



INITIATIVE ON
Sustainable Animal
Productivity

Enhancing Capacity in Scaling Community-Based Breeding Programs for Development Partners and Communities in Different Regions of Ethiopia

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International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas
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Cover photo credit: Aynalem Haile delivering training for participants

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About SAPLING

CGIAR's Sustainable Animal Productivity for Livelihoods, Nutrition and Gender inclusion (SAPLING) is working in seven countries focusing on livestock value chains to package and scale out tried-and-tested, as well as new, innovations in livestock health, genetics, feed and market systems. SAPLING aims to demonstrate that improvements in livestock productivity can offer a triple win: generating improved livelihoods and nutritional outcomes; contributing to women's empowerment; and, reducing impacts on climate and the environment. Its seven focus countries are Ethiopia, Kenya, Mali, Nepal, Tanzania, Uganda and Vietnam.

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research partnership for a food-secure future dedicated to transforming food, land, and water systems in a climate crisis. This training session also receive support from the Accelerating Impacts of CGIAR Climate Research for Africa (AICCRA) project, which is supported by a grant from the International Development Association (IDA) of the World Bank.

Background to training

Since 2009, Community-based Breeding Programs (CBBPs) have been successfully implemented in Ethiopia, resulting in significant genetic advancements for the selected traits within the program. This progress can be observed in the following sources:

- <https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.11766/10553>
- <https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.11766/9696>

To facilitate the scaling of Community-Based Breeding Programs (CBBPs) in Ethiopia, four clusters have been established. These clusters include Washera Wollo (WaWo), which focuses on Washera and Wollo sheep breed, Menz Shewa, which focuses on Menz sheep breed, *Bongacho*, which focuses on Bonga sheep breed, and *Debub Maekelawi*, which focuses on small ruminants in Central and South Ethiopia Regional states. The establishment of these clusters serves a broader purpose of supporting the comprehensive expansion of Community-Based Breeding Programs (CBBPs) and integrated feeding, health and market Innovations in their respective areas. The clusters are dedicated to targeting the entire sheep population within their regions and developing a scalable model that can be replicated across the country. Through these efforts, the aim is to enhance the productivity, genetic diversity, and overall resilience of the sheep population in Ethiopia. The clusters will serve as hubs of knowledge and expertise, fostering collaboration among stakeholders and enabling the effective dissemination of best practices and successful breeding strategies. By implementing and refining these scalable models, the goal is to achieve sustainable and impactful improvements in sheep and goat breeding practices throughout the country. Additionally, there is a growing interest from partners working in pastoral areas, with the World Bank's Livestock Livelihood Resilience Project playing a significant role in advancing these initiatives.

To support the scaling efforts in the four clusters and initiate CBBPs in pastoral systems, it is crucial to provide training and raise awareness among partners and communities. In collaboration with various partners, ICARDA (International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas) and national research institutions have organized multiple training programs to enhance the capacity of stakeholders and communities involved in CBBPs.

The training sessions provided an overview of the community-based breeding program, explained the procedures for implementation and scaling, and highlighted the important role that universities can play in initiating and expanding CBBPs. Overall, the training programs serve as a means to transfer knowledge, build capacity, and create awareness among partners and communities involved in CBBPs. By doing so, they contribute to the successful implementation, scaling, and sustainability of these breeding programs in Ethiopia.

The training events took place in different parts of the country including Addis Ababa, Wollo, Doyogena and Debre Berhan in Ethiopia and were attended by development partners from various regions across the country.

Location and modality

The training sessions were conducted physically in different locations across Ethiopia, and PowerPoint slides were used to deliver specific content to different audiences. The training sessions took place in various locations across Ethiopia, including Addis Ababa, Wollo, Doyogena, and Debre Berhan.

For development partners, the PowerPoint slides focused on providing an overview of Community-Based Breeding Programs (CBBPs), explaining the implementation procedures, showcasing achievements through case examples, discussing scaling approaches and procedures, exploring scaling potentials, and highlighting the role of universities in the implementation and scaling of CBBPs. Following the presentations, participants engaged in discussions, asked questions, and shared their plans and commitments towards the implementation of CBBPs.

Training sessions targeting communities primarily focused on the practical aspects of CBBP implementation. The PowerPoint slides offered valuable guidance on various aspects of the implementation process, encompassing key areas such as the selection and utilization of breeding sires, feeding strategies and health practices. These slides served as a comprehensive resource, equipping participants with essential information and practical recommendations to effectively carry out the community-based breeding programs. The training also emphasized the importance of organizing communities into breeder or producer cooperatives to ensure the sustainability of the breeding program. Furthermore, participants were informed about establishing market links between breeders and producer cooperatives, as well as between cooperatives and consumers, for both breeding and slaughter animals.

In addition, specific training programs were conducted for enumerators and development agents with a focus on ensuring proper data collection and recording within the breeding program. Enumerators and development agents received training on the importance of accurate data collection, data variables to be recorded, and the methods for data collection in the context of the breeding program. The training emphasized the significance of maintaining data quality, consistency, and completeness.

Dates

- On November 16, 2023, training was conducted for development partners from various pastoral areas in Ethiopia.
- On November 30, 2023, training took place for development partners involved in the Menz-Shewa scaling initiative.
- On December 15, 2023, training and awareness creation sessions were held in Wolaita Sodo and Doyogena, involving partners, development agents, and enumerators.
- Training sessions were conducted in Debre Berhan on November 9th, 2023, and in Gimba on December 21st, 2023. These training sessions targeted farmers, enumerators, and development agents, providing them with valuable knowledge and skills related to the community-based breeding programs.

Who conducted the training

The training was organized by SAPLING small ruminant ICARDA Ethiopia team and National partners from research centers and universities. Aynalem Haile, Tesfaye Getachew and Berhanu Belay from the ICARDA Ethiopia team took the responsibility of organizing and delivering the training sessions.

They covered various topics including an overview of Community-Based Breeding Programs (CBBPs), implementation steps, achievements, and scaling approaches for CBBPs. Moreover, they emphasized the involvement of universities and discussed their crucial role in the implementation and scaling of CBBPs. In addition, research and extension partners from Debre Berhan and Areka; experts from Dessie Zuria livestock office and researchers from Mekdela Amba and Wollo Universities provided training for development agents and enumerators in their respective sites.

Objectives of the training

The objectives of the training were:

- **Enhancing Partner Capacity:** The training programs aimed at building the knowledge and skills of the partner organizations involved in Community-Based Breeding Programs (CBBPs).
- **Empowering Communities:** The training programs also targeted local communities participating in CBBPs. By providing them with the necessary knowledge and skills, the aim is to empower these communities to actively engage in the breeding programs. The training encompassed a comprehensive understanding of several key aspects, such as the principles of selective breeding, use and management of selected breeding sires, the utilization of feeding strategies, improved animal health practices, efficient market linkages, and effective animal management practices. Participants were also made aware of the multitude of benefits associated with participating in Community-Based Breeding Programs (CBBPs).
- **Facilitating Scaling in Clusters:** As mentioned earlier, four clusters have been established to facilitate the scaling of CBBPs in Ethiopia. The training programs play a crucial role in supporting these clusters by providing technical guidance, sharing best practices, and ensuring that the necessary expertise is available at the cluster level. This enables the clusters to effectively implement and manage CBBPs within their respective regions.
- **Initiating CBBPs in Pastoral Systems:** In addition to the clusters, there is a growing interest in implementing CBBPs in pastoral areas. The training programs aim to equip partners and communities in these areas with the knowledge and skills required to initiate and manage CBBPs specifically tailored to the unique challenges and opportunities present in pastoral systems.

Training agenda

Time	Activity/ Topic	Lead person
16th November 2023, Hiruy Hall, Ethiopian Agricultural Research Institute, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Traing for development partners in pastoral areas, organized in collaboration with the Lowland Livelihood Resilience Project (LLRP)		
08:30 – 09:00	Registration of participants	LLRP
09:00-09:20	Opening speech	HE Fekru Regassa, State Minister, MOA
09:20-10:30	LLRP's Experiences in Implementing Community-Based Breeding Programs for Sheep and Goats in Pastoral Areas"	Wondmagegn/LLRP and Asmelash Berhe/MOA
10:30– 10:20	Tea & coffee break	
10:20-12:30	Community-based sheep and goat breeding programs: essentials and implementation procedures	Tesfaye Getachew/ICARDA
12:30 – 01:30	Lunch break	LLRP
01:30-02:30	Achievement and scaling approach for Community-based breeding program	LLRP
02:30-03:30	Universities are better positioned to implement Community Based Breeding Program: Lessons from Ethiopian Universities	LLRP
03:30– 04:00	Tea & coffee break	LLRP
04:00-05:00	Discussion and way forward	ICARDA and LLRP
30th November 2023, ILRI Campus, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia Training for development partners in Menz-Shewa scaling initiative.		
09:00 – 11:00	Community-based sheep and goat breeding programs: essentials and implementation procedures	Tesfaye Getachew/ICARDA
11:00– 11:15	Tea & coffee break	
11:15 – 12:30	Achievement and scaling approach for Community-based breeding program	Aynalem Haile/ICARDA
15th December 2023, Wolayta Sodo and Doyogena, Ethiopia Training and awareness creation for partners, development agents and enumerators in Debub Mehal initiative (MDI)		
	Awareness creation and planning of the scaling initiative in the cluster	Aynalem Haile, Berhanu Belay/ICARDA
	Training for Development agents, Enumerators, farmers	Dr Shewangizaw and Kebede H/Giorgis/Areka Research Center
21st December 2023, Gimba, Wollo, Ethiopia Training and awareness creation development agents and enumerators in Washera Wollo (WaWo) cluster		
	Awareness creation for development agent and community group leaders	Zemedkun Diffie/Mekdela Amba University; Hassen /Desie Zuria LFSDP coordinator
	Training for enumerator and farmers towards implementation of the breeding program and formation of cooperatives	Shanbel Besufekad/Debre Berhan Research; Zemedkun Diffie/Mekdela Amba University; Hassen /Desie Zuria LFSDP coordinator

Training participants

The World Bank Lowland Livelihood Resilience Project (LLRP) and the Ministry of Agriculture jointly identified participants for the training program targeted at development partners in pastoral areas. During the initial phase of LLRP (2019 to 2023), several community-based breeding programs were implemented. However, it is essential to evaluate their progress, expand their reach, and ensure the fulfillment of the fundamental elements of Community-Based Breeding Programs (CBBPs). The purpose of this training was thus to facilitate the implementation and scaling of CBBPs during the second phase of LLRP. The training participants were selected from pastoral regions where they had actively participated in the community-based breeding programs. The training was attended by 41 participants.

The identification of participants for the training program to the development partners of the Menz-Shewa scaling initiative was carried out by the Sustainable Livestock System team of the CGIAR initiative. The team organized a week-long stakeholder engagement and training event, with a specific focus on various extension approaches for adopting scaling and implementing different innovations. As part of this comprehensive training, the ICARDA team provided training on the community-based breeding approach to our collaborative stakeholders. A total of 31 participants attended this training program, benefiting from the knowledge and insights shared during the event.

The ICARDA and Areka Research Center team took responsibility for identifying participants for the training and awareness creation program in Wolaita Sodo. The partners involved in the program included Areka and Worabie Research Centers, Wolaita Sodo, Wachemo, Werabie, and Wolkite Universities, the DG of the Ethiopian Livestock Development Institute, the Livestock Director of the Southern Agricultural Research Institute, as well as livestock extension heads and experts from districts in Kembata Tembaro, Hadiya, Wolaita, Guraghe, and Silte. A total of 25 individuals attended the training session, which aimed to enhance their knowledge and skills. Furthermore, a group of 300 farmers who were actively implementing the breeding program in the production unit received specialized training. The training focused on the community-based breeding program with a particular emphasis on the utilization and management of improved breeding rams. Additionally, five development agents and three extension experts participated in the training, equipping them with the necessary knowledge and skills to effectively support and guide the farmers in implementing the breeding program.

In Debre Berhan and Gimba, the participants for the training program targeting farmers, enumerators, and development agents were selected by Debre Berhan Research Center, Dessie Zoria district livestock office. The selection was based on their active involvement in the ongoing scaling of the community-based breeding program in Menz Shewa and WaWo clusters. A total of over 150 farmers, 42 development partners and development agents, and extension experts attended the training, which aimed to provide them with valuable insights and practical information.

Overall, a total of 589 individuals representing a diverse range of stakeholders, including development partners, researchers, experts, and farmers, participated in the training programs to enhance their knowledge and skills in community-based breeding programs and related initiatives.

Comprehensive training materials in the form of PowerPoint presentations were distributed to all participants.

Comments and Next steps

The team of experts has reached a consensus to increase their commitment to the implementation and scaling of the breeding program. Additionally, they have established Telegram groups to facilitate the sharing of information among the various groups involved in the program.

Overall, the knowledge and skills acquired by the diverse group of 589 participants, including development partners, researchers, experts, and farmers, will be applied in their respective areas of work and will contribute to the success and expansion of community-based breeding programs and related initiatives. The comprehensive training materials, in the form of PowerPoint presentations, provided to all participants will serve as valuable references for their future activities. Efforts will be made to expand the reach and ensure the fulfillment of fundamental elements in Community-Based Breeding Programs (CBBPs). The progress of the community-based breeding programs and scaling initiatives will be evaluated regularly.

Photos



HE Dr. Fekru Regassa, State Minister, delivers opening remarks, while Mr. Wondmagegn, LLRP Head, provides a progress briefing and imparts direction for the LLRP's training participants.



Development partners from pastoral areas participating in the training organized by LLRP.



Tesfaye Getachew from ICARDA delivering training on the overview and implementation steps of the community-based breeding program for the Menz-Shewa scaling partners.



Aynalem Haile from ICARDA delivering training on the achievements and scaling framework of the community-based breeding program for the Menz-Shewa scaling partners.



Training participants from the Menz-Shewa scaling cluster enhancing their knowledge and skills.



Farmer community leaders In Gimba/Wollo participating in a field training focusing on the use and management of rams.



Farmers in Gimba/Wollo participating in a field training focusing on the use and management of rams.



Development partners In Menz Shewa scaling cluster participating in training.