



Youth Groups breaking gender barriers in market-oriented sheep fattening in Ethiopia

Tesfanesh Demissie, an 18 years old girl from *Anicha-Sedicho* kebele of Doyogena district is a 9th grade dropout. After high school education, she spent most of her time on household chores with her mother.

Past Experience/What was the challenge? As a rural woman living in a patriarchal society, Tesfanesh faced gender-related barriers that limited her access to and control over resources such as land and livestock, opportunity to undertake income generating activities, capacity enhancement trainings, and mobility to seek employment. Due to social pressures and traditions that allow only men to handle and negotiate over money matters, she had no experience in buying and selling sheep, nor managing income earned.

What she received? After joining *Anicha-Sedicho* Sheep Fattening Youth Group, she received inputs and services (one ram, a salt lick block, feeding and watering troughs, as well as castration, deworming and vaccination of her ram) and 4 consecutive trainings on improved sheep fattening technologies, entrepreneurship and cooperative formation with support from researchers from Areka ARC, a team from ICARDA and local enumerators.

Impact/Outcome According to Tesfanesh, joining the sheep fattening youth group has “freed her”. She had very minimal skills in sheep fattening but now she understands how to feed and manage rams until they earn her good profits in the market.



Photo: Tesfanesh feeding her rams

“I was a village girl who couldn’t speak much in front of men. After becoming a group member, I have become a girl with high self-esteem and confidence.”

Tesfanesh Demissie

As a member of the fattening youth group, Tesfanesh receives market information from the youth group marketing committee on appropriate locations and price to sell her rams. After two successful fattening

cycles, she has saved 3000 ETB (\$100). She intends to increase her number of fattening rams with each subsequent fattening cycle.

“My participation in a workshop held in Addis Ababa in August 2019, gave me the chance, not only to learn new practices and experiences, but also to become a motivation to my friends.”



Report by Jane Wamatu and Nahom Ephrem

