

## **Improved sheep fattening with youth entrepreneurship focus results in improved beneficiary incomes and fatter sheep**

---

Published on: March 21, 2021, Submitted by Laura Becker on: July 16, 2020, Reporting year: 2020

---

Youth increased the fattening weights of rams from 56-122g/day to 94-198g/day (44-67%) and were able to sell sheep at a higher price, from ETB 1200-2500 to ETB 2200-4000 (45-70%) after receiving training on improved sheep practices and entrepreneurship, and a basic start-up package. These youth went on to influence farmers in their communities by hosting open field days to disseminate improved practices and provide basic veterinary services.

---



Photo credit: Jane Ambuku Wamati / International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas

A photo of a woman participant with her sheep, part of the project "A scaling approach targeting youth as disseminators of market-oriented sheep fattening"

---

### *Background problem*

### *Interventions*

scale up adoption of improved sheep fattening technology and practices.

1. Youth groups are further supported by Communities of Practice (CoP), which develop actionable ideas, knowledge and policies to promote innovations in sheep fattening. CoPs are composed of researchers, key sheep value-chain actors, Government experts, and administrators. A total of 485 youth participated in youth groups across 29 sub-villages, within 6

districts of the 2 regional states of Amhara and SNNPR.

2. including a fattening ram, salt-lick block, a feed and water trough was provided to each youth.
3. Organized by the youth groups, field days served to disseminate improved fattening methods to farmers in their communities. Activities included trainings, experience exchange, and sheep vaccination, deworming, and castration services.

1. Out of 485 youth group members, at least 412 youth have increased ram numbers from 0-1 to more than 6 rams per fattening cycle, and 437 youth are undertaking 3-4 fattening cycles per annum, up from 2.
2. Fattening weights of rams have increased from between 56-122g/day to 94-198g/day (44-67%) while utilizing only locally available feed resources.
3. Participating youth were able to sell sheep from between ETB 1200-2500 to ETB 2200-4000, an increase of 45-70% higher price than sheep fattened by traditional methods, and their incomes increased by ETB 15000 (\$500) on average in the first year.

1. Motivational, participatory trainings on entrepreneurial skills development encouraged a change in mindset towards market orientation among youth:

1. In December 2018, a Business Development Advisor consultant held both a three-day Training of Trainers and a one-day youth group training at village level.
2. The main objectives of these entrepreneurial trainings were to (1) familiarize trainees on fundamental entrepreneurial skills, (2) enable participants to understand, learn and practice business models of the TAAT project, (3) understand the basic terms of business and business plan development, and (4) familiarize trainees on entrepreneurial behavior.

1. Trainings provided to youth groups and open field days provided farmers with both the knowledge and services to improve sheep fattening.

1. At the *kebele* level youth groups were trained on short-term fattening; ram selection for fattening; feed resource identification, processing and optimal utilization; importance of clean drinking water; improved husbandry practices which encompasses ear-tagging, castration, vaccination, deworming, use of feeding troughs, housing especially on sewage disposal, disease prevention and disease control in view of parasites and deworming; record keeping of weights and financial records.
2. A total of 14 field days were organized by youth groups across the 3 sites, attended by 1530 farmers (1025 male, 505 female) and 119 experts. These field days provided an additional platform for dissemination and demonstration of improved sheep fattening practices, as well as free castration, deworming and vaccination services.

1. Due to the success of the entrepreneurial training and positive results of sheep fattening, participating youth were able to sell sheep from between ETB 1200-2500 to ETB 2200-4000, an increase of 45-70% higher price.

---

## Level of Maturity and Sphere of influence

- Level of Maturity: *Stage 3*
- Contributions in sphere of influence:

---

## Acknowledgement

We would like to thank:

1. , who organized and conducted the entrepreneurship skills development trainings
2. develop actionable ideas, knowledge and policies to promote innovations in sheep fattening
3. ), which were instrumental in supporting and overseeing the youth groups, participating in field days, and providing the rams for the start-up kits
4. , for their support and guidance on project development and start up

5. , without their participation and hard work, the positive project results would not be possible

---

## Projects

- [Scaling up improved sheep fattening practices and technologies in Ethiopia](#)
- 

## CRPs, & Partners



CRP on Livestock Agri-Food  
Systems - LAFS



International Center for  
Agricultural Research in the  
Dry Areas - ICARDA



Southern Agricultural Research  
Institute - SARI, Ethiopia



Amhara Regional Agricultural Research Institute  
የአማራ ግብርና ምርምር ኢንስቲትዩት

Amhara Regional Agricultural  
Research Institute - ARARI

---

## References

- [Jane Wamatu. \(30/4/2019\). TAAT Sheep Fattening Scaling Project - Technical Report.](#)
  - [Esayas Mulatu, Jane Wamatu. \(15/1/2019\). Training Report: TAAT Entrepreneurship Skills Development Training for Youth Groups.](#)
  - [Jane Wamatu, Nahom Ephrem. \(16/2/2020\). Youth Groups breaking gender barriers in market-oriented sheep fattening in Ethiopia.](#)
  - [Esayas Mulatu, Jane Wamatu. \(31/1/2019\). Training of Trainers entrepreneurial training report.](#)
- 

## Keywords

- [sheep](#)
- [sheep fattening](#)
- [taat](#)

---

## Countries

- Ethiopia
- 

## About the author



Laura Becker is AID-CSB Project Coordinator & MEL Research Fellow at International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas - ICARDA.