



March 23, 2023

To: Karta K. Kalsa (Ph.D.)
Director, Technology Multiplication and Seed Research (TMSR),
Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research (EIAR),
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Subject: Request for wheat seeds for trial packs experiment

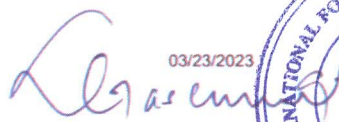
The International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), in collaboration with partners (the University of Arizona, WFP's R4 Rural Resilience Initiative, Ethiopian Institute for Agriculture Research (EIAR), and Bahir Dar University) is implementing innovative insurance products in Amhara region to cover smallholder farmers from extreme weather shocks and thereby encourage them to invest in profitable agricultural activities. A complementary intervention planned for the upcoming *meher* season is the provision of recently released improved teff and wheat seeds (widely grown crops in the project areas). Farmers in the target region are currently using old varieties of teff and wheat seeds and are therefore not benefiting from the large investments made in crop improvement over the last decade.

The project plans to promote recently released seeds through the provision of trial packs to cover initial investment and kickstart adoption. Both private and public actors often use this strategy as farmers may be reluctant to try out new seeds. The case for trial packs also stems from potential externalities, as peer learning is one of the most effective ways to increase technology adoption and as it is a way to help improve the overall seed stock in farmers' informal seed systems.

The project identified recently released teff and wheat varieties suitable for the project areas in consultation with the EIAR researchers (Dr. Kebebew and Dr. Negash). However, we recently learned that the recommended wheat seeds (Boru/Deka for the high potential area and Abay/Dursa for moisture stress areas) are available only at EIAR and this is a kind request for 40 quintals of wheat seed that will be used for this research purpose (i.e., we intend to provide 3 kgs of trial packs for about 1280 smallholder wheat farmers).

Thank you for your consideration.

With my best regards,



03/23/2023

Gashaw T. Abate (Ph.D.)
Research Fellow
International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)



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P.O. Box 5689 | Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Tel: +251-11-6172500 | Fax: +251-11-6462927 | Email: ifpri-addisababa@cgiar.org | www.ifpri.org