Breeding Pipeline: Tef Project 1995-2013

Availability of high quality seed
Over 13,000 farmers in Tef growing regions have received Quncho seed as part of several scaling strategies sponsored by governmental organizations. Most of the seed was purchased from farmers.

Variety testing and release systems that test varieties under targeted conditions
The project:
- Developed an exceptionally popular cultivar (Quncho) for high rainfall environments.
- Improved early maturing varieties (e.g. Boset) for lower rainfall areas. First early varietal release since 1984.
- Demonstrated the Simada tef variety performs well in regions where the short rains are scarce. Simada also appeared useful in double cropping trials with chickpea on waterlogged vertisols. However farmers did not appreciate the very open and loose panicle of Simada, they rather preferred the variety DZ-Cr-37 an early maturing variety.

Understanding context: bottlenecks in seed system
2008-2009: In a survey of 200 sample farmers selected from two major Tef growing districts in Luma-Ejere and Minajar-Shenkora,
- 72% report that current seed supply of improved Tef varieties is inadequate
- 59% report bias in seed distribution in favor of better off farmers
- 37% say seed is too expensive

Equity
Connect to other development institutions & initiatives
Options x contexts
Value heterogeneity, integrate farmer knowledge into the research
Long-term perspective

Farmer managed seed production and dissemination
87 t of seeds (i.e. 47 t of Quncho and 40 T of other improved varieties) were multiplied by project partner centers and distributed to users primarily for seed multiplication, on-farm demonstration and scaling-up, and research purposes

What’s not in this case?: From the breeding Pipeline ToC:
- Capacity strengthening in PPB approaches
- Multi-environment trial methodologies and protocols

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Farmer choice

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