigray region (albeit outside the project intervention regions). This laboratory will, however, be linked to quality, EGS multipliers via the IPCE to further network and strengthen the potato value chain in the country. Three seed potato production models —private sector companies, FSGCs, and DSMs—will be piloted for linkage and seed potato business development. The private sector TC laboratories currently procure some clean starting stock from the research institute laboratories. This will be expanded and strengthened in the project to ensure cost recovery with a sustainable margin for public-run TC facilities, as they will be crucial for developing the potato value chain in the foreseeable future. Emphasis will be on strengthening private sector EGS multipliers who will be linked to DSMs and FSGCs for enhancing smallholder access to quality seed potato and for sustainability of developing seed businesses. The public sector actors will eventually play a backstopping role.

Conclusions for the following Reporting Period

The first 6 months of the project were used to establish its implementation infrastructure (i.e., negotiating and signing subgrant agreements with partners, recruiting staff, and identifying key stakeholders and actors that were not apparent during project development). During this period, 11 project intervention districts were identified from the three regions in partnership with regional and zonal bureaus of agriculture. Downstream, in Amhara region, 15 project target kebeles and 13 FSGCs were identified to prepare for farmer training and seed potato production. A similar activity was initiated in Oromia and SNNP regions and will be completed in January 2020. Holetta ARC (EIAR) and Adet ARC (ARARI) started production of potato TC plantlets and minitubers in preparation for open-field seed bulking in 2020. Solargrow, a private company producing EGS, was identified and committed to participate in the project to produce and distribute quality seed to smallholder farmers. This company will be an important and sustainable quality seed delivery vehicle during and after the project. Participatory variety selection for both agronomic and user-preferred attributes was conducted during this period and will continue in 2020. Similarly, the project logframe was refined and gender-related indicators included to ensure gender equity and inclusiveness. The project is still highly relevant and promising, based on its acceptance by the project stakeholders. This is further reflected in the strong, dynamic team of partners that has been established between project IPs in EIAR and ARARI. The project also received strong support from the Ministry of Agriculture (horticulture and seed regulation departments); NGOs such as SNV and VITA that also have potato promotion-related activities; and private sector companies such as Solargrow and Senselet, who are engaged in potato-related business. The project was also welcomed by the regional, zonal, and district bureaus of agriculture, who expressed hope that the project alleviates the perennial seed shortage at farmer level. They committed their relevant staff to support farmer-based activities at no cost to the project. This kind of cooperation and broad stakeholder acceptance and promised participation will undoubtedly ensure project success.

Publications, Papers and Reports

This is the first half-yearly report of the project. Reportable results for this section include the project launch conference report (Annex 1), the refined and gendered logframe reports (Annex 2), and the project targets monitoring tool (Annex 3).

Upload documents

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| Upload 1 | 1397-GIZ0 - 1st Annual Report - Annex 1_Project Logframe - Stakeholder refined Dec-2019 (FINAL).docx.pdf |
| Upload 2 | 1397-GIZ0 - 1st Annual Report - Annex 2 _Project Launch Report (FINAL).pdf |
| Upload 3 | 1397-GIZ0 - 1st Annual Report - Annex 3_Project Target Monitoring Table 2019-2022.xlsx |

Summary

The agreement to this project was signed in May 2019, kick-starting the process of project implementation. During this reporting period, CIP recruited the project manager and other relevant project staff and concluded subgrant agreements with EIAR and ARARI. Equipment that is essential for implementing the project included computers, cameras, and GPS machines were procured. Within this period, a virtual project launch conference was held at CIP global via Microsoft teams. Sixteen people from CIP offices in Ethiopia, Nairobi, and Lima discussed and adopted the project implementation strategy. In Ethiopia a physical conference was held in December and involved 71 participants from 85 people who had been invited. Participants represented the Ministry of Agriculture, regional bureaus of agriculture (horticulture and seed regulation departments), EIAR and ARARI technical and financial management personnel, and research scientists from Holetta and Adet ARCs. The conference was also attended by representatives from SNV, VITA, IPCE, ISSD, and two private sector companies (Senselet and Solargrow). The conference's main achievement was obtaining buy-in and overwhelming acceptability of the project across all stakeholder representatives from the public, private, and NGOs sectors that pledged full support for its success. During the project conference, stakeholders contributed to the refinement and gendering of the project logical framework. They recognized that socioeconomic development will not be achieved when about half of the working population—women, that is—are not engaged in such development activities. They encouraged the project IPs and actors in similar interventions to start building strategy for breaking the gender imbalance and ensuring women's full participation in development activities at all levels as much as possible. Other results related to this activity were training the research scientists who will be involved in this project in technical and financial reporting, including respect for human rights, particularly protection of the vulnerable groups and other compliance issues. Among technical deliverables, participatory variety selection was initiated with 20 clones which were assessed for agronomic, culinary, and processing attributes with farmers and one potato crisps processor. Six of the clones evaluated showed promise to be released as future varieties. In the three project intervention regions, two, four, and five districts (woredas) from SNNP, Oromia, and Amhara regions, respectively, were selected for project intervention. The project-implementing kebeles in Amhara region were identified and 15 were selected from the five target districts. Trainees for training as trainers and beneficiary farmer groups are being identified. Kebeles in Oromia SNNP regions were identified and will be completed in January 2020. Production of potato TC plantlets and minitubers at Holetta ARC (EIAR) and Adet ARC (ARARI) was initiated in October 2019 and is in progress. In this reporting period, 20,000 minitubers were produced and are being kept for sprouting in preparation for further bulking in greenhouse conditions during the dry season (February–May 2020). The tools used for the baseline survey were developed and

are being reviewed for pretesting; data were collected during Q1 2020. Similarly, a target monitoring tool based on the project logframe has been developed and shared with the project IPs to keep track of milestones and outputs. A tool for gaps analysis has also been developed. It will be used to identify the weakness in the seed value chain and design strategies to close the identified gaps.