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

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.
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.

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**Level of Maturity and Sphere of influence**

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

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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
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References


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