



Agricultural Knowledge Centers: IPMS and LIVES Experiences in Promoting Knowledge based Agricultural Development in Ethiopia

Problem Situation

- In Ethiopia, agricultural experts and development agents have limited access to up-to-date information and knowledge.
- They also have limited skills to use ICT-based tools to access information and knowledge.
- Therefore, a well-functioning knowledge management system is vital for market-oriented agricultural development
- Access to new Knowledge and skills through a variety of innovative learning methods is key to develop the capacity of agricultural experts and development agents.

“Oh.. You still have the problem... what should be done?? Hmm..”



“We applied your previous advice, but still our crop is affected by fruit fly, what should we do?”

LIVES / IPMS Interventions

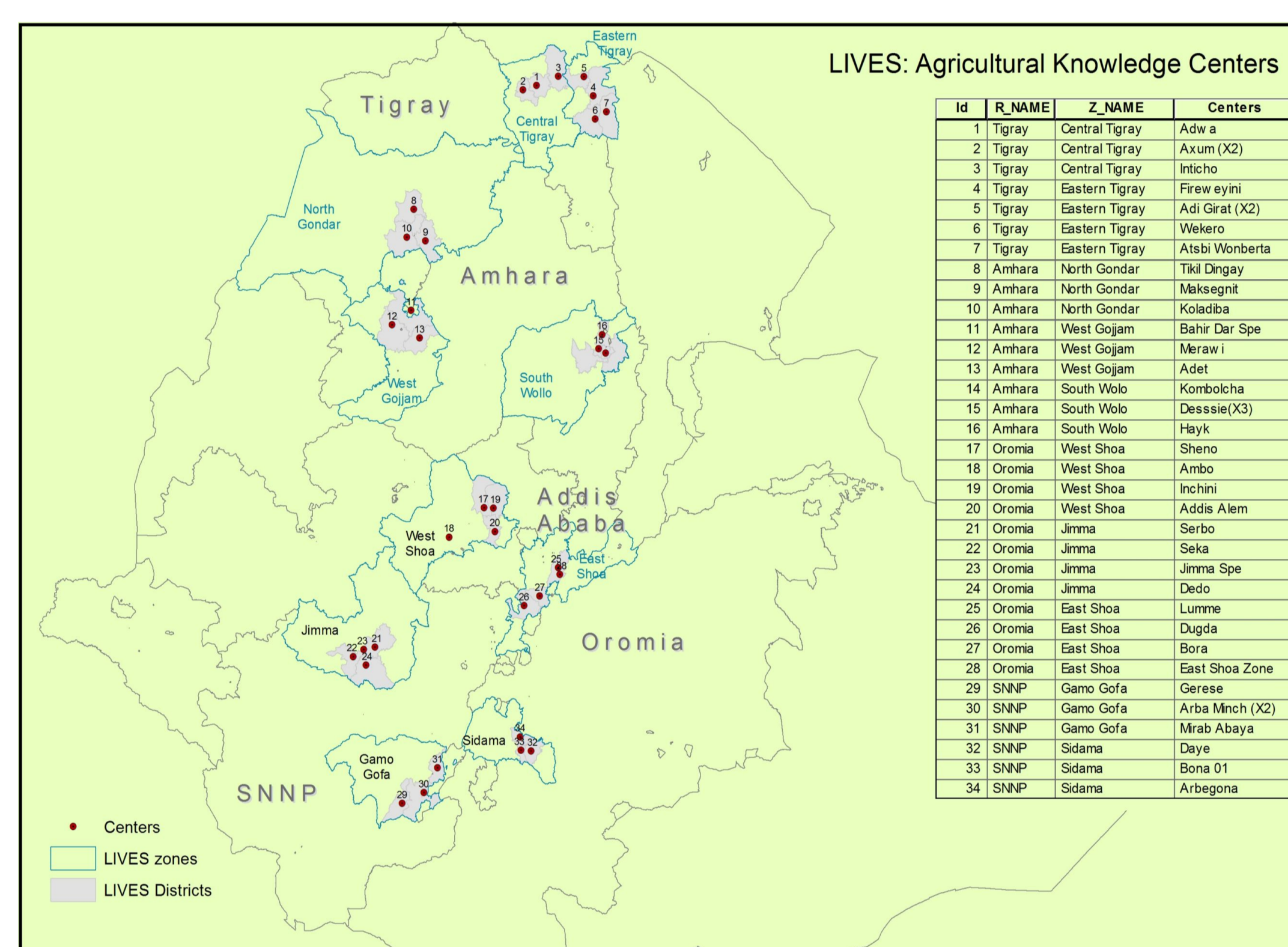
- IPMS intervened to develop knowledge management capacity of agriculture development offices through establishment of *Woreda Knowledge Centres (WKC)*.
- Following the experience of the IPMS project, LIVES project equipped agricultural knowledge centers (AKCs), and developed institutional capacity to enhance and sustain the use of the knowledge centers.
- Zonal and district level agricultural development offices allocated appropriate room and assigned AKC Managers
- LIVES trained and coached AKC managers and focal persons on the use and management of AKCs



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Results

- 38 AKCs equipped with computers, printers, audio-visual equipment, digital cameras, LCD projectors, reference and audiovisual materials, internet connection and basic furniture.
- Enhanced knowledge and skills of users to use ICT tools and access knowledge and information
- Improved self-learning capacity and professionalism of agricultural experts and development agents through access to internet and publications



Trained and coached 38 AKC managers

In 2014/15 AKCs have 1,278 registered users

LIVES distributed more than 800 publications to AKCs

Lessons Learnt

- Awareness creation and popularization of AKCs at all levels is key to increase demand for knowledge and effective use of the knowledge centres.
- Internet connectivity is a key factor to motivate users to regularly visit the knowledge centers.
- Sustainability strategy is key for institutionalization of AKCs:
 - Assignment of full-time AKC managers
 - Management commitment to allocate operational budget
 - Establishment of accountability system to create incentive for effective use of the knowledge centers.
- Continuous flow and availability of knowledge is important to increase relevance and usefulness of knowledge centers.
- Knowledge centers have proved to be effective venues to increase interaction and knowledge sharing among agricultural experts through meetings and discussion circles.

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