



Scaling up Improved Sheep Fattening Practices and Technologies in Ethiopia

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

TAAT Progress Report
September 2018

General Progress

Activities for the month of September included the following:

- Identification and employment of project enumerators.
- Formation of 5-member sub-committees within Community-based Breeding Programs (CBBPs) to oversee TAAT project fattening activities.
- Identification of existing youth groups, formation of new youth groups and identification of potential champion farmers.
- Mapping and profiling of youth groups, youth group members and champion farmers.
- Memorandum of Understanding between ICARDA and National Agricultural Centers (NARS)
- Formation of a Community of Practice (CoP) in each project site.

Enumerators

A total of 21 enumerators (6 female; 15 men) were employed across the project; Bonga (7 males), Doyogena (3 male, 3 female), Menz (5 male, 3 female). These are trained facilitators who have previously worked with the NARS researchers on various projects and are, therefore, familiar with their respective *Kebeles* and farmers. Their roles and responsibilities are as follows:

- Facilitate in mobilization of project beneficiaries for meetings and trainings.
- Data collection of ram weights, feed resource utilization and disease occurrences.
- In collaboration with youth group leaders, they ensure communication and coordination within youth groups runs smoothly.
- Ensure communication and coordination between youth groups and champion farmers is regular and runs smoothly.
- Liaise between sub-committees of CBBPs with youth groups and champion farmers.

Formation of sub-committees with CBBP cooperatives

This project found it important to involve the existing CBBP cooperative in oversight engagement because i. ICARDA and the NARS partners have long-standing collaboration with these very established and actively functioning cooperatives. i. Majority of sheep farming households in the target sites are members of the CBBPs. iii. Most of the rams fattened by farmers in the target sites are rams that not selected for breeding by the CBBPs. Members of CBBPs are obliged by cooperative by-laws to sell off unselected rams to avoid these rams breeding within the communities. It is thus, normal for farmers to fatten these rams and sell them off. A total of 12 sub-committees with a total of 60 members (Table 1) were formed across the 12 CBBPs in the target sites (Table 2).

Table 1: Formation of CBBP sub-committees

CBBP Sub-Committees	Sites		
	Menz	Doyogena	Bonga
Total No. of CBBP Sub-committee	3	5	4
No of members in each committee	5	5	5
Total Members/Site	15	25	20
Name of CBBP Sub-committees	Negasi-amba CBBP Dargegn CBBP Yetcha CBBP	Serara CBBP Anicha Sadicho CBBP Hawora CBBP Murasa CBBP Begedamu CBBP	Boka-shuta CBBP Meduxa CBBP Alarigexa CBBP Yama CBBP

Selection and profiling of youth groups

Profiling and mapping of existing and registered youth groups was done both by ICARDA, NARS, CBBP officials as well as *Woreda* (district) and *kebele* (Village) level officials and local administrators (Fig. 1-2). All but one group in Menz had ceased fattening as a group and members were fattening individually. This was as a result of challenges that formed groups had encountered. The groups had been formed by the Cooperative and Job creation offices in line with the Government's strategy to promote youth employment. However, in all 3 regions of Menz, Bonga and Doyogena, groups formed were only given a one-day basic training on entrepreneurship with no further follow-up. No start-up funds were provided, neither were they linked to any microfinance institutions, no land and/or shed was allocated to them for group sheep fattening and, in most cases, the youth members were not familiar to each other, nor did they live close to each other. These conditions were no recipe for successful group operations.

Therefore, for purposes of this project, new groups were formed. Criteria for member participation included:

- Currently undertaking sheep fattening for sale.
- Ownership of at least one ram to fatten.
- Willingness to practice short-term fattening and improved husbandry methods.
- Willingness to participate in capacity building activities.

A total of 475 youth (Table 2) who were either jobless, have relatively low incomes or dependent on relatives were selected and grouped to form youth groups at *Got* (sub-village) level. *Got* level formations were preferred for two reasons:

1. To reduce the number of members per group.
2. To take advantage of household proximity of members to each other to facilitate better communication and coordination among the members.

Table 2: Mapping of youth groups and champion farmers of the TAAT project.

Site	District	Name of CBBP	Kebele	Got	No. of youth groups	Youth group members			Champion farmers					
						Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total			
Doyogena	Doyogena	Serara	Serara	Gidore	2	10	10	20	2	0	2			
				Bokata	2	10	10	20	1	1	2			
		Anicah Sadicho	Anicah	Sadicho	2	11	9	20	2	0	2			
		Murasa	Murasa	Bote	1	6	4	10	1	0	1			
				Woricho	1	6	4	10	0	1	1			
		Hawora	Hawora	Talfeta	1	5	5	10	1	0	1			
				Wurasa	1	5	5	10	0	1	1			
		Begedamu	Begedamu	Eticho	1	7	3	10	0	1	1			
Bonga	Adiyo	Begedamu	Begedamu	Bera	1	7	3	10	1	0	1			
		Boka-Shuta	Boka	Shena	2	25	0	25	2	0	2			
				Shaya	2	0	25	25	0	2	2			
			Shuta	Chifera	1	7	5	12	1	0	1			
				Utera	1	7	6	13	1	0	1			
		Alarigexa	Alarigexa	Mikira	1	7	5	12	1	0	1			
				Kera	1	7	6	13	0	1	1			
		Meduxa	Meduxa	Gurta	2	12	13	25	1	1	2			
	Telo	Yama	Yama	Geda	1	7	6	13	1	0	1			
				Buba	1	7	5	12	0	1	1			
				Becha	Yama	Modiyo	Village 1	1	10	2	12	1	0	1
							Wodita	1	10	3	13	1	0	1
	Menz	Menz gera	Negasi-Anba	Negasi-Anba	Boda	3	20	10	30	3	0	3		
Sin-Anba					1	6	4	10	1	0	1			
Tsehaysina					2	12	8	20	2	0	2			
Dargegn			Dargegn	Merchet	2	11	9	20	2	0	2			
				Tebab	2	13	7	20	2	0	2			
				Ayzoreba	2	13	7	20	2	0	2			
Menz mama		Mollale	Yecha 06	Keyafer	2	9	11	20	2	0	2			
				Zole	2	15	5	20	2	0	2			
				Yecha 07	07	2	12	8	20	2	0	2		
Total	6	12	16		44	287	198	485	35	9	44			

Each youth group appointed a chairperson and secretary and was officially registered as a sheep fattening group at their respective *Kebele* (village) Administrative offices.



Fig. 1: Youth group members, champions and CBBP Sub-committee members at *Bokata* (left) and *Gidore* (right) *Gots in Doyogena*.



Fig. 2: Profiling and mapping youth in *Negasi-Amba kebele, Menz*

Profiling of the youth groups showed 59.8% are male and 40.2% are female. On average, there are 6.5 ± 2.2 males and 4.3 ± 2.3 female members per youth group. The majority (90.9%) of the youth groups are of mixed-sex status, the rest are either women-only or men-only groups.

The age structure of members revealed that majority (83.3%) of them are 15-30 years of age and the mean age of members is 25.59 ± 7.1 years. 62.2% are married. Single, unmarried members, who comprise 37.1%, are financially dependent on their families. Majority expressed a sense of relief and gratitude to the project for giving them a sense of financial freedom and resource ownership. The educational status of members shows that majority (84.2%) of the youth have formal education, with an average of 5th - 8th Grade. The involvement of educated youth signals promise in behaviour change as pertains traditional fattening practices towards improved practices. Table 3 summarizes statistics of youth members in individual sites.

Table 3: Summary statistics of youth group members

		Bonga(%)	Doyogena(%)	Menz(%)
	Married	61.1a	75.0b	62.5a,b
	Single	38.9a	25.0b	35.6a,b
Literate		26.3a	5.8b	11.3b
Main production	Both	75.4a	95.0b	80.0a
	Crop	2.3a	1.7a	10.0b
	Daily work	0.6a		0.6a
	Livestock	21.1a	3.3b	7.5b
	Merchant			1.3a
	None			0.6a
Do you use feed troughs (yes)		60.6b	99.2a	66.9b
Do you use water troughs		62.9c	100.0a	76.3b
Vaccinated/non-vaccinated (yes)		96.6	100.0	100.0
Do you vaccinate before (yes)		56.6b	89.2a	65.6b
Do you deworm (yes)		64.0b	90.8a	71.3b
Castrated (yes)		97.7	99.2	99.4
Do you castrate (yes)		73.1b	100.0a	76.9b
If yes, what kind of training?		1.1b	44.2a	3.8b
Age (years)		22.9b	31.1a	24.2b
HH size (No.)		4.9b	6.8a	4.5b
Land size_total (ha)		1.5a	0.4c	1.1b
Land size_crop (ha)		1.1a	0.3c	0.7b
Land size_grazing (ha)		0.4a	0.1b	0.3a
Years of keeping sheep		4.4c	9.7a	7.5b
Years of fattening rams		2.1b	5.1a	2.7b
Duration of fattening (months)		6.9a	5.6b	5.0b

Selection and profiling of champion farmers

A total of 44 champions were selected on the basis of at least 5 years in commercial sheep fattening. One champion farmer was selected from each *Got* (sub-village) that hosted a youth group. Champion farmer were given orientation on objectives and activities of the project along with the youth groups. Profiling of champion farmers was undertaken by ICARDA and NARS researchers with assistance from project enumerators. A summary of their descriptive statistics is shown in Table 4. Majority of the champions are literate. In Bonga and Doyogena, they are mostly mixed farmers, unlike menz where 50% are purely livestock farmers. Nevertheless, only 50% of the champions have received previous training in sheep fattening. This emphasizes the necessity of capacity building for champion farmers.

Table 4: Summary statistics of the sample (n=44)

		Bonga (%)	Doyogena (%)	Menz (%)
Sex	Female	35.7 _a	33.3 _a	30
Marital status	Married	71.4 _a	83.3 _a	100 _a
Educational status	Literate	64.3 _a	91.7 _{a, b}	100 _b
Main production	Both crop & Livestock	85.7 _a	91.7 _a	50 _a
	crop livestock		8.3 _a	50 _a
Pasture		92.9 _a	91.7 _a	100 _a
Crop residue		78.6 _a	100 _a	100 _a
Agro-industrial by-products		78.6 _a	100 _a	100 _a
Concentrate		78.6 _a	83.3 _a	50 _a
Hay			16.7 _{a, b}	50 _b
Use feed troughs		100	100	100
Source of Water	Pond		16.7 _a	
	River	21.4 _a	8.3 _a	
	Springs	78.6 _a	75. _a	
	Tap			100 _b
Vaccinated		100	100	100
do you vaccinate before		100 _a	91.7 _a	100 _a
do you deworm		100 _a	91.7 _a	100 _a
Castrated		100 _a	100.0 _a	100 _a
Do you castrate?		100 _a	100.0 _a	100 _a
Training access			75.0 _b	50 _b
If yes, what kind of training?	Sheep fattening		58.3 _b	50 _b

Formation of Community of Practice

One CoP was formed in each region. Initially the CoPs comprise of members from NARS, youth group leaders, champion farmers, CBBP sub-committees, Government officers and Development workers. The main role of the CoPs is to keep abreast of the developments in the sheep value chain and inform project objectives and activities accordingly. It is intended that the CoP become more active and integrate additional members from amongst sheep value chain players. It is hoped that within 3 years, CoPs would have developed a life of their own, and move forward sustainably. Table 5 shows the current members of the CoP in each site.

Memorandum of Understanding

A memorandum of Understanding for collaborative activities pertaining to the TAAT project was signed between ICARDA and ARARI as well as ICARDA and SARI for the period between September 2018 and 31 January 2019.

Table 5: Members of the Community of Practice in Bonga, Menz, Doyogena during September - December 2018

Site: Menz		Site: Bonga	
	Name	Job title	
1	Asfaw Bisrat	Debre B. ARC	Muluken Zeleke Bonga ARC
2	Tesfa Getachew	Debre B. ARC	Zelalem Abate Bonga ARC
3	Girmish Tsigemelak	Job Opportunity Creation	Meseret Bekele Women and Children
4	Adefrs W/meskel	Livestock Agency	Kochito Yebo Livestock Agency
5	Samuel Kebede	Youth and Sport	Melese Wodajo Youth and Sport
6	Hasabe Tefera	Gender office	Mulugeta Tadele Cooperative Office
7	Abera Belete	Livestock Agency	Hasabu Abebe CBBP (Boka)
8	Demisse Tsegaye	Job Opportunity Creation	Million Mengesha DA (Boka)
9	Melese Getachew	Gender office	Tamiru Bekele DA (Shuta)
10	Solomon Hailu	Youth and Sport	Gero Ayele DA (Alarigexa)
11	Asfeye Asalf	CBBP (Negasi Amba)	Adimasu Kero DA (Meduxa)
12	Netsanet Melese	DA (Negasi Amba)	Damitew Demisse DA (Yama)
13	Befikad Desalew	DA (Tsehaysina)	Fikre W/Mariam DA (Modiyo)
14	Aschenaki Gebrsh	CBBP (Dargegn)	
15	Genzeb beletew	DA (Dargegn)	
16	Kochew Belete	DA (Dargegn)	
17	Habtamu Guchale	CBBP (Yetcha)	
18	Beself Gashaw	DA (Yetcha)	

Site: Doyogena		
	Name	Job title
1	Tesfaye Abiso	Areka ARC
2	Tessema Erchafo	Areka ARC
3	Mesele Markos	Job opportunity creation
4	Markos Obola	Cooperative Office
5	Temesgen Alemu	Extension Worker
6	Birehane Wachamo	Women and Children
7	Michael Desalegn	CBBP (Serara)
8	Bekele Shamebo	DA (Serara)
9	Genet Yakob	DA (Anicha)
10	Mekides Tafese	DA (Hawora)
11	Genet W/Mariam	DA (Murasa)
12	Mesfin Megebo	DA (Begedamu)

Key Deliverable Deviation

There were no deviations from the plan.

Plans for Next Reporting Period

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

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