

**Building Capacity in Plant Breeding and Biotechnology Education and Research
through partnership program in Africa, Middle East and Europe for Agricultural
Transformation-BREEDTECH PROJECT**

**WP3: *Curriculum Development Plant Breeding Transformation through Student-
Private sector and HEIs engagement***

Progress on BREEDTECH Incubators implementation

Management Meeting 20th May 2025

Implementation strategy

- Three incubators will be established:
 - **1 in Palestine to be led by Al Quds Open University (QOU)**
 - **2 In Africa to be led by Egerton-Laikipia and Haramaya University (HU)- Haramaya-OdaBultum**
 - **Total number may reach 5?**

Objectives

- 1) To ensure that our project has a broad impact across the 3 target regions of project implementation
- 2) The incubator will be designed to support startups and entrepreneurs in the plant breeding and biotechnology sector, specifically through Private sector seed companies who will work with postgraduate students and Faculty.

Activities

- The private sector and students/Faculty will be supported to;
 - Train and host the students in their seed production activities and field seed production
 - Attend Research conferences within industry and University conferences and innovation platforms
 - Exhibit their products (Breeders seeds, Foundation seeds and certified seeds) during several for a
 - Participate in research, demos and Field days in on-station and on-farm activities with project team members in 3 countries
 - Incubator facilitate collaboration and knowledge exchange between Universities and Private sector to promote economic growth in the field of plant breeding and biotechnology.
 - EU, QOU and ANNU to cooperate with higher Council for Innovation and Excellence in Kenya, Ethiopia and Palestine

Implementation

- **Egerton-Laikipia Universities BREEDTECH Incubator**
- In Kenya the incubator will be implemented through [Agroscience Park based](#) at Division of Research at Egerton University
- Engaged Multi stakeholders: Seed companies, farmer groups, students, researchers
- Developed working plan
- Agreed on collaboration areas and activities
- 2 stakeholder engagement meetings done
- 1 farmer field day, 2 exhibitions and 1 side event in the Egerton conference

Partners

- *Koibatek Agricultural training Centre,*
- *CIMMYT and ICRISAT*
- *County Government of Baringo and Elgeyo Marakwet*
- *Bequeen millers' company Limited,*
- *Egerton Agroscience park*
- *Egerton seed company*
- *Kilimo Trust*
- *Faida seed company.*
- -65 farmers are working with us
- **Products demonstrated-Bean varieties, Groundnuts, Millets, Sorghum products, Maize seeds, Machinery-shellers,**

EGE-LU BREEDTECH incubator stakeholders participate in a farmer field day at the Baringo ATC





EGE-LU BREEDTECH incubator stakeholders participate in the Laikipia University International conference



Certified Seed under Certification at Farmers Training Centre

GE-LU BREEDTECH incubator stakeholders participate in a farmer field day at the Baringo ATC



Certified seeds for Beans by seed companies

EGE-LU BREEDTECH incubator stakeholders exhibit their products during Laikipia University International conference



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Haramaya-Oda Bultum Universities BREEDTECH Incubator

- Several meetings held with farmers and potential stakeholders'.
- **Field day organized** by HU and OBU at several sites to discuss with farmers.
- **A workshop organized** jointly by HU and OBU at Haramaya University Resource Centre to discuss the plan of establishing an Agriculture Incubation Center.
- Stakeholders' jointly agreed to establish such center at HU Campus.
- HU officials allocated land to establish the Agriculture Incubation Center.

Participants were from:

- ✓ **Haramaya and Oda Bultum University**
- ✓ **Fedis Agricultural Research Center,**
- ✓ **Maya City Bureau of Agriculture,**
- ✓ **East Hararghe Agriculture Office,**
- ✓ **East Hararghe Zone promotion and co-operative office, and**
- ✓ **Afran Kallo Union on crop production technologies**

HU-OBU BREEDTECH incubator stakeholders participate in farmer's field day



A: Babile field site; B: Raaree field site; C: Kersa field site; D: Hirna field site

HU-OBU BREEDTECH incubator stakeholders participate in a farmer field day at OBU research site



Partners and Stakeholders meeting held at OBU

Sorghum adaptation trial conducted at the OBU campus, research site

HU-OBU BREEDTECH incubator stakeholders participate in a Stakeholders Meeting held at HU



Key Achievement:

Land site within HU Campus has been identified and allocated for the establishment of an Agriculture Incubation Center

Partners and Stakeholders meeting held at the Haramaya University Resource Centre.

Participants were:

1. HU BREEDTECH Members
2. OBU BREEDTECH Members
3. Haramaya University Seed Directorate,
4. Fedis Agricultural Research Center,
5. Maya City Bureau of Agriculture,
6. East Hararghe Agriculture Office,
7. East Hararghe Zone promotion and co-operative office, and
8. Afran Kallo Union on crop production technologies.



QOU Incubator Activities-Palestine

Date:16th May 2026 **Place:** Agricultural Research Station- Jericho **partner:** PALVision (NGO)

Activity: Host fresh graduate Agricultural and IT students from different HEIs in Palestine (17 trainees)

Goal of Event: introduce plant breeding and biotechnology concepts, tools, and challenges to students to adopt it in thier future entrepreneurial projects.



QOU Incubator Activities-Palestine

Stakeholders Meeting in Qalqelya Governorate

Location: Qalqilya Governorate Chamber of Commerce, Agriculture & Industry.

Date: 20th May 2026

Participants were:

- Breedtech project staff
- QOU-Qalqelya Branch Director
- Director of Agricultural Directorate of Qalqelya
- Higher Council for innovation and Excellence
- Hasad Agricultural Company
- Muhanad Nursery
- Badawi Nursery
- AlKharouf Nursery
- Hablah Nursery
- Kanari Company



Goal of Meeting

Encourage private sector to engage effectively and adopt new biotechnology techniques

Agenda:

- Introduce **Breedtech** project activities
- Introduce QOU experience in plant tissue culture technology.
- Encourage nurseries owners to adopt new biotechnology techniques (Micropropagation).
- Discuss the possibility to implement joint activities (QOU and private sector) in **BREEDTECH** incubator.

Outputs

- Agree to conduct further meetings to clarify the possible cooperation in future.
- Conduct field visits to the nurseries in Qalqelya Governorate.
- Host some joint activities related to germplasm and varieties evaluation.



Summary of Achievements

- **No information received from Palestine- Al Quds Open University (QOU)-Munqez to update**
- Generally the Breedtech Incubators Achievement is good