



Scaling up Improved Sheep Fattening Practices and Technologies in Ethiopia

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

TAAT Progress Report

December 2018

General Progress

Capacity building capacities continued during the month of December. Entrepreneurship and group formation training was carried out and field days were organized by youth groups across Menz, Bonga and Doyogena.

Entrepreneurial Skills Development Training

Two categories of trainings for Entrepreneurial Skills Development (ESD) were organized. The first was a Training for Trainers (ToT) and the second was a series of trainings for youth groups and champion farmers in the villages. The ESD trainings were undertaken by a consultant, Esayas Mulatu, a Business Development Advisor. The main objectives of the ESD included:

- Familiarize themselves with fundamental entrepreneurial skills such that they can support youth groups (entrepreneurs).
- Enable participants, understand, learn and practice business models of the project.
- Understand the basic terms of business and business plan development.
- Familiarize themselves with entrepreneurial behaviours to start and run sound business.

Experiential and adult learning techniques were applied. The training content and material was designed to enable participants to bring their wisdom to the stage. The training facilitators used training aids such as audio-visual, games and power-point presentations to increase the learning outcome of the trainings.

The topics covered in the training sessions included:

- Team formation and ice breaking.
- Attitude: The successful mindset.
- Change: The only constant.
- Introduction to entrepreneurship.
- The power of Goal setting.
- Opportunity seeking.
- Risk taking: The Difference Maker.
- Team working: Public Victory.
- Planning: The Choice and Decision.
- Persistence and Determination.
- Introduction to Business Models.

Topics were concise and contributed to the application of experiential learning as it gave time for the facilitator to interact and coach each trainee. The training highlighted the necessity of a change in mindset towards market orientation.

Training of Trainers

The ToT training (Fig. 1) targeted the Community of Practice (CoP) members. Twenty seven NARS researchers, Government workers and Development agents from 6 different organisations participated. The training which involved practical games and individual engagement was to facilitate sustainability of skills and knowledge transfer (Fig. 2). The training was held in Debre Berhan over a period of 3 days (31st Dec 2018-2 January 2019). At the end of the training, participants were trained to develop business models (Fig. 3) for each site (Bonga, Menz, Doyogena).



Fig. 1: Training of Trainers in Entrepreneurial Skills Development in Debre Berhan, 31 December 2018
Photo credit: Nahom Ephrem



Fig. 2: Activity games in Entrepreneurial Skills Development in Debre Berhan, 31 December 2018
Photo credit: Nahom Ephrem



Fig. 3: Development of business models by participants during the Trainer of Trainees Entrepreneurial Skills Development training in Debre Berhan, 2 January 2019

Village-based Training of Youth Groups

The youth groups and champion farmers undertook ESD training at village level across villages in the 3 sites, Menz, Doyogena and Bonga between 17 December 2018 and 7 January 2019 (Table 1). Forty youth groups with a total of 433 youth (154 female; 279 male) youth and 41 champion farmers (34 men, 7 female) attended day-long entrepreneurship training in their respective villages. In attendance were also enumerators and development agents from various Government offices. The trainings were motivational. None of the participants had received previous entrepreneurial training in such detail, thus, the importance for this initial entrepreneurial training to be motivational (Fig 4-6).

Table 1: Entrepreneurial Skills Development training in Menz, Bonga and Doyogena

Project Site	Location (<i>Kebele</i>)	No. of participants	Training dates
Menz	Negasi-amba	66	17-12-2018
	Dargegn	66	18-12-2018
	Yetcha (Molale)	66	19-12-2018
Doyogena	Serara	44	23-12-2018
	Begedamu	44	24-12-2018
	Anicha/Murasa	44	25-12-2018
Bonga	Boka	81	4-1-2019
	Shuta	81	5-1-2019
	Telo-Yama	22	6-1-2019
	Modiyo	22	7-1-2019
TOTAL		536	



Fig. 4: Entrepreneurial Skills Development training to youth groups in Hawora, Doyogena

The trainers listed potential challenges in the operationalization of youth groups in the areas of group dynamics, animal feed and fodder, market linkage, finance and weak partnerships among development actors. They listed the following challenges as echoed by trainees:

- Unregistered groups would limit group access to formal financial services and credit.
- Reliance on rainfed pasture for fattening would limit fattening business to rainy seasons. Use of commercial concentrates would be cost intensive.
- Lack of linkage to central markets and inadequate market intelligence would limit market access.
- Currently, youth have no individual or group bank accounts. Saving is imperative to increase their working capital.
- Coordination of development partners and inter-Governmental expertise is not strong.

The above listed challenges need to be tackled to strengthen youth groups and enable them take off as business enterprises.



Fig. 5: Entrepreneurial Skills Development training to Telo-Yama youth group, champions and development agents in Bonga.



Fig. 6: Entrepreneurial Skills Development training to Mehal Meda Youth group, champions and development agents in Menz.

Promotion of Technology

Open days (field days)

A total of 14 field days were organized by youth groups across the 3 sites. The total attendance was 1530 farmers (1025 male, 505 female) and 119 experts. The main activities were: Discussion with the respective guests and other surrounding farmers; Experience sharing between youth and CFs with other non-participant fatteners; Free castration, deworming and vaccination service for other farmers (non-participants of the project).

Youth group members and champion farmers in all villages were the main facilitators for the open days, sharing their experiences and knowledge learned from TAAT project trainings with the farmers. They demonstrated the use of locally available feed resources in appropriate rations, improved husbandry practices (clean and dry housing, use of feed troughs and water troughs) as well as deworming, vaccination, castration and treatment of general ailments freely delivered courtesy of the TAAT project, which they carried out along with the veterinary officers

In Menz, DBARC-TAAT team organized 3 field days on December 20-21, 2018 in Menz Mama (Mollale) and in Menz Gera (Mehal Meda) districts respectively, where the sheep fattening activity was implemented. Several stakeholders were invited and attended. It was attended by 269 farmers (214 male; 55 females; Table 2). Youth group members and champion farmers mingled with farmers and exchanged experiences. Menz site organized various sheds where different technologies were displayed and communicated to farmers. Youth groups reported a lot interest expressed by farmers particularly pertaining to formulating and balancing feed resources for optimal weight gain (Fig. 7-9)

Table 2: Summary of open day participants across villages in Menz

Institution Participants	Position	Total No. of participants
Agricultural office	Livestock experts	11
Agricultural office	Head	2
Each District youth and sport office head	Head	2
Each District job creation sector	Head	2
Data collectors	Data collector	9
Each <i>Kebele</i> leader	Head	4
Each <i>Kebele</i> (CBBP) cooperative leader	Head	3
DB ARC Researchers		5
Veterinary technicians		3
Youth members		180
Champion Farmers		18
Farmers		269



Fig. 7: Farmers attending on the field day at Yecha, Menz area



Fig. 8: Field day in Mollale site, Menz.



Fig. 9: Youth group members of Dargegne Kebele showcasing their fattened rams during the field day in Menz

Youth groups in Doyogena organized 5 field days, one in each village. Table 3 summarizes attendance of 36 experts who consistently visited each field day. Farmers overwhelmingly turned up for the field days recording 482 in total (309 male; 173 female) as shown in Table 4. Youth groups wore promotional TAAT T-shirts and caps so that they were easily identified by the farmers (Fig. 10-11).

Table 3: Summary of open day participants across villages in Doyogena

Institution Participants	Position	Total No. of participants
Doyogena District cooperative office and sector coordinator	Head	2
Doyogena District Animal and Fishery office head and small ruminant coordinator	Head	2
Doyogena District Job Creation sector	Head	1
Doyogena District five <i>Kebele</i> data collectors	Data collector	12
Doyogena District five cooperative formation support and followers	expert	3
Each <i>Kebele</i> leader	Head	5
Each <i>Kebele</i> cooperative leader	Head	5
Areka ARC Researchers		3
Veterinary technicians		3

Fig 4: A summary of farmer attendance at across TAAT project villages in Doyogena

<i>Kebele</i>	Participants		
	Male	Female	Total
Serara	60	39	99
Anicha	72	31	103
Begedamu	58	37	95
Hawora	62	29	91
Murasa	57	37	94
Total	309	173	482

Youth groups and champion farmers from 6 villages in Bonga in collaboration with Bonga Agricultural Research Center researchers, Livestock office agents and the CoP members organised field days to disseminate improved methods of sheep fattening. Six field days were organised between 11-15 December 2018 in Boka, Shuta, Alarigexa, Meduxa, Modiyo and Yamain. Youth groups and champion farmers took the lead in mobilizing farmers from their respective *Kebeles*. They also actively partook in deworming, vaccinating and castrating rams (Fig 12). Several sick sheep were brought to the field day these were treated by veterinary officers in attendance (Fig. 13-14). This created an opportunity for farmers, experts and other stakeholders to come together and discuss about performance of sheep under traditional and improved fattening methods. There was an overwhelming turn-out of District-level and Village-level Administrators and Government experts (Table 5) who attended all field days. 779 farmers (502 male, 277 female) attended. Attendance of sheep farmers per village is shown in Table 6. 2414 rams across the 5 *Kebeles* were dewormed and vaccinated. The field days presented opportunity for local leaders to call upon youth to undertake market-oriented sheep fattening. They emphasized the importance of collective action. ICARDA received several requests from youth (both male and female) on the possibility of supporting additional youth groups through backstopping.



Fig. 10: Youth group members and champions during the open field days at Serera, Doyogena



Fig. 11: Female youth group member assists in vaccination of rams during the field day at Hawora, Doyogena.



Fig. 12: Ram vaccination during field day in Modiyo, Bonga.

Table 5: Summary of open day participants across villages in Bonga

Institution Participants	Position	Total No. of participants
Each district cooperative office and sector coordinator	Head	2
Each district Animal and Fishery office head	Head	3
Each district youth and sport office head	Head	3
Each district job creation sector	Head	3
Data collectors/project enumerators	Data collector	14
Each <i>Kebele</i> leader	Head	7
Each <i>Kebele</i> (CBBP) cooperative leader	Head	4
Bonga ARC Researchers		3
Veterinary technicians		3
Community of Practice members		6
Youth members		175
Champion Farmers		14
Sheep farmers		779

Table 6: A summary of farmer attendance at across TAAT project villages in Bonga

<i>Kebele</i>	Participant farmers		
	Male	Female	Total
Boka	95	44	139
Shuta	88	48	136
Alarigexa	68	48	116
Meduxa	86	35	121
Modiyo	70	47	117
Yama	95	55	150
Total	502	277	779

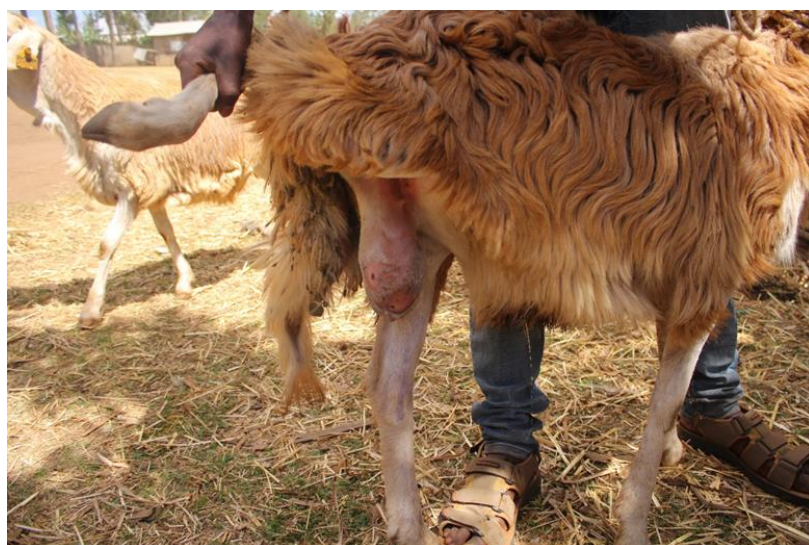


Fig. 13: Sick and infected animals during the field day at Yama *Kebele*, Bonga



Fig. 14: Free Deworming Service by youth group members at Meduxa Kebele field day in Bonga

Key Deliverable Deviation

Three deliverables were not undertaken.

- Youth groups still need additional training, particularly in entrepreneurship. According to the entrepreneurship trainers, the youth groups require more training and mentorship to turn around their attitudes and mindsets towards a business-orientation. Majority are still at a mental stage whereby, they may squander their first earnings without consideration for re-investments. Therefore, stocking of youth groups with feed supplements and mobilization of smallholder farms to register as affiliate members of the youth groups needs an intervention at a later date when the youth groups are more mature in business.
- Youth groups preferred to target the Easter market to sell their sheep so as to benefit from further training and mentorship from the National Agricultural Research Centers and the Cooperative, gender and Enterprise offices. Therefore, collective action of ram sales was not undertaken in this project.

Sustainability

- Strengthening of Community of Practice teams
- Networking of youth groups within districts.
- Development of training manuals for Entrepreneurial Skills Development in local languages to facilitate trainings by local resources to reach many more persons.
- Youth group need to start saving with financial institutions, so as to obtain financial services.

Scalability

- Vouch for recognition of the youth groups by Cooperative Offices at District level, so that they get formal registration recognized by Finance institutions. This would attract more members.

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