

Sustainable Intensification Innovations Diffusion: Africa RISING Experience

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1. Introduction

Africa RISING has conducted research for development (R4D) activities and facilitated wider scaling of proven crop, livestock and NRM innovations to intensify the crop-livestock systems and improve the livelihood of smallholder farmers in the Ethiopian highlands. Documenting diffusion of scaled innovations is essential to understand drivers of scaling and status of scaled innovations.

2. Objectives

Map the diffusion of Africa RISING scaled crop, livestock and NRM innovations in mixed systems of the Ethiopian highlands.

3. Methods/approaches

The study was conducted in Africa RISING operational areas of Hadiya (SNNPR), Bale (Oromia), North Shewa (Amhara) and South Tigray zones (Tigray). Data was collected using expertise workshop and Key Informant discussion. ArcGIS was used to map the diffused innovations.

5. Conclusion/messages

Most Africa RISING validated innovations are scaled and covered wider districts. Thus, all concerned public and private institutions should be engaged to sustain; and further scaling, marketing and improving the innovations for better economical, social and environmental uses.

6. Acknowledgement

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4. Findings

Innovations diffusion

Africa RISING validated and facilitated scaling of more than 31 crop-livestock-NRM innovations in Amhara, Tigray, Oromia and SNNP regions for the last ten years. Eighty-seven (87) percent the scaled innovations could diffuse widely in different areas.

The most diffused innovations:

- Improved enset, avocado and potato - Hadiya.
- Improved bread wheat, oat/vetch, feeding trough - North Shewa.
- Bread wheat and feeding trough - South Tigray.
- Bread wheat, rope and washer, and multipurpose 2-wheel tractor (only with pump modality) - Oromia region.
- Driving factors for scaling: Crops- better yield, disease resistance, adaptation to wider agroecology and familiarity to the varieties; forages- better biomass, nutrition and palatability; and NRM- easy to use and multifunctionality.

Innovation diffusion maps

