

Multi-Stakeholder Engagement, Partnerships and Capacity Building

Million Gebreyes, Kindu Mekonnen and Peter Thorne
International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), Ethiopia

Introduction

- Innovation Platforms have been an integral part of Africa RISING project work in the Ethiopian Highlands.
- The multi-stakeholder engagement continued through the second phase in various formats.
- We aim to re-invigorate the engagement through what we call “Multi-Stakeholder Innovation Platforms” (MSIPs).

Method/Approaches

- Interview with CG and site level partners
- Review of reports and documents
- Consultations

Results/Achievements

Partnerships:

- Working with over 60 partners in four regions

Capacity Building:

- In the last two years (2017 and 2018), some 3461 (23% Female) partners benefited from our field days, trainings, visits, meetings, workshops.
- The project managed to attach 7 MSc and 5 PhD) students for postgraduate studies.
- The project produced a total of 80 products in 2017 and 2018. Out of which 13% are peer reviewed journal articles.

Multi-Stakeholders Engagements:

- Training of trainers (ToT) conducted in all the sites on Africa RISING validated technologies.
- Review and Planning Meeting held in all the sites.

Observed Results from Multi-Stakeholder Engagements

- **Goal Alignment:** Africa RISING scaling partners understood its goals and have been committed to work together.
- **Involvement:** Scaling partners committed staff time and some resource to scale Africa RISING validated technologies.
- **Institutional Embeddedness:** Africa RISING works are increasingly entering into mainstream research and extension delivery such as seed units, cooperatives and unions, farmers training centers and annual work programs of government institutions.

Acknowledgement

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Key challenges and lessons

- Difference in annual workflows among partners
- Complexity of some systems, such as seed systems
- High expectations from some scaling partners



Figure 1. Review and Planning Meetings, Lemo and Robe, May 2019.



Figure 2. Word Cloud of Africa RISING Ethiopia Highlands Project Partners.

Table 1. Africa RISING training, field-days and visits in 2017 and 2018.

CapDev 2017				
Regions	Male	Participants	Female participants	Total
Amhara	1755		366	2121
Tigray	1924		1017	2941
Oromia	1831		412	2243
SNNPR	577		76	653
Total	6087		1871	7958
CapDev 2018				
Amhara	594		127	721
Tigray	2161		746	2907
Oromia	1698		498	2196
SNNPR	1282		219	1501
Total	5735		1590	7325
Overall total	11822		3461	15283

Plan for 2019

- Formal launch of MSIPs
- Facilitate Innovation Clusters, Technical Committee and MSIPs meetings.
- Outcome harvesting on “what works and what does not” in MSIPs engagements.