



Scaling up Improved Sheep Fattening Practices and Technologies in Ethiopia

Implementation of Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation (TAAT)
Livestock Compact

TAAT Progress Report
October 2018



General Progress

Purchase and distribution of inputs to serve as a starter package dominated activities in the month of October. During the mobilization and sensitization phase, local stakeholders were very vocal about provision of start-up packages to the youth group members. The planning meeting of the project, therefore reached the decision to provide the following to each youth group member and champion farmer:

- One ram of up to 12 months of age
- One feeding trough
- One watering trough
- 1 saltlicks block
- All rams were ear-tagged, castrated, vaccinated and dewormed.

Inputs purchase, distribution and service Rendering

Prior to ram purchase, discussions were held with CBBP officials (Fig. 1) on the overall ram purchase and distribution process. A total of 537 rams between 6-12 months of age were purchased directly from 14 CBBP cooperatives. All rams procured were those culled during CBBP ram selection for breeding. The price range was 1800-2200 in Bonga and 900-1300 in Menz and was estimated based on weight (Fig. 2). In Doyogena, the price of rams was fixed at 70 Ethiopian Birr/kg BW (bodyweight).



Fig. 1: Discussion with CBBP officials before ram purchasing at *Dargegne* (top) and *Negasi-amba* (bottom) *kebeles*, Menz

To avoid complains and personal judgements, rams were distributed to every youth and champion farmer using a lottery system (Fig. 3). Immediately after distribution (Fig. 4), rams were ear-tagged (Fig. 5) with an Identity number (ID). All IDs were marked on folded papers which the youth group members and champion farmers picked to claim their rams.



Fig. 2: Weight measurement for ram purchasing in Doyogena



Fig. 3: A farmer picks a folded paper marked with an Identity number of the ram he/she will receive.



Fig. 4: Female youth group members from Doyogena

Inputs such as feed and water troughs, ear tags and tag applicators, castration burdizzoo, saltlick blocks were purchased and distributed to beneficiaries (Table 1). Beneficiaries received one feeding

trough (Fig. 6), one water trough and 1 salt lick block. Between October 15-20 October, a total of 1074 rams from all target sites were dewormed, vaccinated and castrated (Fig. 7). This included both



Fig. 4: A tagged Doyogena ram

project and non-project rams. Dewormers and vaccines were bought according to recommendations from veterinarians in respective sites. Subsequently, deworming and vaccinations were administered by NARS Researchers in collaboration with *kebele* and *Woreda* veterinarians.

Table 1: Inputs purchased for youth groups and champion farmers

Item	Total Quantity purchased
Ear-tags	1540
Salt lick blocks	770
Water troughs	710
Feed troughs	710
Vaccines -Pen-strep	20 vials
Vaccines- Oxytetracycline 10%	85 vials
Multi-vitamin Injections 100ml	85 vials
Dewormers -Fasinex 250mg	37 Packs
Dewormers -Albendazole 300mg	32 packs
Dewormers- Ivermectin 50ml	69 vials
Tag applicator	18
Burdizzo	18
Syringes	1540

The drugs purchased were:

Albendazole: a broad-spectrum dewormer, for removal and control of tapeworms, stomach worms (including 4th stage inhibited larvae of *Ostertagia ostertagi*), intestinal worms, and lungworms in sheep.

Ivermectin: treatment of infestations due to gastrointestinal roundworms, lungworms, grubs and external parasites like sucking lice and mange mites.

Fasinex (Triclabendazole): a narrow-spectrum *benzimidazole* with highly flukicidal efficacy. It is highly effective against **adults of the common liver fluke** (*Fasciola hepatica*) as well as **all immature stages**, i.e. early immature larvae (1 to 6 weeks old) and immature larvae (6 to 9 weeks old). Efficacy against these early immature larvae is important, because they cause significant damage to the liver tissue when migrating towards the bile duct.



Fig, 6: Project youth beneficiary feeding rams using distributed feeding troughs in his homestead in Menz

Oxy 10% Solution: - Oxytetracycline is a broad-spectrum antibiotic with a bacteriostatic mode of action against gram-positive and some gram-negative bacteria. The spectrum includes Leptospirae, Actinomyces, Rickettsiae, Bedsoniae, Spirochetes, some Mycoplasmas and some protozoa.

Pen-Strep: This is a mixture of penicillin and dihydrostreptomycin widely used to prevent bacterial contamination. It is effective against erysipelas, navel/joint ill, respiratory tract infections including pneumonia and atrophic rhinitis, listeriosis, meningitis, septicaemia and enteritis associated with *Salmonella spp.*

Multi-Vitamin Injection: - MVI contains a wide array of trace elements and vitamins. It is made up of Vitamin A, Vitamin D3, Vitamin E, Vitamin B1, Vitamin B2, Vitamin B6, Nicotinamide, Pantothenol and Vitamin B12.



Fig 7: Castration and vaccination of rams in Menz

Key Deliverable Deviation

There was a reduction in the number of youth group members and champion farmers. Initially the project projected a total of 600 youth groups and 60 champion farmers, while estimating costs of rams to be approximately 1200 Birr. However, ram costs ranged between Birr 900 in Menz to 2300 Birr in Doyogena. Therefore, youth group members and champion farmers were scaled down to 475 and 44 respectively at a ratio of one champion farmer to each youth group.

Plans for Next Reporting Period

Trainings will begin during the month of November. Group trainings will be carried out at kebele level. Youth groups, champion farmers and CBBP officials will participate in components of improved sheep fattening technologies and practices. NARS researchers will give group trainings and on-farm follow-ups will be carried out by project enumerators. Entrepreneurial trainings and collection action will be undertaken in December. Project banners, logos and T-shirts will be designed in November.

Lessons learnt

Several farmers were disappointed because they did not receive commercial concentrates. When asked why they preferred concentrates, they said that is one item they cannot afford. That went to show how the farmers still have short term visions, they are still in a stage of satisfying immediate needs without looking into the future. That was a reminder that the strategy of the project should continuously emphasize the importance of sustainability, particularly using locally available feed resources optimally.

Consent Statement: *“Personal information including Name, Business Title, Email, Phones, Images and GPS points included in this report have been authorized in writing or verbally by the data subject”*

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