

Improved Market-oriented Sheep Fattening for Youth & Women's groups in Ethiopia

Training Report

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Training on Improved Husbandry and Management in Sheep Fattening in Abamote and Gudoberet, Basona Worena District: *Photo Credit: Ermias Solomon.*

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report details a three-day training workshop that took place on December 22-24, 2022, in North Shewa Basona Worena, as part of the One CGIAR Initiative on Sustainable Intensification in Mixed Farming Systems (SI-MFS) efforts to provide youth and women sheep fattening groups with enhanced technical capacity for entrepreneurship, business, and collective action in sheep fattening.

The training approach was interactive with didactic sessions using overhead presentations, group discussions and case studies to enhance participants' knowledge and skills about entrepreneurial opportunities in sheep fattening. Participants included youth and women who were selected for the sheep fattening activities. Community of Practice (CoP) members were available during all sessions and facilitated and delivered the training. The main outputs of the training workshop were the improvement of the sheep selection criteria for sheep, husbandry and sheep-fattening as a business.

General Overview

The three-day training on market-orientation for youth and women group in sheep fattening was titled “Improved husbandry and management in sheep fattening”. The aim was to build successful entrepreneurship skills and business planning. The training took place in Basona Worena district in Gudoberet, Abamote and Mehal Amba from December 22 - 24, 2022. A total of 150 participants from three kebeles participated in the training.

The purpose of this training was to train participants on the concept of improved husbandry and management, to create awareness in selecting sheep for fattening, housing, health management, feeds and feeding. The training covered a variety of topics including benefits of job creation through sheep fattening, essential skills for sheep selection, quarantine, deworming, vaccination, castration, feed resources selection, ration formulation and feed management.

The training style was interactive, as the trainers made sure that knowledge was not only imparted but correctly perceived, understood, and applied by the participants. To ensure this, the trainers engaged participants in discussions in an open forum for feedback, questions and suggestions. These discussions and interactive sessions were supported by materials such as pre and post-tests, video presentations and handouts on improved husbandry and management in sheep fattening.

Training Objectives

The objectives of this three-day training were as follows.

- To enhance the understanding of the selection criteria of fattening sheep
- Create awareness of husbandry and health management
- Increase knowledge of feed and feeding management
- To strengthen the understanding and skills of sheep fattening as a business

Participants

The 150 training participants (75 men and 75 women) were from the three kebeles of Basona Worena district.



Menbere Hailemariam (above) and member of Abamote Women Sheep Fattening Group. *Photo credit: Ermias Solomon.*

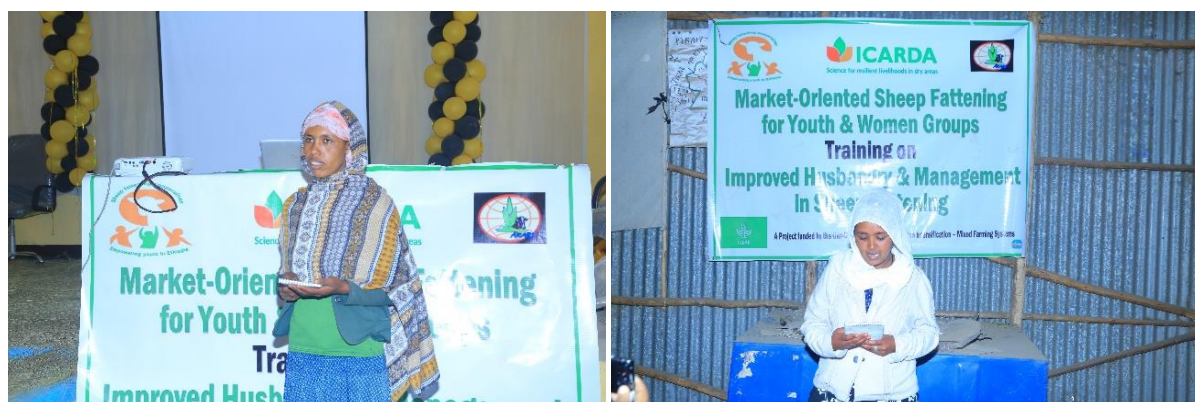
Course Structure

The training manual provided the theoretical and conceptual basis for understanding sheep selection for sheep fattening, health, and feed management through participatory learning and effective facilitation. The course consisted of five different sub-chapters that focused on the practical skills that youth and women need to set up a successful sheep fattening enterprise. The course was designed according to the participatory learning approach.

Course Implementation Approach

The training course included video training methodologies which enable effective facilitation and participation and experiential learning which plays the main role in sustainable knowledge and skills acquisition.

The participatory learning techniques included discussions, games, brainstorming, making puzzles, and group work, enabling the youth and women to share, analyze, and expand their knowledge.



Zenebu Aregahegn and Meseret Abebe from Gudoberet SF Women's Group. *Photo Credit: Ermias Solomon.*

Resource Persons' Profile

The team that delivered training sessions comprised of two experts from the Job Creation and Training Office, of Basona Worena District. Below are brief descriptions of the trainers and the sessions they conducted.

No.	Name	Designation	Session title
1	Afewerk Abera	Basona Worena District Livestock Office Head	Welcome Address and setting the stage
2.	Etenesh Fikre	Livestock Office	Feed and feeding management
3.	Tsegu wolde	Livestock Office	Husbandry and health management



Trainer, Etenesh Fikre from Basona Livestock Office. *Photo credit: Ermias Solomon*

Proceedings

Session I. Introduction to Workshop and Objectives

The introduction and objectives of the workshop were explained by Muluken Zeleke and Etenesh Fikire from ICARDA and Basona Worena Livestock Office respectively.



Muluken Zeleke-ICARDA. *Photo credit: Ermias Solomon.*

Session II. Basic concept and benefit of selecting sheep for fattening

Youth and women sheep fattening members should always find ways to improve and expand the sheep fattening business.

Selection criteria

- Age
- Health status
- Body condition
- Breed
- Color

Session III. Management in sheep fattening

- Husbandry practice
- Quarantine
- Deworming and vaccination
- Disease management
- Castration
- Housing system

Session V. Feed and Nutrition for fattening sheep

- Nutritional requirement of fattening sheep
- Feed stuffs
- Forage development
- Ration Formulation

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Distribution of rams as part of the project's "Start-up Package" to 150 members of Sheep fattening youth groups in Abamote, Gudoberet and Mehal Amba.

Photo credit: Muluken Zeleke

Training Evaluation

Prior to the start of the training, the Community of Practice team conducted a pre-test to assess knowledge and skill status of the participants. The team also conducted a post-test at the end of the session to evaluate training results. These tests were in the form of questionnaires that were filled out by participants.

a) Pre-Training Assessment of the Participants

In the pre-test, three participants scored 10, four participants scored 9, nine participants scored 8, ten participants scored 7, eleven participants scored 6 and four participants scored 5 out of 10 marks. The rest scored below 5. The pre-test indicated that only 5% of participants have basic knowledge of improved sheep fattening husbandry. The result showed that 85 % of the

participants had very little idea on the role of selection criteria, feed and health management in sheep-fattening husbandry.

b) Post-Training Assessment of the Participants

In the post-test, 42 participants scored 10, 13 participants scored 9, 2 participants scored 8, one participant scored 7 marks and one participant scored 6 marks out of 10 marks. The rest scored below 5. When asked about the important things they had learned, participants stressed that the exposure to different scenarios and life-sharing events delivered through the video shows was new and very interesting to them. Video-mediated training proved to be a successful mode of training.

Participants' Feedback

Participants requested for practical training on business plan development and peer-to-peer visits with youth groups from other regions



Youth group members, Zenebe Mekonen (Abamote) and Ayele Tibebe (GudoBeret). Photo credit Ermias Solomon

Lessons Learnt and Best Practices

The use of various forms of training methods, which included video-mediated discussions, and practical sessions ensured interactive sessions with active participation by participants.

Conclusion and Recommendations

The Basona District Office is putting a lot of effort to improve livelihood of women and youth. Their active participation in the trainings was an opportunity for different disciplines within the Office to converge and assess how to best disseminate information in an integrated way. Accordingly, close follow-up and improvement of the market-oriented sheep fattening business strategy based on the fluctuations of the local economy is recommended in order to sustain the sheep fattening business in the changing economy and climate.

ANNEX: Training evaluation

	Participatory Planning					
#	Training evaluation	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
1	Overall training was good					
2	Exercises/Activities are fruitful					
3	Presentation easy to understand					
4	Participant handbook understandable					
5	Time for session is appropriate					
6	All topics covered					
7	Easy language in Handbook					
8	Break time was given as per agenda					

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