



Report of an Africa RISING Ethiopia value chain writeshop, Addis Ababa, 23-25 April 2014

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Produced by International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT),
International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI)
International Potato Center (CIP)

Published by International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI)
April 29 2014
www.africa-rising.net



The Africa Research In Sustainable Intensification for the Next Generation (Africa RISING) program comprises three research-for-development projects supported by the United States Agency for International Development as part of the U.S. government's Feed the Future initiative.

Through action research and development partnerships, Africa RISING will create opportunities for smallholder farm households to move out of hunger and poverty through sustainably intensified farming systems that improve food, nutrition, and income security, particularly for women and children, and conserve or enhance the natural resource base.

The three regional projects are led by the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (in West Africa and East and Southern Africa) and the International Livestock Research Institute (in the Ethiopian Highlands). The International Food Policy Research Institute leads the program's monitoring, evaluation and impact assessment. <http://africa-rising.net/>



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This document was made possible with support from the American people delivered through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) as part of the US Government's Feed the Future Initiative. The contents are the responsibility of the producing organization and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of USAID or the U.S. Government.

Introduction

The workshop took place between 23-25th April at the ILRI campus. The participants included the CGIAR research teams (CIAT, ILRI, CIP), the Africa RISING research team (Kindu Mekonnen, and the site coordinators) as well the regional research and local universities partners from the 4 sites. Representatives of the newly established innovation platforms also participated in the workshop to validate some of the results and contribute to inclusion of value chain work in the platforms. In total, over 20 participants took part in the write shop.

The objectives of the workshop were as follows:

- 1) Sharing market value chain results
- 2) Writing up the value chain report for the Africa RISING project
- 3) Discussion and documentation of the best bet interventions for the project
- 4) Developing protocols for the value chains and market work for the project



Participants of the writeshop(photo credit:ILRI\Apollo Habtamu)

Sharing survey results

Efforts on the first day of the workshop focused on cleaning the data and agreeing on some operational terms especially on the classification of the different business types and business ownership forms in the study areas. There was a realization that similar business types and forms were defined differently in the study areas. After ensuring that the classification was uniform, the teams began by describing the value chains and businesses in each site. The rest of the survey results were evaluated and final cleaning of the data conducted, with the updated data being sent to the regional teams to complete any remaining inputs by end of 2nd May and return the data for final generation of the result tables. The subsequent write up by the site authors is expected to be completed by 14th May after which the CGIAR editorial team will

continue to complete the reports by end of May 2014. Meanwhile, write up of the introduction and methodology chapters by the CGIAR team is almost completed while the results and discussions will constitute the remaining 3 chapters.

The structure of the value chain report is such that there will be 4 site based reports, each of them spearheaded by a team of site based authors, with the secretariat and the CGIAR centers providing technical and editorial support. The CGIAR team will prepare the summarized and consolidated value chain report. This is to ensure that there is full participation by the partners and site teams.

Discussions further centered on action research on the potential interventions based on the observations and results from the value chains work. Discussions on the interventions focused on both the priority livestock and crops, which could be implemented within the resources available in the project but also with additional resources from other initiatives in the intervention areas. Among the proposed interventions are the following:

Action research and interventions based on value chain work

Livestock enterprises interventions for action research

- 1) Promoting dairy cafe value chains as a new business model. The dairy cafes focus mostly on serving milk products to consumers, mostly in the urban areas. The dairy cafes could be expanded/increased and linked to other services such as feed supply, AI services and intervention at the production level in the intervention sites. This can be replicated with dairy cafes in 3 of the project sites, and the lessons learned and the impact of these interventions on the performance of the value chain can be documented through a carefully designed action research program.
- 2) Promoting large and small ruminants fattening for specialized markets. Currently, there is no focused market for fattened large animals, the current animals being mostly residual after providing work on the farms or after their productive lives. This may not meet the quality requirements of certain markets or consumers. Also, there is little or no specialized fattening of small ruminants. Possibilities for targeting fattened younger bulls/oxen, which are not used for ploughing and young male small ruminants, can be explored with domestic/export traders. Similar as for the specific dairy value chain, this specialized value chain development should be combined with production and input/service interventions and be documented through an action research program.
- 3) Improved mass insemination with the help of hormones as planned by AGP could be supported with technical assistance, in order to improve performance. This in turn can be documented through action research.

- 4) Chopping and feed mixing at community level. To improve uptake and quality of home grown fodder and purchased industrial by-products – (mobile) chopping/feed mixing services may be developed (by youth groups).
- 5) Introduction of improved churners for processing of sour milk by individual women or women groups to reduce labour requirements per unit of product as well as to improve extraction efficiency. Intervention should be combined with other dairy processing technologies to reduce health risks from zoonotic diseases.

Crop based interventions

- 1) Action research to promote seed businesses to supply potato seeds in each of the 4 sites. One of the challenges facing potato as an upcoming commodity enterprise is lack of consistent supply of planting materials. The current system relies heavily on the public sector, however, a focus on seed supply as a business enterprise would link better the public sector (foundation seed) with the production of ware potato. Agribusinesses in the potato sub-sector are still limited, so efforts would focus on identifying appropriate farmer institutions and enterprises to take on this business. Action research on seeds will also be promoted for wheat in Tigray, Amahara and Lemo and also be evaluated for faba beans.
- 2) Building linkages for ware potatoes by improving the capacity of existing agribusinesses (cooperatives and other farmer based institutions and groups) to better link to end markets for ware potatoes, especially to link to other big actors and traders for potatoes. This will target to address the existing problems arising out of seasonality and inappropriate varieties to supply upcoming potato businesses such as chips making and other markets. A focus on the complete value chain will ensure that interventions at the farm level such as water harvesting during the rainy season and using it for irrigation in the dry season support the market interventions. More important is that as farmers increase their production, they have defined markets for their ware potato.
- 3) To support the commodities above, promoting commercializable extension services by investing in row planting equipment is another intervention. The realization that row planting for wheat suffers due to labor intensive demands may be alleviated by supporting entrepreneurs to invest in row planting equipment and services (ox drawn planters or walking planters).

Ways forward

Implementation details on these interventions will be represented in protocols, which will be prioritized for implementation. Generation of protocols will be initiated this week. The approved protocols will be shared with the value chain team that participated in the write shop as they will participate in their implementation.

List of Participants in the Value Chain Write Workshop

Africa RISING Ethiopia, Addis Ababa,

23rd to 25th April 2014

Name of Participants

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