

Joint Press Release

4,400 Farmers in East Amhara and Tigray to receive high-quality seeds to produce 15 million kg of onions as part of SNV's Farmer Field Schools in Conflict Recovery Program

- BASF's vegetable seeds business to provide high quality red onion seeds to SNV-Netherlands Development Organisation in Ethiopia.
- SNV to distribute the seeds to 4,400 smallholders in conflict affected areas in Tigray and East Amhara through its Horti-LIFE program that works with Ministry of Agriculture on establishing Farmer Field Schools (FFS).

Addis Ababa, 14 June 2023 – Today BASF has handed over to SNV high quality onion seeds to support smallholder farmers in conflict and drought affected areas. The seeds will be distributed to 4,400 smallholder farmers in Ethiopian regions Tigray and East Amhara who participate in its Farmer Field Schools (FFS) program. Each participating family will receive seeds for 0.1 hectare of onions allowing them to restart production in the conflict and drought affected areas. The produce will be for home consumption, as well as allow farming families to restart their livelihoods. The collaboration between SNV and BASF will enable the farmers to produce in total 15 million kilograms of onions thereby increasing the supply to local rural markets.

To make this happen, BASF is offering Nunhems® Santire F1 onion seeds to SNV Ethiopia who will distribute the seeds free of charge to farmers in Tigray and East Amhara. On top of offering the seeds, BASF, as part of its social engagement, has doubled its efforts by donating the same amount of seeds for free to the SNV Farmer Field School program.

“We’re not only active in the vegetable seeds business in Ethiopia, but also strongly committed to the communities and society with different social engagement activities” said Ben Depraetere, Managing Director of BASF’s vegetable seeds business in Ethiopia. “We are proud to work together with SNV and join forces to support thousands of smallholder farming families in the North of Ethiopia allowing them to restart their livelihoods” said Ben Depraetere.

“SNV likes to acknowledge the very generous contribution of BASF. We know their seeds to be of high quality due to our cooperation on Zonal Variety Demonstrations that we organize every year with all horticultural seed importers. The seeds fit very well in our Horti-LIFE program that has been promoting horticultural hybrid seeds via Farmers Field Schools (FFS)” explained Julie Graham, SNV Ethiopia Country Director.

Since 2016 SNV works with the Ethiopian Ministry of Agriculture to establish Farmer Field Schools (FFS). Their members learn about Good Agricultural Practices by observing and discussing the impact of an innovation package (of seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, and other technologies) that is piloted on small Learning Plots inside the regular fields of elected Lead Farmers. This enables them to improve their productivity. A survey in 2021 showed that FFS members get 34% higher yields, and 43% higher

incomes. In concrete numbers: Farmer Field Schools (FFS) members earn US\$ 545 more from 0.6 ha. At present SNV-Horti-LIFE operates in 81 woredas (districts) reaching 40,000 farmers per year via 1,300 FFS.

About SNV

SNV Netherlands Development Organization (SNV) works on a wide range of issues in Ethiopia. SNV started emergency work in 1974 and has continued to support development projects that have a lasting impact on the people of Ethiopia. Currently, SNV's work extends to more than 600 districts, where it implements projects that build and sustain the agri-food system. SNV contributes to improving affordable access to basic services by ensuring safe and sustainable access to clean energy and water, thus enabling equitable lives for all. SNV partners with the government, private sector and civil society and engages with communities in a manner that is sensitive to their needs and enables strong involvement and ownership. The SNV approach include being sensitive to food and nutrition security challenges, supporting sustainable markets, and building climate change resilience for smallholder farmers. In the Agri Foods sector, SNV has a large dairy development programme, as well as the Horti-LIFE project working with the private sector and government programs (like the Productive Safety Net, PSNP) to improve the productivity of smallholders. SNV believes that this gesture of BASF vegetable seeds business is an excellent example of a tri-partite cooperation between private companies, government organizations and NGOs with a very direct impact at scale for poor farming families. www.snv.org

About BASF's Agricultural Solutions division

Farming is fundamental to provide enough healthy and affordable food for a rapidly growing population while reducing environmental impacts. Working with partners and agricultural experts and by integrating sustainability criteria into all business decisions, we help farmers to create a positive impact on sustainable agriculture. That's why we invest in a strong R&D pipeline, connecting innovative thinking with practical action in the field. Our portfolio comprises seeds and specifically selected plant traits, chemical and biological crop protection, solutions for soil management, plant health, pest control and digital farming. With expert teams in the lab, field, office and in production, we strive to find the right balance for success – for farmers, agriculture and future generations. In 2022, our division generated sales of €10.3 billion. For more information, please visit www.agriculture.basf.com and www.nunhems.com or any of our social media channels.

Media contact:

Media Relations BASF

Úlia de Domènech
Phone: +31614608815
Email: ulia.dedomenech@vegetableseeds.basf.com
www.nunhems.com

Media relations SNV

Meseret Kebede
Phone: +251(9)11103383
Email: meseretkebede@snv.org
<https://www.snv.org/>