



Photo report on landscape/watershed management cross-learning visit organized by the Africa RISING project of the Ethiopian highlands

20-24 April 2015
Ethiopia



Introduction

The Africa RISING project in Ethiopia organized a cross-learning visit program for team members from west, southern and east Africa between 20-24 April 2015. Eleven researchers from IITA-led Africa RISING projects, and resource persons from ILRI, CIAT, IWMI, Mekelle University and local partners participated. The visit shared experiences from the Basona Worena and Lemo model watershed sites.

Why does Africa RISING project in Ethiopia work in model watersheds?

- 1) Local extension offices requested that the project support capacity building (technical and training) and technology demonstration.
- 2) Working in watersheds is an opportunity to scale farm-level innovations, management practices and approaches.
- 3) The project has discovered a number of researchable issues that it can address and enable farmers to realize the benefits of watershed management initiatives.
- 4) Community mobilization and local administration commitment and investment in soil and water conservation is an opportunity for cost sharing and sustainability.



Participants meet up on day one (Photo: ILRI/Apollo Habtamu)



Introductions at Basona Worena site



Runoff assessment plots at the model watershed in Basona Worena



Partial view of trench structures for soil and water conservation and water retention in Basona Worena



Percolation pits for water storage and irrigation use in Basona Worena



Soil and water conservation and water harvesting structures in Basona Worena



Gabions and gully shaping at the model watershed in Basona Worena



Landless youth planted tree Lucerne on abandoned land to fatten sheep and keep bees;
income generation activities in Basona Worena



Soil and water conservation structures at the Lemo model watershed site



Dry season faba bean and forage intercropping in Lemo



Job Maguta Kihara (CIAT) examines farmers' innovation on dripping water to Avocado trees



Discussing how the landscape initiative in Lemo encouraged farmers to retain some crop residues for soil health and crop production improvement



A model farmer in Lemo uses a shallow well with a pulley system to irrigate vegetables and avocado trees



Experience sharing from Northern Ethiopia encouraged farmers in Lemo to dig more than 20 wells for small-scale irrigation



Visitors encourage a model woman farmer on water management, growing fruit trees and other project interventions in Lemo



Early fruit-bearing and dwarf improved avocado tree introduced by Africa RISING in Lemo looks healthy because of farmers' innovation on watering and management systems



A woman farmer in Upper Gana kebele (Lemo) stored potato tubers in a DLS after selling over 23,000 ETB (USD 1150)



Visiting one of 8 weather stations in Upper Gana kebele (Lemo)



Simret Yemane (ILRI) beside a statue of local *Seleme* dancing “encourages alignment of community development objectives and goals” in Hossana



Africa RISING CGIAR partners in Ethiopia





Local partners- Ethiopia

- **Academic institutions:**
 - Wachemo, Mekelle, Madawolabu, Debre Berhan and Hawassa universities; Maichew Agricultural College
- **Regional research organizations:**
 - Amhara Regional Agricultural Research Institute, Southern Agricultural Research Institute, Tigray Agricultural Research Institute, Oromia Agricultural Research Institute
- **Federal research organizations:**
 - Ethiopian Institute for Agricultural Research, Ethiopian Public Health Institute
- **Offices of Agriculture:**
 - Endamekoni (Tigray), Basona Worena (Amhara), Lemo (SNNRP) and Sinana (Oromia)
- **Private entrepreneurs**
- **NGOs:** GRAD, Hundie, SOS Sahel, Sunarma
- **Agricultural Transformation Agency (ATA)**
- **Innovation laboratories:** ILSSI, IPM IL, Power Africa



Credits

Produced by Africa RISING Project in Ethiopia
Compiled by Kindu Mekonnen (ILRI)

Photos: Kindu Mekonnen

Our appreciation goes to CGIAR team members and local partner organizations including farmers in Africa RISING project sites in Lemo and Basona Worena.



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