**AGRICULTURAL SECTOR – Eragrostis tef (Ethiopia)**

Eragrostis tef (Teff) has been a staple food for 2000 years and still is today for 50% of the Ethiopian population. It has great market potential in health food and organic food sectors, being gluten-free, rich in vitamins, iron, lysine and calcium – ideal diet for people suffering from coeliac disease or anaemia and for athletes.

Can be cultivated in dry landscapes and under unstable weather conditions, grows on water-logged soils, is used in South Africa for erosion control.

**Analysis – User and Provider Activities**

**INCORRECT IMPLEMENTATION AND COMMUNICATION BETWEEN PROVIDERS AND USERS**

The relatively high number of actors involved in the teff case likely contributed to the rather complicated and opaque R&D process. Additional obstacles include:

- Unequal division of labour between Ethiopian authorities EARO and IBC
- Patents filed through the SCEAR fund, solely under Dutch administration
- Research collaboration: Teff fund to propagate scholarships and other social projects
- Transfer of genetic material to the Netherlands for research purposes

**OPPORTUNITIES PROVIDED BY THE NAGOYA PROTOCOL**

**Procedure**

- Compotent national authorities with clear competences, as defined by the Nagoya Protocol, would have provided for more transparency and legal certainty
- Information exchange with competent national authorities and ABS Clearing-House would have improved the communication between all involved parties
- The ABS Clearing-House (checkpoints) and national ABS focal points could have contributed reliable and accessible information and means for monitoring (patent application, transfer of genetic material to third parties, user of traditional knowledge, status of research)

**INSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS**

Key institutions and provisions (ABS Clearing-House, checkpoints, provisions of conflict resolution) to ensure compliance are still absent on the national and international level. The entry into force of the Nagoya Protocol in October 2014 represents a crucial step towards establishing such compliance mechanisms.