



Scaling up Improved Sheep Fattening Practices and Technologies in Ethiopia

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

TAAT Progress Report
November 2018

General Progress

After one month of orientation and organizing themselves, most youth group members had now gained confidence and had begun asking questions. It was time to begin the capacity building programme. Therefore, activities in November were mainly on capacity building.

Capacity building for the youth group members and champion farmers was planned to be carried out in 2 phases.

- Phase 1: Sheep fattening technologies and practices
- Phase 2: Entrepreneurship/Group/cooperative structure and management.

The month of November concentrated on Phase 1. Trainings were held at the PA administration offices in each PA. The youth members and champion farmers were very enthusiastic and recorded a 100% turn-out in the 3 regions of Bonga, Doyogena and Menz. Entrepreneurship and group formation training will be carried out in December. Other activities included design of a project logo, site-specific project banners and T-shirts.

Capacity building: Phase 1

The main components of trainings in sheep fattening technologies and practices were short-term fattening; ram selection for fattening; feed resource identification, processing and optimal utilization; improved husbandry practices which encompasses ear-tagging, castration, vaccination, deworming, use of feeding troughs and offering sheep clean water.

Trainings were given to individual youth groups at *Kebele* level. Therefore, in most cases 2 youth groups received training at the same time. Trainings were undertaken by Researchers from the National Agricultural Centres and by Development Agents (DA) from the District and/or zonal Ministries. Participating ministries were Bureau of Agriculture, Gender Office and Cooperative Office. In all sites, representative DA from the 3 Ministries either at Peasant Association (PA: *Kebele*) or District level were always present.

Doyogena

A total of 5 trainings were carried out, in 10 days as follows:

Table 2: Sheep fattening training in Doyogena

Dates	PA	No. of Youth groups	Champion farmers
6-7 Nov	Serera	4	4
10-11 Nov	Ancha	2	2
13-14 Nov	Murasa	2	2
17-18 Nov	Hawora	2	2
21-22 Nov	Begedamu	2	2
TOTAL		12	12

12 youth groups with a total of 120 members and 12 champion farmers participated in the trainings. The trainings were well attended by stakeholders who included local administrators and officials from Government ministries as follows:

- Kembata-Tembara Zone Animal and Fisheries office head- **1 participant**
- Kembata-Tembara Zone cooperative office head- **1 participant**
- Doyogena District administration office head and rural politics sector- **2 participants**

- Doyogena District cooperative office and sector coordinator- **2 participants**
- Doyogena District Animal and Fisheries office head and small ruminant coordinator- **2 participants**
- Doyogena District youth and sport office head, youth league sector coordinator and female and children sector coordinator- **3 participants**
- Doyogena District job creation sector- **1 participant**
- Doyogena District five kebele data collectors- **10 participants**
- Each Kebele leader- **5 participants**
- Each Kebele cooperative leader- **5 participants**

Bonga

Trainings in Bonga involved 7 youth groups and a total of 226 members (167 males and 59 females) 14 champion farmers. Trainings are ongoing to reach more youth groups.



Figure 1: Youth group members and champion farmers from Adiyio district

Table 2: Sheep fattening training in Bonga

Dates	PA	No. of Youth groups	Champion farmers
5-6 Nov	Boka	4	4
7-8 Nov	Shuta	2	2
10-11 Nov	Alarigexa	2	2
13-14 Nov	Meduxa	2	2
17-18 Nov	Yama	2	2
20-21 Nov	Modiyo	2	2
TOTAL		14	12

Training sessions included topics on **Advantage of sheep fattening** in terms of Income, period of fattening cycle, requirement of low capital and land; **Fattening systems** on least-cost rations, short term, market and business-oriented plan of fattening; **Selection criteria** from point of body condition, skeletal frame, age, weight; **Feed and feeding system** particularly on adaptation period feeding, finishing ration from locally available feed, using feed and water trough, salt; **Handling of fattening sheep**; **Housing** especially on sewage disposal ; **Disease prevention and control** in view of parasites and deworming; **Record keeping**, especially on weight gains, keeping financial records & disease control.

Menz

In Menz, a team led by Researchers from Debre Birhan Agricultural Research Centre trained a total of 12 youth groups with a total of 120 members and 12 champion farmers. The training report from Menz is awaited.

Table 2: Sheep fattening training in Menz

Dates	PA	No. of Youth groups	Champion farmers
3-4 Nov	Negasi amba	4	4
7-8 Nov	Tsehaysina	2	2
10-11 Nov	Dargegn	6	2
14-15 Nov	Yecha-06	4	2
17-18 Nov	Yecha-07	1	2
TOTAL		14	12

Each enumerator attached to a youth group pays a visit to at least 2 youth group members per day. Champion farmers accompany the enumerators at least once a week. Enumerators record weights of fattening rams at least once per fortnight.

Media Advocacy

In Doyogena, the TAAT project was broadcasted twice on the regional Radio Station, South Radio Hossana branch, in Amaharic and 'Kamibategna" languages. The station reaches approximately 800,000 listeners in the SNPPR Reguional State.



Media introducing
soft copy (TAAT Doyo

In Bonga, the trainings were broadcasted both on radio and television stations. Southern Television <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k8egBnzhB3A> aired the project in Amharic language and Kaffa Television <https://youtu.be/XCWj2gqiEgo?t=129> featured the project in Kaffigna Language. Both were

aired during Prime-Time News at 7pm. Southern TV and Radio Station broadcasted the trainings in 5 local languages; *Kaffigna, Chara, Nao, Mexenger, and Shakigna* and in Amharic (national language).

Other radio stations that broadcasted the trainings were:

- Dehub Radio that broadcasted in Amharic. It's audience is 16,412, 892 persons within SNNPR Regional State.
- Kafi TV that broadcasted in Kafficho language . Its audience with SNPPR is apprx. 14,000,000 persons.
- Local Radio Stations that target loclities of Kaffa, Sheka, Benchi, Maji and Jimma, each area with a different local language. Overall audience is approx. 1,499,908 persons.

The stations introduced TAAT and ICARDA as well as their mission and goals, during the boadcast and communicated the project's progress on scaling sheep fattening. Practical information on improved fattening practices and technologies was communicated.

According to the radio stations, there was overwhelming response from call-ins by youth. Majority enquired on how they can be part of the project while other sort further information of feed resources, veterinary inputs and market linkage for fattened rams.

In Menz, the TAAT project was broadcasted on Radio Fana at 7.30pm. Radio Fana ranks 1st in radio in Ethiopia with an audience share of 23%.

Project promotional materials

ICARDA designed a project logo as shown below. The logo will henceforth be placed alongside the ICARDA and TAAT logos. A total of 600 caps and 600 T-shirts were printed and distributed to youth group members, champion farmers and CBBP sub-committee officials. (Menz 220 of each; Doyogena 205 of each; Bonga 170 of each). Youth groups and champion farmers were encouraged to wear them particularly during field days.

The logo, caps and T-shirt are shown below:



Three designs of banners in Amharic language were produced, specific for each site. Each banner bore corresponding sheep breeds and feed resources of individual sites. Each site received 5 copies of each banner, which were placed outdoors in the different project kebeles. In addition, 3 roll-up posters in English language were printed to be placed in various NARS offices for promotional purposes. A sample of the posters is shown below.

Key Deliverable Deviation

There were no deviations from the plan.

Plans for Next Reporting Period

During the month of December, Entrepreneurial trainings are planned. There will be on-site trainings at kebele level for the youth groups and one Training of Trainer (ToT) course. The ToT course will target members of the Community of Practice who entail NARS Researchers, Government experts from the Livestock Agency, Gender office, Youth office, Cooperative office, Job creation office and some CBBP officials.



Earn more income by improving your sheep fattening practices

Using good sheep fattening practices improves the appearance and weight of your sheep and will help generate higher income from sales.

Make sheep fattening a business

- Have short fattening cycles of 3-6 months.
- Fatten sheep at least three times or more per year.
- Reduce your costs by doing the following:
 - Use locally available feeds optimally.
 - Use concentrates and agro-industrial feeds in correct proportions.
 - Buy feeds collectively.
- Negotiate for higher selling prices by selling your sheep collectively.

Use good management practices



- Vaccinate your sheep to protect them from diseases.
- Deworm your sheep to improve their feed utilization and productivity.
- Castrate male sheep to enhance weight gain.
- Use clean troughs for feeding and watering to prevent food and water-borne diseases.



Forages



Enset



Store the straw in a shed



Desho grass

Use nutritious feed resources

- Provide good quality straw.
- Provide salt licks.
- Supplement with wheat bran, noug cake, *atela*, faba bean and *enset*.
- Grow forages in your homestead.

Supplements



Vetch and oats



Noug cake



Wheat bran



Salt lick



Atella



Fababean grain and straw



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Key Deliverable Deviation

There were no deviations from the plan.

Plans for Next Reporting Period

During the month of December, rams and inputs will be purchased and distributed to the youth groups and champions.

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