

## Setit Humera LTD Farmers' Cooperative Union Profile

Setit Humera LTD Farmers' Cooperative union is a farmer's cooperative union which is situated in Humera town, west Tigray zone. It was founded on 22 December 2002 (1996 EC) by four primary cooperatives. It has now 19 primary cooperative members. About 45 percent of households (12008 persons) in the 18 kebeles of Kafta Humera are members of the Setit union through their respective primary cooperatives. Setit Humera LTD Farmers' Cooperative Union currently has seven full time employees and 25-50 temporary workers (especially during sesame seed loading/unloading, cleaning and fertilizer distribution. The union is planning to employ 12 workers in the near future.

The union has a very good experience of exporting sesame. It exports whitish Humera type sesame. This type is highly appreciated by international buyers, and is especially found suitable for the bakery and confectionary industry. The union can deliver quality sesame with the following characteristics: oil content ranging from 48% – 52%, a moisture content of max. 7%, and free fatty acid of max. 2%; all delivered in 50 kg Polypropylene Bags.

The union owns a high-quality Europe-standard sesame cleaning machine with a cleaning capacity of 99.95% purity level. It also has a newly constructed warehouse that can hold 5,000 tons of sesame. It is the first sesame exporting union of Ethiopia. It exported 8,740 quintal sesame in 2013. Four of the Union's primary cooperatives are supplying sesame directly to two hulling companies in Addis Ababa.

**Vision:** To improve farmers' lives in Kafta Humera woreda by organising them voluntarily to work together and make the union one of the best unions in Tigray region in particular and in Ethiopia in general.

**Mission:** To improve the lives of its members, Setit union endeavours to solve the social and economic problems of primary cooperative members and their respective farmer members; build capacities by giving training for management members and controlling committee; provide market information for its members; facilitate credit service and enhance their potential.

### **The objectives of the Setit union are to:**

- distribute agricultural inputs such as fertilisers, pesticides, herbicides, agricultural implements, finance and related issues
- create market access to members for sesame and sorghum both in the domestic and international market
- provide agronomy, storage, market information, advocacy and representation services to its members
- provide training and capacity building programmes which helps to increase agricultural productivity, post-harvest management, warehouse administration, business planning, financial management, marketing, purchasing etc.

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