



Scaling up Improved Sheep Fattening Practices and Technologies in Ethiopia

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

TAAT Progress Report
August 2018

General Progress

In August, project activities began with two major activities; Partner mobilization and Stakeholder sensitization and mobilization.

Partner mobilization

On July 2-3, 2018, 5 representatives of major ICARDA partners were invited to ICARDA Offices to the ILRI campus, Addis Ababa. Representatives came from SNNPR Agricultural Research Institute (SARI), that hosts Bonga Agricultural Research Centre (ARC) and Areka ARC and representatives from Amhara Agricultural Research Institute (ARARI) that hosts Debre Birhan ARC. ARARI, SARI and OARI (Oromia Agricultural Research Institute) have over the past 5 years worked with ICARDA in sheep fattening projects in the Ethiopian Highlands. Among the representatives were Livestock Directors of SARI and ARARI, the National Sheep Research Program Coordinator and ARC National Researchers. During this initial Phase of the project, only SARI and ARARI will be engaged. OARI will join in, in future scaling out phases. The main aim of the workshop was to discuss the proposed vision and activity areas of the TAAT project and develop a preliminary framework for scaling-up improved sheep fattening technologies in Ethiopia. More specifically the meeting discussed the following:

- Developing the scaling-up plan;
- Establishing pre-conditions for scaling-out;
- How to manage the scaling-up process and evaluated the critical questions below.

Discussions were centered on detailed aspects as guided by the [Planning Workshop Introductory Presentation](#).

Workshop participants particularly appreciated the focus of the project on income generation and job creation opportunity for youth which has been one of the major converging issues by the government.

Workshop outputs included the following:

- The term “youth” was clarified. The Ethiopian youth policy (2004), defines youth as those aged between 15 and 29 years old. However, it was agreed that the project extends the age limit to 35 years old.
- Target at least 30% of young females in each youth group.
- Active involvement of the Community-Based Breeding Programme (CBBP) by consulting them on the choice of champion farmers, existing youth groups and involving them as overseers of youth group activities.
- There are few existing youth groups in target areas, therefore, there would be need to identify youth willing to form new youth groups.

- Startup would be a challenge for new youth groups, thus provision of start-up capital would be necessary. After a lengthy discussion, it was agreed that each youth would receive one ram as start-up and contribute one of his/her own such that each youth started off with two rams to fatten. This would be one of the criteria for youth group membership.

Action points from the meeting included:

- Mobilization of CBBP support and setting up of a sub-committee within CBBP to oversee operations and activities of sheep fattening youth cooperatives in their jurisdictions.
- Reach out to local stakeholders by conducting individualized and multi-stakeholder meetings in Bonga, Doyogena and Menz as a very first step to build trust and partnerships amongst diverse stakeholders and to attain agreements and buy-in to a common approach and report back to ICARDA.

The [Scaling Framework](#) for the project was updated during this planning workshop.

During the months of July and August, representatives from the Regional National Research Institutes, SARI and ARARI that are ICARDA's main partners in this project visited and held discussions with various stakeholders who included target site Local Administrators, Government experts from various Government offices that included the Livestock Agency, Cooperative Office, Gender Office, Job Creation Offices and all Community-based Breeding Programme Cooperatives in the target regions. As a result of these visits, two reports from the [ARARI Region Scoping Study](#) and [SARI Region Scoping Study](#) were availed.

Amhara Region Agricultural Research Institute (ARARI) Scoping Report Summary

A team that comprised Mr. Ayele, the National Sheep Research Program Coordinator, and National Researchers, Tesfa Getachew and Asfaw Bisrat visited the Menz region of Mehal-Meda and Mollalle, the target areas. In summary:

- CBBP leaders, Local Administrators and Government Officers lauded the role of sheep fattening in job creation and income generation for youth.
- Market issues were raised by CBBP leaders at Mollalle as a major challenge.
- Questions of how to engage youth who have no initial capital were raised.
- The need for training on modern fattening techniques was highlighted.
- Some issues on how to fatten (collecting in place vs at their individual house) was raised.
- Calls for multi-stakeholder platforms to facilitate coordination of various institutions in the area working for the similar goal of empowering youth.

SNNPR Agricultural Research Institute (SARI) Scoping Report Summary

Team members from SARI were led by Dr. Bereket Zeleke, SARI Livestock Research Director; D.r Deribe Gemiyu, Director of Areka ARC and Addisu Jimma, Livestock Research Coordinator at Areka ARC. Major points raised across the meetings included:

- Doyogena woreda has high potential for sheep fattening and the farmers have long time experience to do so. The plan was lauded as having potential to mitigate youth migration to urban areas.
- A start-up package for youth was recommended.
- Government showed support in registering youth groups who would organize themselves for the project.
- The most critical point raised in all forums was the market issue after completing a fattening cycle. Market linkage was mentioned as a driving factor for the success of the planned fattening project.
- Requests were made for forage seeds to counter feed scarcity.
- Finally, CBBP committees took responsibility to arrange or nominate a group of 5 leading teams from each CBBP to identify model farmers from each sub-village (Got) and begin registering interested youth and farmers.

To further discuss action points raised during the stakeholder visits and refine the Scaling and implementation plans of the project, a [Validation workshop](#) was held on 29th August 2018. Fifteen participants (Fig 1) from participating National Research Centres, CBBP representatives, Bureau of Agriculture officials and entrepreneurship specialists converged at the ILRI campus in Addis to further refine the proposed sheep fattening plan that had been drafted. Presentations on the [Overview of Sheep fattening in Ethiopia](#) and [Sheep fattening Youth Cooperatives in Ethiopia](#) based on the MSc thesis by Nahom Ephrem introduced the sessions.

Discussions and assessments (Fig. 2) were made to the proposed project objectives namely:

1. To scale up adoption of improved sheep fattening technology and practices in Ethiopia sustainably through implementation of benchmark sites (sheep fattening youth cooperatives and model champion farmers).
2. To develop and strengthen business and institutional capacity of YCoop & champion farmers.
3. To consolidate and strengthen converging partnerships to facilitate effective dissemination of innovations to smallholder farmers.



Fig.1: Validation workshop on TAAT Sheep Fattening Scaling Project held in Addis Ababa on 29th August 2018



Fig 2: Discussion session during the validation workshop in Addis Ababa on 29 August 2018

All planned activities were assessed for relevance and responsibilities apportioned. Participating CBBPs were identified and profiled. The numbers of youth groups and champion farmers to be engaged and selection criteria were outlined. Technologies and practices of sheep fattening to be included in the project were assessed for relevance and practicability. Capacity building activities, monitoring and reporting were outlined. Reporting templates were revised. The workshop

generated a revised workplan and activity timelines for Menz, Bonga and Doyogena. These were approved by all present.

Action points included:

- Identification, formation, mapping and profiling of youth groups and champion farmers.
- Mobilization of a Community of Practice in each region.
- Recruitment of enumerators for data collection and extension services.

Key Deliverable Deviation

- The Entrepreneurship specialist who shall accompany the project with entrepreneurship training for Training of Trainers, direct training of project beneficiaries and collective action recommended youth group membership of 10 or less members. Henceforth, youth group membership will be limited to equal or less than 10 persons for new groups.
- Ethiopian Regulation allows registration to cooperatives only if the number of members is 50 and above, therefore with recommended membership of 10-15 persons, the sheep fattening cooperatives shall be henceforth be termed “***Sheep fattening Youth Groups***”.

Plans for Next Reporting Period

Planned activities for September include:

- Identification of existing youth groups, formation of new youth groups and identification of potential champion farmers
- Formation of 5-member sub-committees with the CBBBPs to oversee activities of youth groups and champion farmers
- Mapping and profiling of youth groups, youth group members and champion farmers
- Signing of Memorandum of Understanding between ICARDA and National Agricultural Centers.

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