



Sustainable Agricultural Intensification Research and Learning in Africa (SAIRLA)

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SAIRLA Second National Learning Alliance Workshop

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The context

- Agricultural production must increase (SDG2).
- While reducing environmental impacts
- Social challenges, such as poverty and inequality are also key (SDG1)
- Concept of SAI has aim of:
 - increasing agricultural productivity
 - maintaining or improving environmental services
- *Complex* challenge: Calls for multi-stakeholder social learning process
 - different perspectives to be discussed
 - scenarios and options jointly assessed
 - more inclusive decision-making
 - strengthening of capacity (capability, motivation, opportunity) to act



What is the National Learning Alliance (NLA) for Sustainable Agricultural Intensification (SAI)?

- Sustainable Agricultural Intensification Research and Learning in Africa (SAIRLA)
 - DFID funded R4D, in 6 countries, 8 projects, 4 projects in Ethiopia
 - Aimed at generating new evidence on SAI and develop decision making tools
- NLAs: Facilitate social learning among national actors on SAI
- Ethiopian NLA:
 - Launched on March 27-28, 2017
 - With six boundary partner groups
 - Developed the vision, mission and outcome challenges of the NLA

What happened since March?

- Fine tuning the vision, mission and outcome challenges
- Social learning, communication and M and E strategies developed
- Diagnosing the policy and decision making environment on SAI
- Participation in an International Learning Alliance



Clear and ambitious social learning strategy

Diverse NLA actors

How do we aspire to move forward?

- Social learning on 4 thematic areas
 - ICT for extension and research on SAI
 - SLM Vs livelihoods trade-offs
 - Livestock Vs environment trade-offs
 - Smallholder farmers risk management
 - [We can add more]
- Our next steps are organized in three learning cycles (LC)
 - Second LC, October 2017-July 2018
 - Identification of new evidences and tools
 - Identification of champions
 - Testing of tools and evidences
 - Third LC, August 2018-July 2019
 - Scaling up tools and evidences
 - Policy influence
 - Forth LC, August 2019-November 2019
 - Institutionalization

How do we plan to do it?

- We create the space and the opportunity for social learning
 - NLA Workshops
 - Thematic learning group meetings
 - Field visits
 - Strategic meetings with decision makers
 - Virtual and social media based communication platforms

The NLA is YOURS

Use it to further the SAI debate and realize collective actions

How is the workshop organized

- Theme of the workshop: Understanding and acting on SAI
- Key questions for the workshop
 - What is Sustainable Agricultural Intensification
 - What are the existing windows of opportunities to promote SAI at different scales
 - What tools and evidences on SAI exist that needs scaling up and scaling out?
- Workshop methodology: Presentations, Q and A sessions, group work and panel discussion

SAIRLA Projects led in Ethiopia



Thank You

*The Sustainable Agricultural Intensification Research and Learning in Africa
(SAIRLA)*

<http://www.sairla.nri.org/news>



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