

Admasie Kassaw<sup>1</sup>, Elia Choueiri<sup>2</sup>, Abate Abtie<sup>1</sup>, Gebremariam Assaye<sup>1</sup>, Rola Amil<sup>2</sup>,  
Tamir Abathun<sup>1</sup>, Safaa G. Kumari<sup>3</sup>, Abdelrahman Moukahel<sup>3</sup>, Cherinet Alem<sup>4</sup> and Seid Ahmed<sup>5</sup>

(1) Amhara Regional Agricultural Research Institute, Bahir Dar, Ethiopia; (2) Lebanese Agricultural Research Institute (LARI),  
Tal Amara, Lebanon; (3) International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA), Terbol Station,  
Zable, Lebanon; (4) ICARDA, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; (5) ICARDA-Station Exp. INRA-Quich, Rabat, Morocco.

## RATIONAL

Summer and winter crops (cereals, vegetables and food legumes) are suffering from attacks of insect pests, parasitic weeds and diseases in Ethiopia and Lebanon. The damage is both in quality (Figure 1) and quantity affecting food security and incomes of farmers. Farmers and development agents' skills and knowledge gaps hinder proper management of new and emerging pests and diseases in both countries. Training of male and female farmers and village level extension staff was given on the management of insect pests and diseases to improve their skills and knowledge. Farmer participants for the training in the PHI intervention sites were identified by village level extension staff based using key criteria like educational background, devotion, initiatives, age, and gender.



**Figure 1.** Fall armyworm on summer maize (A) and Pea seed-borne mosaic virus on field pea (B) in Lebanon, and Chickpea chlorotic stunt virus on lentil (C) in Ethiopia.

## OBJECTIVE

To improve the knowledge and skills of farming communities and extension staff through informal training and field visits

## APPROACH

In both countries, training was given on new pest management innovations before and after planting of crops. In Lebanon, training was given at the IP sites on key pests and diseases of summer and winter crops. Field days were also used to promote eco-friendly pest management innovations that increase productivity of crops and reduce costs of production.

## RESULTS

In Ethiopia and Lebanon, training was given to farmers, development agents and Office of agriculture experts to improve their knowledge and skill gaps on integrated pest and disease management (IPDM) options. In South Gondar and South Wollo zones of Ethiopia, 64 farmers and 39 Agricultural experts, and at Qob Elias village in Beqaa Valley of Lebanon, 75 farmers and 16 agricultural experts were trained (Table 1 and Figure 2). In both countries, 165 farmers (29 females) and agricultural experts were trained during the season.

**Table 1.** Number of farmers and agricultural experts trained in Ethiopia and Lebanon, during 2023 cropping season.

Country	Farmers		Agricultural experts		Total	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Ethiopia	51	13	35	4	86	17
Lebanon	64	11	15	1	79	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>29</b>



**Figure 2.** Farmers training on IPDM innovations on food legumes, (A) south Gondar and South Wollo Zones, Ethiopia, (B) Qob Elias village in Beqaa Valley of Lebanon during 2023 cropping season.

**Consent Statement:** “Personal information including names, business title, emails, phones, images and GPS points included in this report have been authorized in writing or verbally by data subject”  
Seid A. Kemal & Safaa G. Kumari