



# Improving Productivity & Market Success of Ethiopian Farmers

**Progress Report**  
**Period: April 2005 – September 2005**



Canadian International  
Development Agency

Agence canadienne de  
développement international

**ILRI**  
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Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia  
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT

## List of Abbreviations

ACE	Auditor General Capacity Enhancement
AHI	African Highland Initiative
ATVET	Agricultural Technical Vocational Education and Training College
CA	Contribution Arrangement
CAD	Canadian Dollar
CBAS	Capacity Building Agricultural Sector
CBI	Centre for the Promotion of Imports from Developing Countries
CBO	Community-Based Organizations
CEAA	Canadian Environment Assessment Act
CGIAR	Consultative Groups on International Agricultural Research
CIAT	Centro Internacional de Agricultura Tropical
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
CIMMYT	International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre
CIP	International Potato Centre (Peru)
DA	Development Agent
DDG	Deputy Director General
DG	Director General
DVM	Doctor of Veterinary medicine
EARO	Ethiopian Agricultural Research Organization
ECCO	Ethiopia-CanAda'a Cooperation Office
EDRI	Ethiopian Development and Research Institute
EEPA	Ethiopian Export Promotion Agency
ESSP	Ethiopian Strategy Support Program
FA	Field Assistant
FTCs	Farmer Training Centres
GoE	Government of Ethiopia
HIV	Human Immune-Deficiency Virus
IARC	International Agricultural Research Center (not limited to CGIAR)
ICIPE	International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology
ICRAF	World Agroforestry Centre
IFPRI	International Food Policy Research Institute
IIDP	Integrated Institution Development Program for Ethiopia
ILRI	International Livestock Research Institute
IPE	International Panel of Experts
IPMS	Improving Productivity and Market Success
ISNAR	International Service for National Agricultural Research
IWMI	International Water Management Institute
KM	Knowledge Management
LoA	Letter of Agreement
M & E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture
MoARD	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (Ethiopia)
MoFED	Ministry of Finance and Economic Development (Ethiopia)
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NAIS	National Agricultural Information System
NAIRC	National Agricultural Information Resource Centre
NALC	National Advisory and Learning Committee
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
PADEP	Peasant Agricultural Development Programme
PADETES	Participatory Demonstration and Training Extension System

PI	Performance Indicators
PIC	Project Implementation Committee
PIP	Project Implementation Plan
PLS	Pilot Learning Sites (ILRI term)
PM&E	Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation
PMF	Performance Measurement Framework
PRA	Participatory Rural Appraisal
PSC	Project Steering Committee
R&D	Research and Development
RALC	Regional Advisory and Learning Committees
RARI	Regional Agricultural Research Institute (Ethiopia)
RBM	Result Based Management
RDAs	Research and Development Assistants
RDOs	Research and Development Officers
SNNPR	Southern Nation Nationalities and People's Region
SNV	Netherlands Development Organization
T&V	Training and Visit
TOT	Training of Trainers
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training College
TAMSA	Tigray Agricultural Marketing Support Agency
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WALC	Woreda Advisory and Learning Committee
WHIST	Water Harvesting Institutional Strengthening Tigray
WB	World Bank

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# 1 Executive summary

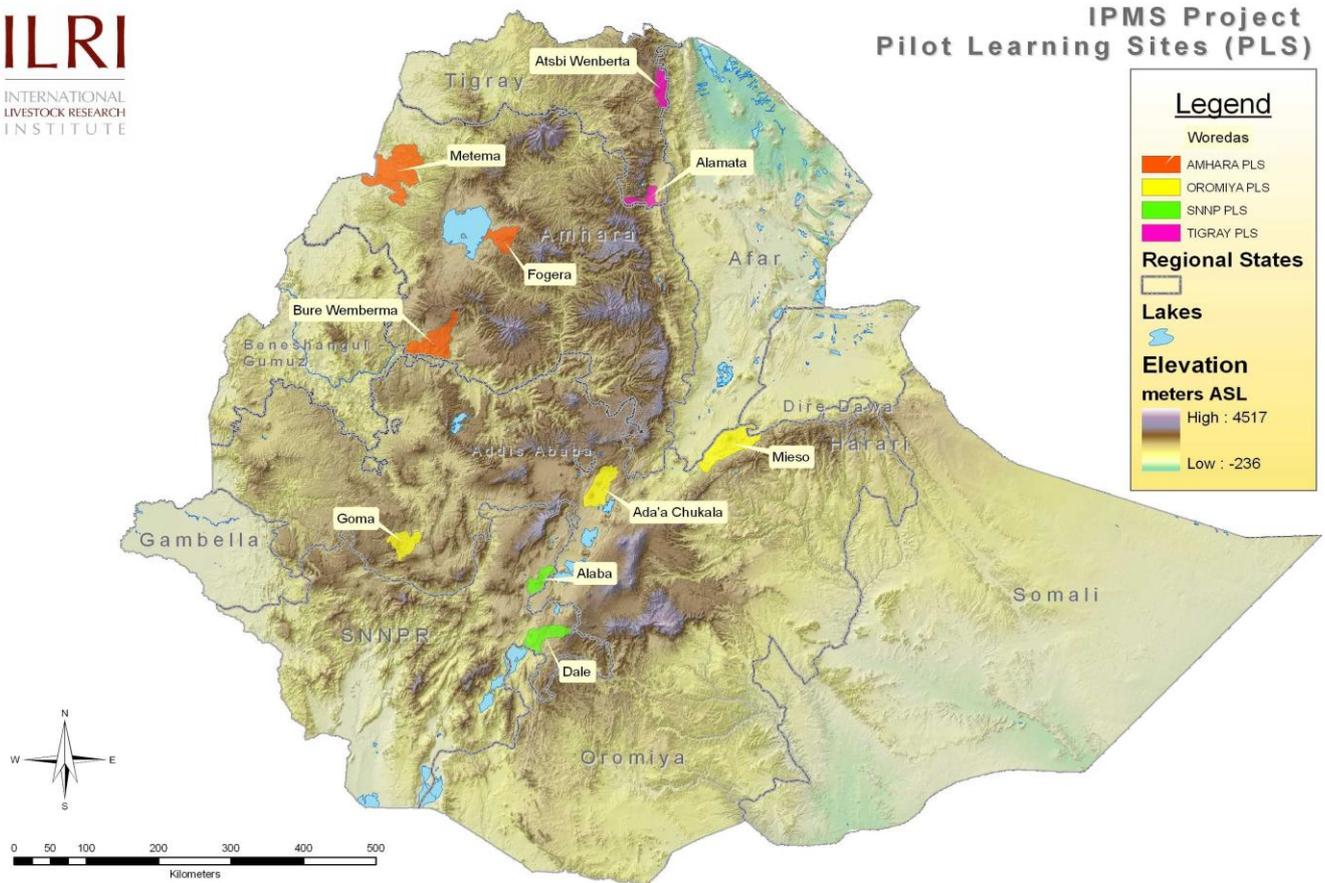
This reporting period saw IPMS moving from planning to implementation of activities at regional and federal levels and, in the Pilot learning Sites (PLS).

The number of PLS increased from 6 to 8, through the inclusion of Alaba District (in the SNNPR) and Meisso District (in Oromiya). While work has started in Meisso, the prevailing security situation in this district prevents a full start of all activities up till now.

IPMS activities in the remaining 2 PLS Goma (in Oromiya) and Bure wemberema (in Amhara) will be decided in the next quarter. For an overview of the location of IPMS Project PLS see map.



IPMS Project Pilot Learning Sites (PLS)



## PLS level activities

Emphasis in the PLS has been on “in service” capacity development of institutional staff, farmers, staff of cooperatives and private partners. Most of this training is focused on production technologies for priority commodities

including dairy and fodder production; silk production and processing; chick pea, teff, wheat and cotton production. Some training has also been provided in the areas of processing and marketing in Fogera and Atsbi.

Besides engaging research staff and Woreda Agricultural subject matter specialist as trainers, the project also involves private sector partners, NGOs and farmers as trainers. For example, to improve the quality of hides and skins, the project included staff from Sheba tannery in the training of institutional staff and retailers from Atsbi. They provided training free of charge and will supply some FTCs with skin demonstration materials. Staff from a commercial silk production farm was involved in training of farmers and DAs in Ada'a. NGOs and model farmers were involved in dairy development training for Fogera, Ada'a and Meisso farmers. To empower female farmers to benefit from a market led development some PLS (Ada'a, and Meisso) also started experimenting with joint husband and wife training and/or taking women groups on study tours. Some trainings were specifically targeted at females e.g the marketing and processing training which took place in Fogera and Atsbi. The project has also started using visits of farmers and extension agents to other projects and research stations as a method to improve their capacities including linkages. While PLS level capacity building is well under way, integration of these activities in the Farmer Training Centers (FTCs) is still limited because most PLS have not yet operationalised these centers. An exception is Atsbi, where the project introduced beekeeping, skin, hides and forage demonstrations in some FTCs.

An integral part of capacity building is the development of processes which facilitate linkages between the various stakeholders (producers, extension, research, cooperative staff and private sector partners). Such linkages are aimed at enabling the stakeholders to initiate a dialogue aimed at improving the comprehensive development of the selected commodities. Linkages were made between producers, extension agents, researchers and exporters through visits and meetings. In Ada'a and Fogera, building stakeholder's linkages and capacity development activities were combined into one event.

The project has also started facilitating the introduction of production, input supply and marketing/processing technologies as well as new institutional arrangements for input supply and marketing. Observations in the PLS showed that credit is not always available for such technology and institutional innovations and as agreed in the PIP, a proposal was prepared for the use of the project's credit funds. CIDAs approval is expected in the near future.

Facilitation of the introduction of new production technologies includes demonstration of new varieties supported by research partners. Examples are rice varieties in Fogera, banana in Metama, chickpea in Ada'a, pepper in Alaba, forage seeds in Alamata and Vernonia in Alaba, Alamata and Meisso. Management practices are also demonstrated in some sites in particular for beekeeping in Ada'a and Atsbi and zero tillage practices in Metama. Some of these demonstrations take place on farmer's fields; others are on land rented by the project. More attention needs to be paid to the use and organization

(especially farmer involvement) of such demonstration sites in the future, since they are intended to become a core activity of the FTCs.

Besides these small scale demonstrations, larger scale introduction of some production technologies is also taking place based on the capacity building activities which have taken place. These include sericulture in Ada'a and Fogera; apiculture in Atsbi, Ada'a and Fogera and chick pea introduction in Ada'a.

Emphasis in input supply technology and institutional arrangements is on seed delivery in particular, on farmer based seed production systems for chickpeas, haricot beans, sorghum and onions. Involvement of cooperatives as well as private sector partners is envisaged. Plans have also been prepared to introduce a village based veterinary drug supply systems for the poor in Fogera and Dale. Possible involvement of a private entrepreneur in the fabrication and maintenance of treadle pumps is being explored in Alaba.

The introduction of marketing/processing technologies and institutional arrangements at this stage is still limited. Potential dairy processing technologies have been identified for cooperatives in Fogera and for honey processing in Ada'a. New collective institutional arrangements for marketing and processing are also being examined for the same commodities. Staff in the PLS have also assisted partner institutions in identifying potential market opportunities for the priority commodities and linking producers and market parties. Since market development is the driving force in the project's strategy much more attention will have to be placed on this aspect and methods and strategies are being developed in collaboration with partner institutions.

To develop recommendations on policies, technologies and institutions, the project conducted a baseline survey which was completed in 7 PLS. The baseline survey collected information on household livelihood strategies, natural resource management and production technologies, community infrastructure and institutional support services, and market participation. Analysis of the data has started and will be completed during the next reporting period.

The project also initiated focus studies on production and/or marketing of priority commodities. These PLS level studies are implemented in part by MSc students from local Universities (8 of which 3 females.). The project also used 8 BSc (5 female) attachment students for this purpose.

The project, with the help of a consultant, completed gender and HIV/AIDS studies in 8 PLS and data will be used in a workshop (scheduled in early October) to develop action plans to actively integrate gender and HIV/AIDS issues into the interventions based on their strategic implications for the project and the agricultural sector. The interventions resulting from this strategy will be closely monitored, reviewed and will be refined based on the experiences and learning.

Initial assessment of knowledge requirements and status in the PLS was completed as an integral part of the initial Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) studies and the project's baseline survey. Results of the PLS level baseline data on knowledge management will be summarized in the next half year. Assessment of the capacity and potential use of ICT in the PLS is underway. Computers for the KM component at the PLS level have been purchased. An interesting idea for sharing knowledge at the PLS came from Alaba, where the Office of Agriculture requested support for the establishment of a Woreda Agricultural Information Center. This idea will be supported and expanded to other PLS.

An overview of the commodities which presently receive attention in the PLS are shown in Table 1

**Table 1 Commodities for which activities\* in the PLS have been initiated in 2005**

Commodity	Pilot Learning Sites							
	Ada'a	Alamata	Atsbi	Dale	Fogera	Metema	Alaba	Meisso
<b>Crops</b>								
• Teff								
• Wheat								
• Rice								
• Sorghum								
• Haricot bean.								
• Chickpeas								
• Faba bean								
• Noug								
• Sesame								
• Groundnuts								
• Vernonia								
• Hot pepper								
• Coffee								
• Vegetables								
• Fruits								
• Cotton								
<b>Livestock</b>								
• Milk								
• Butter								
• Beef								
• Hides/skins								
• Shoat meat								
• Poultry								
• Honey								
• Silk								

*\* this may include focus studies, capacity building of institutional staff and/or farmers, introduction of technologies for production, input supply and marketing processing and or institutional arrangements for input/out marketing, including identification of markets and market parties.*

In each of the PLS, Woreda Advisory and Learning Committees (WALCs) are in place. So far the role of these committees has been limited to advisory tasks, however with the project's active involvement in implementation, lessons learned will be shared. Simultaneously knowledge gained through the various studies can also be shared in the WALC and be used to develop new actions. A start will be made with the HIV/AIDS and gender studies conducted in the PLS together with the baseline findings. Presently most WALCs are composed of staff from public institutions. In the next six months the composition will be reviewed, especially in the light of re-organization of public institutions and officials. In the restructured WALCs care will be taken to include adequate representation of gender and HIV/AIDS expertise as well as NGO and private sector participation.

### ***Federal and regional level activities***

At the federal level, one of the major activities accomplished in the area of knowledge management in the last six months is the development of a knowledge management framework and implementation guidelines developed as a general road map to assist in the implementation of knowledge management at Federal, Regional and Woreda offices of agriculture and rural development. The guideline was submitted to MoARD for comments (feedback). Since the implementation plan necessarily supposes active participation of the ministry staff, it was important to get a "buy-in" from the ministry on this matter. There was a general agreement on the goals of the KM implementation guideline but for various reasons (including election-related) the actual active participation from the ministry was less than anticipated. Considering the magnitude of the KM activities that need to be implemented in the coming four years, the project has proceeded with activities that can realistically be done at a given point without compromising the overall goal and implementation timeline of this focus area of the project.

Some of the capacity building activities aimed at the PLS staff took place at the national level and targeted relevant PLS, regional and federal level staff. The project also included staff from the TVET coordinating unit in these activities. Examples are the workshop on innovative extension, the agri business and seed enterprise workshop.

Besides building the operational capacity of institutional staff at the PLS the project embarked on a major program for BSc and MSc training of staff from the Woreda Offices or Regional Bureaus of Agriculture and Rural Development from 8 PLS and 4 Regions. Emphasis was given to building the capacity of institutional staff in subjects which are of importance for a market oriented agricultural development i.e. agricultural extension, agricultural economics and marketing and commercial crop and livestock production. Emphasis was put on empowering female staff members. All candidates were enrolled in summer courses in local universities i.e. Alamaya, Dehub, Jimma and Mekele i.e. 16 (2 female) for MSc and 13 BSc (8 female).

To enable high level policy makers to influence policies on technologies and institutional arrangements, the project is also organizing study tours to

countries which have innovative technology or institutional arrangements. During this reporting period a study tour to Uganda was organized for high level regional staff. Visits during the next half year are being planned for China, India and Indonesia with focus on operations of farmer training centers and KM.

The project also initiated the survey of baseline data at regional and federal level. This survey is still on going. Analysis of the data will take place in the next half year. Based on the information already collected during the initial PRA in the 8 PLS the project staff analyzed extension and input supply institutional information and prepared papers outlining future strategies for extension and input supply for a market led development. Both papers were presented in a conference organized by EARO and Western Michigan University. Testing of these institutional innovations will be closely monitored in the coming years and are expected to result in a refinement of strategies based on a learning process.

At the regional level, Regional Advisory and Learning Committees (RALC) are now functional and have met during the past reporting period. However similar to the WALCs, the role of the RALC's has been limited to advisory and planning tasks, however with the project's active involvement in implementation, lessons learned can be shared (see proposed agenda for the WALCs). Strengthening the RALCs along the lines of the WALCs will also be accomplished during the next reporting period.

At the federal level a National Advisory and Learning Committee (NALC) was established during the project's planning phase. This committee did not meet during the reporting period mainly because activities during this phase took place at PLS and regional level. Now that the activities are underway and lessons are being learnt, sharing of these lessons at the national level with representatives from the regions can commence especially since differences between regions can be observed. Though not under the auspices of NALC, discussions with partners took place at the national level during special workshops i.e. innovative extension, agro business development. Furthermore project staff are in constant dialogue with individual partner institutions to develop strategies and methodologies in particular in relation to marketing and input supply.

While the project is operational and has filled most key positions, more efforts will be required in the coming months to strengthen the governing and managerial structure of the project. An impasse was created; partly due to the fact that organizational as well as personnel changes were expected as a result of the elections which took place. As soon as the situation has settled a meeting of the project's governing structure will be called to address this issue.

## **2 Report on activities and outputs according to the WBS of the RBM framework**

The following section provides an overview of the completed and planned activities and outputs following the agreed Project Work Breakdown Structure (WBS). At the end of each main outcome a brief analysis is presented, including major variances in achievements and activities, problems and difficulties encountered, analysis of proposed changes in activities, progress towards project results, and integration of gender into the activities.

### ***2.1 Strengthening innovative knowledge management system (100 series)***

**Objective:** To develop a gender-sensitive agricultural knowledge management system in the MoARD that will enable Ethiopian institutions farmers and pastoralists to adopt appropriate technologies from research and development institutions based in Ethiopia and elsewhere.

**Outcome:** Functional gender-sensitive agricultural knowledge management systems interconnected and utilized at all levels, highlighting innovations, appropriate technologies, and leading practices.

The following indicators, included in the performance measurement framework (PMF) were developed to measure the progress towards achieving the outcome:

- Frequency of information in various forms received by women and men farmers.
- Frequency of information exchange among Stakeholder institutions and organizations (including the private sector) at Woreda level and between different levels.
- Quality and usefulness of information as perceived by farmers, institutions and organizations on the information they receive.

The baseline data for these outcome indicators were collected during this reporting period.

#### ***2.1.1 Completed and planned activities and outputs in knowledge management***

##### **Activity 110 – Assessing the current state and knowledge requirements**

- The assessments done in the PRAs for each PLS were designed to diagnose the current state of affairs in each PLS, including knowledge requirements (see 100 and 400 series). Based on these assessments,

intervention programs were designed to address the most critical issues within the project's mandate.

- In addition, the baseline survey just concluded at all PLSes included detailed assessment questions on Woreda-level access to information on technology, input supply, credit, and marketing in general and priority commodities in particular (see 400 series). The questions probed areas such as frequency of access, source of information, delivery mechanisms (oral/lecture, printed material, demonstration), and the perceived usefulness of information received. The data collected will be analyzed in the process of designing alternative ways for information delivery to Woreda agriculture extension staff. In addition, separate questions probed the actual demand for information vs. the top-down information flow, as well as information exchange relationships between the Woreda agriculture staff and research institutes around the country. A similar but more general baseline assessment was also done at the RoARD (Regional Office of Agriculture & Rural Development), Regional Agricultural Research Institutes, and Federal level ministry of agriculture.
- During the next six months, the activities planned in this component include analysis of the data collected so far and more targeted assessments at various federal, regional, and Woreda level offices of agriculture.

#### **Activity 120 – Assembling, capturing, and synthesizing knowledge on technology and institutional innovations**

This activity focuses on making knowledge and information identified as useful by the 200 and 300 series of the project activities as well as research data and interpretation from the 400 series more easily available to the project stakeholders and beneficiaries.

- The project has begun to collect available documents it comes across on technology and institutional innovation information but this effort will be intensified if the project-proposed ENRAEMED meta-database (see activity 130) is adopted by the Ministry of Agriculture at all levels (Federal, Regional, and Woreda). This is because the agricultural meta-database can catalog all currently available resources from which those relevant in light of the project's priority commodities can be selected.
- A GIS referenced data base for 8 PLS has been completed. In the next six months this data set will be further enriched with information collected from the baseline survey.
- Activities in the next six months will include an accelerated continuation of identifying and collection of data/information as it becomes available. For example, outputs of the HIV/AIDS and gender mainstreaming efforts being carried out by the project. Findings from the surveys on gender and HIV/AIDS will also be included in the data base.

### **Activity 130 - Support the development of processes and mechanisms for enhanced knowledge sharing.**

One of the most challenging aspects of implementing a knowledge management initiative is to bring about the culture change that is required to make it sustainable. As detailed in the IPMS KM Implementation Guideline, the project embraces the use of *codification* (databases, documents, publications, portals, etc) as well as *personalization* (communities of practice, radio programs, experience sharing visits, etc) as the two major KM delivery approaches. The preferred and more effective approach depends on the audience at hand. During the past six months, several activities that employ one of these two approaches have been carried out by the project. Examples include study tours to Uganda and Kenya provided to high level leaders in Ethiopian agricultural research and extension, experience-sharing field visit on out-growers schemes for farmers and partner institutes in Ada'a Liben PLS to Zewai Horticulture farmers (see 200 and 300 series). Such activities, if institutionalized as legitimate "learning tools and processes" will go a long way in making sure knowledge is leveraged by broader audiences. Furthermore, there have been frequent experience sharing and planning meetings of the Woreda Advisory & Learning Committees at various PLSes and RALC meetings (regional-level) are also becoming more frequent (see 200 series).

Other activities that have started at the PLS that are hoped to enhance knowledge sharing include:

- Establishment of information centers at each PLS. The concept for this activity was started in our Alaba PLS. but has quickly gotten the endorsement of all other PLSes. The purpose of the centers is as one more enabling tool for the delivery of knowledge on the priority commodities for each PLS. The intended audience will be subject matter experts at the Woreda agriculture office. IPMS will provide the "knowledge components" (books, videos, CDs, a pool computer, etc) and the Woreda office of agriculture will contribute the space, furniture, and all other needed materials to make each center operational. It is hoped that the center will have enough resources to enable "continuous learning" of the Woreda extension staff and play a part in creating a more responsive and knowledge-based agricultural extension system.
- PLS newsletter is another knowledge sharing tool that has been introduced. At the moment, one PLS has taken the initiative to experiment with this but all PLSes have in principle agreed to start one but have indicated that they will need some basic assistance in the mechanics of producing these newsletters. The required assistance will be provided by the project in the coming weeks.
- The project has also started discussion with an educational radio station in Sidama zone where one of our PLSes (Dale) is located with the hope of producing targeted radio programs that can be used for broader dissemination of information on the priority commodities. Initial

assessments are being made regarding radio stations near other PLSes of the availability and suitability (language, cost, coverage, and audience type) for similar purposes.

- The project has initiated knowledge management awareness raising seminars. The first one of these was conducted in August in Alaba PLS. Seminars were planned for all PLSes but had to be postponed due to election-related schedule changes for Woreda staff. The current plan is to resume these seminars starting the first week of November.
- In the process of establishing linkages and partnerships with other projects and institutions that may complement the IPMS mandate and strategy, the project has come across a potentially highly valuable knowledge management tool that has been developed by the Ethiopian Ministry of Water Resources as the lead institute and 11 other Ethiopian institutes and Regional states (including the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development) as supporting project partners. The result of this Dutch government-funded project was a meta-database software program, named ENRAEMED (Ethiopian Natural Resources and Environmental Meta-Database) that enables one to compile extensive meta data on all forms of artifacts including maps, books, documents, pamphlets, etc. The product has been highly successful and is currently in use in 14 other African countries and many organizations around the world. Even though, the program is available free of charge and the Ministry of Agriculture was one of the initial “partners”, it is currently not actively used by the ministry. The project has established contacts with the custodians of the software at the Ministry of Water Resources and the UN-ECA office that currently hosts the clearinghouse server for various meta-databases from Ethiopia and other African countries and will advocate its adoption at various levels of the Ministry of Agriculture. In the next six months, the project will facilitate the provision of training sessions provided by the Ministry of Water Resources to selected individuals at the Federal, Regional, and Woreda level Ministry of Agriculture staff in the use and maintenance of this program.

#### **Activity 140 - Support the establishment of a National Agriculture Information Resource Center (NAIRC)**

The establishment of the NAIRC is seen as one of the more visible and concrete outcomes of the knowledge management component of the IPMS project. The ministry is also keen in seeing this realized. It is to be recalled that there was a UNDP-FAO funded effort that is similar in scope to the current initiative in this area. The previous effort was known as National Agriculture Information System and had a much broader scope than the deliverables envisaged for the NAIRC. However, there is an experience base from which lessons could be drawn both for the project and the ministry. The project has carefully assessed what went right and what didn't go as well as expected in the previous effort and is proceeding carefully to adopt what worked and to avoid steps that resulted in less than the desired outcomes.

One fact that became clear during the technical assessment of the current ICT infrastructure at the ministry is that it will be necessary to upgrade the ministry data center before one can develop any sort of value-added databases and portals as part of the NAIRC. Therefore the project has completed a data center upgrade plan and submitted the detailed cost estimate for this to CIDA. The upgrade will be done in three phases including:

Phase 1 activities:

- Upgrade of data center wiring
- Inter-connecting of offices at HQ
- Internet connectivity from HQ
- Preparing the platform that will enable connectivity with other MoARD offices
- Basic network connectivity
- E-mail communications
- Development (or acquisition) of a content management system
- Appropriate security & system management protocols
- E-mail service based on Microsoft Exchange e-mail and collaboration platform
- Assist in the development of MoARD intranet as additional information dissemination tool within the Ministry

Phase 2 activities will basically be what is included in the 110 series, including:

- Computers and a printer will be placed at each PLS OoARD
- Linkage to Regions and PLS is planned by leveraging WoredaNet infrastructure plus wireless linkages for the “last mile” connectivity to PLS OoARD
- Appropriate PLS OoARD staff will be trained to use the computers
- For one FTC per PLS, a computer and a dial-up link to the PLS OoARD and NAIRC will be setup – wherever feasible

Phase 3 activities will include:

- Assist in the development of web-based repository of *research output* and “leading practices” on priority commodities including tools and technology application.
- Assist in the provisions of e-learning materials on innovative extension methods
- Database of public documents on Ethiopian agricultural development projects carried out by MoARD, Regions, NGO’s etc
- Agricultural experts database with profile and current contact information

In addition, the platform that will be deployed will be able to handle additional initiatives which fall outside of the mandate of this project but that the ministry may want to undertake when it is ready – such as service delivery tools (online variety release forms, online pesticide registration application forms, etc)

It is also the projects' intention to link with other similar initiatives such as AgriNet – a network to link Ethiopian agricultural research institutes and Link – livestock marketing information system being developed by the State Ministry of Agricultural Marketing and Texas A&M University.

### **Activity 150 - Support the establishment of ICT networks and infrastructure**

- The provision of computers is seen as one component of the “people, process, technology, and enabling environment” jig-saw puzzle that needs to fall in place to bring about the knowledge-based and market-oriented transformation of the extension system. In working towards this goal, assessment was made as to the best candidates for computerization in each of the PLSes. The project RDOs in collaboration with the WoARD staff have proposed specific desks (input supply desk, extension head, marketing desk, etc) and individual names that can benefit by the introduction of computers. In addition to the typical task of data processing at the Woreda agriculture offices, the computers will be used to access agricultural resources at the national agriculture resource center. For this reason, three computers will be placed at specific desks and one will be used as a pool computer and will primarily be used as a research computer where all computer literate staff of the Woreda agriculture office will be able to access information/knowledge from the resource center and the Internet as appropriate.
- Assessments done in six of the eight PLSes indicate that computer training for this purpose will need to start from the most basic computer concepts and progressively move to more elaborate training. Preparations are being made to organize basic to intermediate computer training (basic computer skills, plus MS Word, Excel, and Internet Explorer) for all the Woreda staff that will be assigned computers. The goal is to procure high quality computer based training (CBT) materials in order to enable on-demand and sustainable learning environment. The provision of CBT materials is also hoped to be one response to mitigate the continuous shortage of skilled (trained) staff since many often leave for better opportunities right after they receive training. All these activities are hoped to be completed in the next six-month reporting period.
- The procurement process has started to acquire four computers for each PLS (three for individual desks and one as a pool computer) for this purpose. The project hopes to leverage the WoredaNet infrastructure (*a GoE initiative that interconnects all Woredas in the country*) in conjunction with wireless connections for the “last mile” connection of Woreda administrative office with the Woreda office of agriculture to link the computers in each PLS with the national resource center at the Federal ministry. The project has approached the Ministry of Capacity Building and started initial discussions on the modalities of access to this infrastructure. If this option becomes unavailable,

connectivity to the national resource center will be done using regular dial-up lines.

### **2.1.2 Analysis of Knowledge management component**

One of the major activities accomplished in the area of knowledge management in the last six months is the development of a knowledge management framework and implementation guidelines developed as a general road map to assist in its implementation at Federal, Regional and Woreda offices of agriculture. The guideline was submitted to MoARD for comments (feedback). Since the implementation plan necessarily supposes active participation of the ministry staff, it was important to get a “buy-in” from the ministry on this matter. There was a general agreement on the goals of the KM implementation guideline but for various reasons (including election-related) actual active participation and collaboration proceeded at a slower pace than hoped for. Considering the magnitude of KM activities that need to be implemented in the coming four years, the project has proceeded with activities that can realistically be done at a given point without compromising the overall goal and implementation timeline of this focus area of the project.

Another important realization from activities in the past six months is that the need for awareness raising in the area of knowledge management is much higher than originally anticipated. The fact that knowledge management encompasses leveraging (re-use, adaptation, adaptation) of processes, and leading practices is often supplanted by over-emphasis on the tools (enablers) of knowledge management such as computers. While the project has been cognizant of the fact that “computers only” will not bring about the desired institutional change to “learning organizations” at various levels of the ministry, steps have been taken to address some of the pressing technology needs, such as the acceleration of the deployment plan for the National Agriculture Information Resource Center, in order to bring about “quick wins” and good will toward this focus area of the project. The project has also started awareness raising seminars both at Federal and PLS levels and this will continue in each PLS in a sustained manner.

The projects’ plan to emphasize its KM efforts at the Federal level met some challenges due to significant schedule changes brought about by election-related activities at this level and to some extent at the Woreda level.

## **2.2 Strengthening the capacity of staff in public agricultural organizations (200 series)**

**Objective:** To build and strengthen gender balanced existing public agricultural institutional capacity and foster institutional learning and change so that new collaborative arrangements across sectors and levels are developed to better support the dissemination, use and impact of market oriented agricultural technologies and information.

**Outcome:** Strengthened gender balanced institutional capacity of agriculture public organizations to support the development of farmer-based, market-oriented agricultural production systems.

The following indicators, included in the PMF were developed to measure the progress towards achieving the outcome:

- Presence of functional inter-institutional arrangements (e.g., NALCs, RALCs, WALCs), including the private sector (that are gender, HIV/AIDS and environment sensitive).
- Level of responsiveness of the extension system, including FTCs, to the needs of women and men farmers
- Level of satisfaction of women and men farmers with the technical support they receive (gender and environment sensitive).

### ***2.2.1 Completed and planned activities and outputs – capacity building public agricultural institutions***

**Activity 210** Strengthening the capacity of staff in TVETs, including the procurement of materials and equipment.

The project's rationale for reaching out to the TVETs is to assist this capacity building institution in its "production" of Development Agents who can adequately facilitate a market oriented development strategy.

#### **Activity 211, 212 and 213** In service training, curriculum upgrading and provision of training materials

- Staff from the federal level TVET coordinating Unit was involved in an IPMS workshop on innovative extension methods/approaches held in the last six months and was also provided with a set of source materials developed with the support of IPMS.
- The project also linked up with the CIDA funded WHIST project in Tigray RS. Amongst others WHIST tries to develop the extension capacity of TVET and the Bureau of Agriculture and Rural Development. The previously mentioned source material on extension was made available to the WHIST extension consultant, who multiplied it for the course participants (including TVET instructors from the Wukro TVET).
- In the meantime, CIDA has recruited a gender specialist to be attached to the TVET coordination Unit in Addis Ababa, whose main function will be to assist the MOARD to fully mainstream gender equality considerations in the ATVET's processes and outcome, in particular extension programs and policies. The project has made contact and will closely coordinate their activities with her.

- The TVET coordinating Unit has also been invited to the Workshop on 'integrating gender and HIV/AIDS in IPMS' scheduled for the first week of October.

**Activity 214** Involve selected TVET instructors and students in PLS research activities

- TVET instructors and students from the Fogera TVETs were involved in baseline data collection for Metema which educated them on indicators which are of importance for market oriented agricultural technology and institution development.
- One female TVET lecturer enrolled by the MoARD at Alemaya University has started her MSc thesis research work on dairy production and marketing in Meisso PLS.

**Activity 215** Post graduate training of TVET instructors

- While a post graduate training program was initiated by IPMS in the past six months, it was found that TVET instructors had already been selected and funded by the MoARD. Therefore, in consultation with the MoARD it was decided to give priority to post graduate training for PLS and Regional staff (see 221). Recruitment of post graduate staff from TVETs will commence in the next reporting period (also see 221).

**Activity 220** Strengthening the capacity of staff in public agricultural organizations at the *Woreda* (including FTCs), Regional and Federal levels, including the procurement of materials and equipment.

**Activity 221** PhD/MSc/BSc training (Woreda, Regional and Federal Level staff)

- The project prepared a proposal for post graduate training for PLS and Regional Level staff in consultation with the MoARD. As agreed in the PIP and the first year program of work, the proposal was forwarded to CIDA and approval was obtained. It was decided to concentrate on staff from the 8 PLS and the 4 Regions and on areas which are of importance for a market oriented agricultural development strategy, including agricultural economics/marketing, agricultural extension and some selected crops and commodities. Four local Universities were identified to accommodate the students and announcements were made to WALC and RALCs for the selection of candidates. As expected and already accommodated in the proposal many of the potential candidates in the PLS were diploma holders, rather than BSc holders and they were therefore enrolled in a BSc course rather than the MSc courses. Particular attention was also given to the selection of female candidates. A total of 16 (2 female) MSc and 13 BSc (8 female) candidates have been enrolled in the various summer courses. In addition a total of 16 students drawn from various universities were given opportunities to work with the project on the priority commodities in the PLSs (see 400 series). These are composed of 8 MSc (3 female) and 8 BSc (5 female) students. An overview is provided in **Annex 1**.

- Selection of the next set of candidates will be started in the first quarter of 2006.

#### **Activity 222 Study visits Regional and Federal level staff**

- A study tour to Uganda was organized from May 18 to 22, 2005 for members of the RALC from 3 Regions and 2 project staff (Dr Azage and Dr Berhanu). The tour was hosted by CIAT, one of the project partners. The objective of the visit was to learn about innovative extension systems, market oriented agribusiness development, production of high value horticultural crops and agricultural market information system. The team visited the Kawanda Agricultural Research Institute (KARI), the National Agricultural Advisory Services (NAADS), the Mairye Estates Limited (a commercial farm producing vegetables and flowers for export market), the Market Information Service Project of FoodNet within IITA, the Kabale district (south-eastern Uganda) potato producing farmers' groups, and the ICRAF AFRENA fruit tree orchard in Kabale. The detailed tour report is available on the project website: [www.ipms-ethiopia.org](http://www.ipms-ethiopia.org)
- The team has started planning study tours to India, China and Indonesia which are scheduled to take place in the next six months. The tour is aimed at exposing decision makers to more market oriented participatory extension models/approaches. In India, the study tour is being planned so that the participants have an exposure to innovative organization of extension systems, farmers training centres. Farmers Field Schools and Cyber-extension programs. A workshop will be held following the study tours to exchange findings between the participants of the tours (separate groups will go to different destinations)

#### **223 Capacity building of institutional staff in innovative technology transfer methods**

- A workshop on Innovative Extension Systems was organized from May 23-25 in Addis Ababa. The workshop was attended by Heads of extension and Heads of the Agricultural Offices from the 8 PLS, the Heads of Regional Extension Departments and the Heads of the Office of Agriculture and Rural development from the 4 project Regions and extension and TVET staff from the federal MoARD. Source material for this workshop was compiled by one of the project partners (IFPRI/ISNAR), and ILRI Theme 2. During the training participants were exposed to potential extension innovations and they also contributed to the formulation of an envisaged state of the extension services by the end of the project. A summary report and presentations made during the workshop can be found on the project website: [www.ipms-ethiopia.org](http://www.ipms-ethiopia.org) under documents and publications. No formal training in innovation extension has so far been provided to the DA staff, rather project staff has used “on the job” training for introducing and applying new extension approaches and methods (see 200 and 300 series)

- In Ada'a Woreda, a one day training (May 23) was provided to 37 DAs (12 female) and 7 male supervisors on extension communication by an expert from EARO Debre Zeit station. The training was combined with production oriented training on priority commodities (see 225).

#### **224 Capacity building institutional staff on environmental assessment, gender & HIV/AIDS**

- Gender and HIV/AIDS training were postponed due to the delay in the PLS level studies on these topics (see 440 and 450). The data has now been collected and is being analyzed. The training is now scheduled for the beginning of October.
- Environmental assessment training was also delayed due to need for recruitment of a new environmental consultant. Training will be organized in the next quarter.

#### **225 Capacity building institutional staff for technology innovations for the priority commodities**

- The project sponsored two DAs (one from Dale and one from Atsbi) to take part in a 3 week course (24 July -12 August) on fruit tree production, organized by the Kale Hewot Church in Chencha. The course consists of practical training on temperate fruits and consists of 2 more modules which will be provided later this year and next year.
- One DA from Ada'a was sponsored to take part in a 2 day (April 21/22) training course on the introduction of new bean varieties organized by CIAT/EARO in Melkassa Research Station.
- At the request of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, the IPMS also funded a 3 week training course (July 25 – August 15) on sericulture for Ministry of Agriculture staff from the 4 main Regions, with 35 participants (3 female). The course was held at Alage TVET and was conducted by staff from EARO and JICA. A training manual prepared by JICA was distributed to the participants.
- In Ada'a Woreda several courses on production technologies for the priority commodities were organized for Development Agents (DAs) in collaboration with EARO/DZ, including:
  - Training on improved agronomic practices of wheat, teff, lentils, chickpea and horticulture crops (May 20-23). This course was organized at the EARO DZ station and was attended by 37 DAs (12 female) and 5 male supervisors .
  - Developments agents also took part in farmer's training sessions on i) smallholder dairy production ii) smallholder poultry and livestock fattening iii) apiculture (see details in 320).

- For the agriculture and rural development staff in Atsbi, various capacity building events were organized to enhance the skills of the institutional staff, including:
  - Field visit to Ofla Woreda and Kelamino for 11 staff members (all male) on June 25-26. The purpose of this visit was to look at successful fodder production schemes and dairy feeding technologies. The knowledge was used to develop fodder technology schemes for Atsbi (see 330).
  - Training course on 16-17 September for pre mortem skin and hides management for trainees who are mainly associated with vet services on pre-mortem skin and hides management or vet practitioners such as animal science development agents (6), vet technicians (3), and community vet agents (18). Resource persons were from Sheba tannery and skin and hides expert from the BoARD and DVM from Atsbi-Womberta OoARD.
- In Alamata, forage production training was given from September 28 – 30 to 9 male Animal Science TVET graduates who have been employed as DAs. The training was conducted in the form of a study tour and included a visit to Sirinka Agricultural Research Center.
- In Fogera DAs were included in training activities aimed at farmers and private sector including onion seed production, pepper production, tomato home processing and dairy technology (see 320 for details).
- In Fogera, 3 male experts and 2 male DAs along with 5 female retailers and 35 farmers (5 female) attended a training on tomato home processing. The training was given by experts from the Adet Agricultural Research Center.
- In Metema, a one day training was provided for 26 male DAs on row planting techniques for cotton and sesame.
- Due to the uncertain security situation in Meisso Woreda, training of DAs and Woreda specialist took place outside the PLS, including:
  - A course on improved agronomic practices (production and pest and disease control) for priority commodities (sesame, haricot beans and groundnuts) was conducted from August 29 to September 4 at the Nazareth Agricultural Research Institute. Twelve DAs (6 male, 6 female) took part and training was provided by staff from the Melkawere and Melkassa Agricultural Research Centers.
  - Development Agents also took part in farmer study tours on improved technologies for i) groundnuts and sesame and ii) irrigation and horticultural crops (see details in 320), iii) dairy development in Ada'a, iv) fattening in Hirna

## **226** Capacity building institutional staff in input and output marketing

- An agro business development and seed enterprise development training course was organized in Addis from June 13 to 17. The workshop was facilitated by resource persons from CIAT with contributions from other “agri-business actors” such as ICRISAT, Ethiopian Seed Enterprise and VOCA. The workshop was attended by project HQ and PLS staff, OoARD staff from the PLS (head, input supply, cooperative desks), staff from Regional Research Institutions, Regional Cooperative Bureaus, Marketing Agencies, Unions and Federal level MoARD staff, including Extension, Cooperative Commission and EARO. A summary report and presentations made during the workshop can be found on the project website: [www.ipms-ethiopia.org](http://www.ipms-ethiopia.org) under documents and publications

## **227 and 228** Provision of training and demonstration materials for the priority commodities

- Participants in the aforementioned courses were provided with source materials and lecture notes. These materials will be incorporated in the project’s knowledge data base (see 120).
- A training manual on cotton pests and their control method has been prepared by IPMS officer and distributed to 4 male woreda experts in Metema.
- A manual on irrigation technologies for use by the IPMS project is under preparation by IWMI..
- Demonstration materials for FTCs were provided in Ada’a and Atsbi. The Sheba tannery will provide demonstration materials for hides and skins for some model FTCs in Atsbi.
- The project staff in collaboration with CIAT and ILRI’s Theme 3 has also started producing training material/manuals for market (chain) studies (also see 400 series)

## **229** Strengthening linkages between the various stakeholders

With the arrival of the RDOs in the Pilot Learning Sites, efforts to build linkages between producers (farmers), extension staff, cooperative, researchers and traders were initiated. These included:

- Visit to Metehara and Modjo export abattoirs by Meisso small ruminant stakeholder group (pastoralists, extension staff). For details see 330.
- A stakeholder meeting was held on September 2 in Ada’a between the participants of the poultry and animal fattening course (see 320) and the private and public sector stakeholders involved in input supply (feed), finance, research, extension and marketing. For details see 330.
- Linkages between rural dairy producers and the Ada’a dairy cooperative has been established for milk and fodder marketing

- In Dale, linkage has been established between farmers, primary cooperatives and the Sidama Elto Farmers Cooperative Union.

**Activity 230** Developing institutional arrangements (linkages and roles) and a culture of sharing to foster effective responses to information demands.

**Activity 231, 332 and 333** WALC, RALC and NALC meetings and field visits

RALC meetings

- A total of 8 RALC meeting were held in the four Regional States during the reporting period. These include two meetings in Amhara, 2 in Tigray, 2 in Oromiya, and 2 in the SNNP.

WALC meetings

- A total of 9 WALC meetings have been undertaken. These include 3 in Alaba, 2 each in Fogera, and Metema, 1 each in Alamata and Meisso and 2 in Atsbi. At this initial stage of the project the committees have been involved in the identification of candidates for the post graduate training program, advise on project activities and receive progress reports.

**2.2.2 Analysis of public agricultural institution capacity building component**

While capacity building has been initiated, especially the post graduate training and the in service training of staff at PLS, regional and federal level, some variances occurred. The number of candidates for post graduate training was lower than planned, mainly because an insufficient number of female candidates were available for training. Rather than allowing the requested number of candidates from each Region and PLS, the project decided to limit the number this year, to allow the selection of more female candidates for next year. The selection period for the candidates was found to be rather short and next year selection of candidates will be initiated in January.

The project also notes that little or no female staff is available in some of the PLS which has resulted in some cases in the lack of female candidates for in service training activities.

The project is also facilitating some new approaches for capacity building of the institutional staff. In some PLSes the project initiated joint training of extension staff and farmers, instead of separate training for each group in an effort to facilitate linkages and also sharing of perspectives among them. Besides engaging research staff (in particular from EARO and the regional research institutions) and Woreda Agricultural subject matter specialist as trainers, the project also involves private sector partners, NGOs and farmers as trainers. For example, to improve the quality of hides and skins, the project included staff from Sheba tannery in the training of institutional staff and

retailers from Atsbi. They provided training free of charge and will supply model FTCs with skin demonstration materials. Staff from a commercial silk production farm was involved in training of farmers and DAs in Ada'a. NGOs and model farmers were involved in dairy development training for Fogera, Ada'a and Meisso farmers. The project has also started using visits of combined groups of farmers and extension agents to other projects and research stations as a method to improve the capacity of both.

These new approaches will be monitored (see 400 series), and the lessons learned can contribute to policy recommendations in the future.

While PLS level capacity building is well under way, integration of these activities in the Farmer Training Centers (FTCs) is still limited because most PLS have not yet operationalised these centers.

So far the role NALC, RALCs and WALCs has been limited to advisory tasks, however with the project's active involvement in implementation, lessons learned can be shared. Simultaneously knowledge gained through the various studies (see 400) can also be shared in the WALC and be used for action planning. A start will be made with the HIV/AIDS and gender studies conducted in the PLS together with the baseline findings on knowledge management, technology impact and institutional arrangements and impact. Presently most committees are composed of staff from public institutions. In the next six months the composition will be reviewed, especially in the light of re-organization of public institutions and officials. In the restructured WALCs care will be taken to include adequate representation of gender and HIV/AIDS expertise as well as NGO and private sector participation.

## **2.3 Enhancing capacity of farmers, CBO and private sector institutions and technology uptake (300 series)**

**Objective:** To increase gender balanced capacity of farmers, pastoralists, community-based organizations, and private organizations to improve market oriented agricultural productivity and production, and to improve and sustain livelihoods.

**Outcome:** Enhanced gender balanced capacity of farmers, pastoralists, community-based organizations, and private organizations to improve agricultural productivity and production, and to improve and sustain livelihoods through the adoption of strategies, technologies, and processes developed in their respective PLSs.

The following indicators, included in the PMF were developed to measure the progress towards achieving the outcome:

- Level of adoption of technologies (products, methods and processes) by women and men farmers and pastoralists.
- Extent of involvement of CBOs and private organizations in the delivery of services (e.g., input supply, credit, and marketing).

- Number of CBOs and private organizations delivering services (e.g., input supply, credit, marketing)

### **2.3.1 Completed and planned activities and outputs - farmer, CBO and private sector capacity building and technology uptake**

**Activity 310** Establishing PLSs that are strategically linked to the priorities of Regional Development Plans.

#### **Activity 311** Preparation of plans for PLS

During the reporting period the plans for Alaba and Metema were developed in collaboration with community participants, research and development partners. An integral part of these plans are rapid assessments of production, input supply and marketing assessments for the priority commodities (see 410 and 420). The proposed plans provide the framework for the potential interventions.

#### **Activity 312** PLS planning workshop

An integral part of the development of plans for the PLS are workshops in which the findings of the PRA studies are presented and enriched with comments received from the workshop participants. Two workshops, one each in Alaba and Meisso were held during this reporting period.

**Activity 320** Strengthening the capacity of farmers, pastoralists, and staff from Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) and from private organizations at the *Woreda* level in PLSs, including the procurement of materials and equipment.

#### **Amhara Region**

- In Fogera
  - A one day training course (May 28) on pepper production and seed multiplication for 9 multipurpose and four irrigation cooperatives was organized at Fogera in which 37 farmers (2 female) participated. The course was facilitated by staff from Adet Agricultural Research Station.
  - A two day course on tomato home processing for retailers, farmers, subject matter specialists and DAs was organized on July 14 and 15. The course was facilitated by IPMS staff and Adet research center. A total of 5 female retailers and 35 farmers (5 female) participated.
  - A course on dairy production and processing for two dairy farmers groups and DAs from August 4 to 8. The training was provided by a local NGO, named Jerusalem Children's

Development Organization (JaCDO). In total 12 farmers (1 female) participated in the training.

- A study tour was organized for 10 dairy farmers to visit the operations of the Bahir Dar Dairy cooperative.
- On-farm demonstration of honey production using modern beehives was undertaken in 3 PAs.
- IPMS facilitated the supply of castor bean from OoARD and also mulberry seedlings from GTZ to silk weavers group.
- In Metema
  - Demonstration of conservation tillage was undertaken for 100 farmers (all male) in 8 Kebeles, by IPMS RDO and Woreda experts
  - Training was provided on nursery management and banana production and management practices for 16 male farmers by the IPMS RDO and Woreda experts
  - Created awareness on fruit crops production and facilitated the introduction and purchase of over 600 banana suckers and solo papaya seed for the first time in the Woreda.
  - On farm demonstration on cotton row planting was conducted by the IPMS RDO and Woreda experts in Mender 6,7,8 Kebele in which 6 model male farmers participated.
  - Training was provided on cattle fattening for 84 farmers (11 women) and demonstration was made on the use of antihelminthics for the control of internal parasites by the Woreda veterinarian.
  - Training was provided for 12 male farmers on improved sorghum seed production methods by the IPMS RDO and Woreda experts.
  - Training was provided for 22 male farmers on improved seedling production and improved management of pepper by the IPMS RDO and Woreda experts.

### Oromiya Region

- In Ada'a:
  - A training on Smallholder dairy production for 20 couples (husband and wife) from Kurkura, Sirba, Denkakak and Ude Peasant Associations was held at the EARO Debre Zeit station

from June 27-30. Training was provided by EARO DZ dairy and animal feed staff as well as “expert” farmers. Training included knowledge on dairy, fodder production and marketing. During the course, participants were also introduced to the Ada’a Liben Dairy cooperative to discuss possible linkages (A report on the training can be found on the project website [www.ipms-ethiopia.org](http://www.ipms-ethiopia.org)).

- Training on Smallholder poultry production and livestock fattening for 20 couples (husband and wife) from Gendegorba, Godino, Dire, Ude and Kurkura Peasant Associations was held at the Genesis farm in Debre Zeit from August 23 to 26. The training was provided by EARO/DZ staff and expert staff from the Woreda OoARD. (A report on the training can be found on the project website. [www.ipms-ethiopia.org](http://www.ipms-ethiopia.org))
- A study tour for sixty farmers (1 female) was organized to AlagaeTVET to look at modern beekeeping, honey production and processing technologies.
- On the job training on apiculture was provided to 37 farmers (1 female) from 4 PAs by trainers from SAPTECH. In support of this, the project supplied 4 transitional beehives to farmers for demonstration purposes (one for each of the PAs).
- In Meisso farmers were exposed to the following capacity building events
  - Visit to the EARO’s Melka Werer Agricultural Research Centre by 11 lead farmers (10 male, 1 female) on September 7. The trip exposed farmers to improved agronomic practices and varieties for some of the selected priority commodities (sesame and groundnut). Farmers were also able to see Vernonia for the first time.
  - Visit to EARO’s Melkassa Agricultural Research Center and the Self Help Development International Dodota Project (Arsi) between September 6 and 7, 2005 by 5 lead farmers (all male) to look at irrigation technology and irrigated horticultural crops and beans.
  - Demonstration materials / select seeds of sesame and haricot bean was provided to model farmers in 4 PA s.
  - Model women farmers (9) drawn from two women milk groups at Melkahora and Genna PAs visited the Ada’a –Liben Dairy cooperative and Debre Zeit Dairy farm between September 28 and 30, 2005

- Five model farmers from 5 PAs visited irrigated vegetables production at Dera area and Melkassa Agricultural Research Center between September 6 and 7, 2005
- Nine women farmers visited a sericulture farm in Debrezeit town between September 28 and 30, 2005.
- Vernonia seed was provided as demonstration material to 8 farmers in Odabella and Harkoncha PA s.

### Tigray Region

- In Atsbi, capacity building of farmers and private sector partners took place, including:
  - Post mortem hide and skin management for participants who are mainly associated with post-mortem skin and hide handling such as retailers (14), wholesalers (3) and cooperative (6) representatives on July 30 at Wukro by resource persons from Sheba tannery and the Bureau of Agriculture.
  - Training of farmers (Sept 23) on improved skin and hide management in two FTCs: Hayelom FTC (apiculture-livestock FS) and Golgol Naele FTC (Pulse-livestock FS). Demonstration materials showing the different defects were put into the FTCs. Training will be conducted on a regular basis. The BoARD expert prepared the improved skin and hide management manual written in Tigrigna and this will be published with the help of the IPMS project.
  - Twenty four women from five PAs (PAs known for the production of market oriented commodities) participated in the training in processing and marketing of priority commodities. The PAs are Barka Adi-Sebha, Golgol Naele, Hayelom, Kal Amin and Adi Mesanu (Table 2). Most of the trainees are illiterate and seven of them are school dropouts residing in the rural areas. Some of the trainees have some experience on preparation and selling of limited amounts of barley flour and pulses, and honey or butter in the surrounding market. The training resources persons were from Small & Micro-Enterprise Trading and Industry (Mekele), Bureau of Agriculture and Rural Development (BoARD), Office of Agriculture and Rural Development (OoARD), and Improving Productivity and Market Success (IPMS) of Ethiopian Farmers.

**Activity 330** Identifying, assessing, implementing and monitoring participatory market-led development programs based on identified priority commodities in farming systems in PLSs, using innovative processes.

### 331 Development of community based programs and interest groups

The Research and Development Officers have started the identification of groups of farmers interested in the “priority” marketable commodities in the PLS.

- In Fogera, two dairy groups have been formed in two PAs with the facilitation of IPMS. The number of members are 33 (all male) and 28 (1 female) at the Woreta Zuria and Alem Ber PAs, respectively. In addition, a silk production and processing group has been established with 27 male members.
- In Metema, a group of 48 male farmers have been organized as sorghum seed growers at Kokit PA. At Kumer PA, 12 male farmers have been organized into a cattle fattening group.
- In Ada’a, three apiculture marketing cooperatives have been established in Yerer, Ziquala and Ude PAs. Three dairy marketing groups have been also been established in three PAs. In addition, four vegetables marketing groups have been established.
- In Meisso, two women milk groups have been organized at Melkahora and Genna PAs.
- In Atsbi, a community-based forage crops development including area closure has been undertaken on more than 40 ha land in Golgol Naele and Barka Adi Sebha PAs.

In an attempt to develop programs for the priority commodities at the PLS, IPMS staff and a number of national and international research and development organizations have participated. These include:

- ICRAF and EARO on coffee shade, fruit tree production and marketing,
- CIAT on haricot beans, and on agri-business development
- EARO on horticultural crops, sericulture, poultry and meat production, dairy production, teff, and wheat production
- ICRISAT and EARO on chickpeas
- IWMI on irrigation
- ILRI on trypanosomosis control, forage crops production and marketing studies
- SAPTECH and SOS Sahel UK – on apiculture production

**332 to 334** Developing marketing, input supply and production innovations in the PLS

### **332. Development of Market (identification and linkages)**

- In Fogera, onion market arrangements have been made between entrepreneurs from Addis Ababa, Bahir Dar, and Dessie and irrigation cooperatives.
- In Ada'a, kabuli type chickpea marketing has been established with national and international markets. In addition, rural dairy producers have been linked with the Ada'a dairy cooperative in Debre Zeit town. Preliminary linkage has also been made with honey producers and Beza honey producing and processing PLC in Nazareth town and with a private apiculturist in Debre Zeit town.
- In Meisso, model farmers from 5 PAs have been linked with exporter abattoirs in Metehara and Modjo towns for the marketing of small ruminants.
- In Atsbi, linkage has been established between skins and hides traders and a tannery. Honey processing and marketing women group has also been established.
- In Alaba, Menchone Farmers Union were linked with an exporter (Omer & Awad Baobed Pvt. Ltd Co) and a total of 380 Qt of haricot bean was sold.
- Identified Addis pepper processing factories and traders with Alaba producers.
- In Dale, farmers, primary cooperatives and the Sidama Elto Farmers Cooperative Union were linked with the export market for haricot beans.

### **333 Development of input supply system**

- In Fogera, onion seed production is initiated as part of the input marketing in the seed systems. And 12 farmers are identified to go for seed – to – seed production. Also 4 private entrepreneurs and two model farmers are going for bulb-to-seed production system. In addition, off season pepper seed multiplication was introduced and planted on 6 farmers' plots in 3 PAs and in one FTC.
- In Metema, a private agricultural chemical supply system has been established.
- In Alaba, a private entrepreneur was identified, who is involved in the manufacturing of treadle pumps.
- In Alaba and Dale, private traders and cooperatives were identified for haricot bean seed supply system

- In Ada'a the Yerer Union was identified as the supply institution for chick peas seed

### 334 Production innovations

- In Alamata, Forage seeds of 6 varieties from ILRI Addis and 4 types from Sirinka Agricultural Research Center have been introduced at two demonstration sites. Arrangement for the manufacturing of animal feed chopper locally has also been made with a private workshop owner in Alamata.
- In Fogera, four upland rice varieties namely NERICA-3, NERICA-3, SUPERICA-1, and PAWE-1, are under on-farm trial in collaboration with the Amhara Agricultural Research Institute (ARARI). It is underway in five sites representing five 5 PAs .
- In Metema, on farm trial on Vernonia is being carried out in 2 kebeles to know its adaptation.
- In Alaba, 3 new pepper varieties (Melka Zalla , Melka Dimma and Mareko Fanna) were introduced from Melkassa Agricultural Research Center to the PLS.
- In Alaba and Meisso, vernonia has also been introduced to PAs.

In general, farmers who have been trained on various aspects of production and marketing of the priority commodities are now being exposed to the technologies to take up lead roles in the production activities.

Based on an initial assessment of credit institutions and need for new financial products in support of the proposed technology and institutional interventions in the PLS, a proposal was submitted to CIDA to start using the funds.

#### **2.3.2 Analysis of farmer, CBO and private sector capacity building and technology uptake component**

Activities in the various PLSes differ considerably mainly due to the variations in the time of deployment of the Research and Development Officers.

The formation of farmer enterprise groups has started in some of the PLS. Following the project's principle of starting activities at a marketable scale by involving several villages/groups at the same time, most enterprise groups are developed this way, even though the number of villages/groups is still limited. An exception is the introduction of chickpeas in Ada'a which covers several villages. Linkages between the farmers and the other actors in the enterprise chain were established, as an integral part of the capacity building activity.

The use of these linkages as platforms for planning and learning will have to be developed further in the next reporting period.

The project also introduced some new approaches to capacity development for farmers and private sector partners (also see 2.2.2). Increased emphasis is also paid to the training of women farmers. To empower female farmers to benefit from a market led development some PLS (Ada'a, and Meisso) also started experimenting with joint husband and wife training and/or taking women groups on study tours. Some trainings were specifically targeted at females e.g the marketing and processing training which took place in Fogera and Atsbi. These innovations need to be monitored carefully (in terms of impact and cost) to see how feasible they are (see 420).

While some potential market outlets and input supply institutions have been identified, developing such institutions will take time and may also require the use of credit. This is expected to take place in the next six months, once the use of credit funds has been approved.

In this initial phase of the project, some of the production technologies are still in a testing phase and the project used different demonstration approaches to introduce such technologies. More discussions will be required with partner institutions to use different methods for such demonstrations adopting more innovative approaches.

## **2.4 Developing recommendations on technology, institutional and policy options (400 series)**

**Objective:** Based on action oriented research generate gender sensitive policy and strategy recommendations on marketing, technology transfer, input and credit innovations for market oriented priority crops, livestock & livestock products.

**Outcome:** Gender sensitive recommendations (strategies, policies, technology options and institutional innovations) developed from both research and lessons learned.

The following indicators, included in the PMF were developed to measure the progress towards achieving the outcome:

- Number of gender sensitive recommendations made on technology options
- Number of recommendations to mitigate HIV/AIDS risk and its impact on agriculture
- Number of recommendations to mitigate environmental impact of technologies
- Number of gender sensitive recommendations made for strategies, policies and institutional innovations
- Quality of recommendations made by the IPMS Project
- Number of publications by IPMS Project

### **2.4.1 Completed and planned activities and outputs recommendations on technology, institutional and policy options (400 code)**

**Activity 410** Undertaking research on the adoption and impact of alternative technologies within and across the PLSs.

#### **411 Focused studies on indigenous knowledge systems**

- The PRA studies in the PLS include an initial assessment of the production technologies for the priority commodities. During this reporting period an initial assessment of production technologies for crop and livestock commodities in Alaba and Meisso were conducted. The findings were included in the commodity assessments in the PRA report and posted on the project website.
- The baseline survey collected information on current production practices and technologies for each of the priority market oriented crop and livestock commodities identified by the project.
- ICRAF in collaboration with IPMS staff conducted a farm survey on coffee shade and fruit trees in the coffee home garden system in Dale. The aim of this study is to obtain more in depth knowledge on this system as well as to provide quantitative information on fruit production, management of fruit trees and coffee shade trees. The information is now being analyzed and will be reported in the next quarter.
- Following the early assessment of the chickpea production system, ICRISAT in collaboration with IPMS staff conducted a rapid assessment of the existing production system in Ada'a. The study concluded that there is a huge potential for chickpea production and there is a need to reorganize the market-chain to ensure production of the export type chickpeas, the kabuli type. The report is available on the project website.
- SAPTECH conducted a rapid assessment of the honey production system and market opportunities in Ada'a. The study concluded that there is an existing traditional apiculture production system and that potential exists for the development of an improved and market-oriented production system. The findings are posted on the project website.
- ILRI's forage unit, with the help of 6 attached students from Alemaya and Debub Universities conducted an assessment of the fodder seed production systems in potential dairy production areas in Ada'a and Dale Woredas. The study indicated that natural pasture and crop residues are major feed resources available. Farmers also use a number of indigenous and exotic species of forages for their livestock.

However, feed shortage is a major constraint to livestock production and the fodder seed production system is weak in both sites. Summary of the findings are available on the project website.

- CIAT, in collaboration with EARO, the Ethiopian Seed Enterprise (ESE) and IPMS staff made a rapid assessment of haricot bean production systems in Dale and Alaba. At both sites, the Woliya red haricot bean variety is more favored by the community as it has a local market. Other varieties that are suited for the export market are not grown in large quantities due to lack of appropriate marketing arrangements
- A male student from Debu University, sponsored by the IPMS project, has started his MSc thesis research on the existing dairy and beef production system and market opportunities in Fogera. The study focuses on characterizing the production systems, identifying the major constraints, and recommendations for development of market-oriented cattle (dairy and beef) production system.
- A female student from Alemaya University, sponsored by the IPMS project has started her MSc thesis research on the existing dairy production system and market opportunities in Miesso Woreda. The study focuses on characterizing the dairy production systems, identifying the major constraints, and recommendations for development of market-oriented dairy production system.

#### **412 Focused studies on adoption and impact of current NRM practices**

- The PRA studies in the PLS include an initial assessment of the natural resource management technologies for the priority commodities. During this reporting period an initial assessment of NRM technologies for crop and livestock commodities in Alaba and Meisso was conducted. The findings were included in the commodity assessments in the PRA report.
- The baseline survey collected information on current soil fertility management, agricultural water development efforts, and soil and water conservation technologies.
- IWMI completed a study on the water development potentials of existing water harvesting and irrigation technologies in Alamata Woreda. The potential for the exploitation for ground water appears to be restricted due to the high level of salinity. Priority should therefore be given to surface water development and usage. The assessment of the individual technologies was found to be preliminary and a more detailed technical and economic assessment is to follow in order to arrive at recommendations for improvement.
- A male student from Addis Ababa University, sponsored by IPMS, has started his MSc thesis research on newly introduced water harvesting ponds technology in Atsbi. The objectives of the research include the examination of the benefits and costs of the rain water harvesting

technology, assessing the impact of the rain water harvesting technology on yield, household income and welfare, and identify constraints and provide recommendation to improve the impact of the technology.

- A female MSc student from Addis Ababa University is preparing her thesis research proposal on costs, benefits, constraints and opportunities of household level water harvesting technologies in Alaba.
- ILRI's trypanosomosis control project team conducted a rapid assessment of the situation and the control mechanisms in Fogera and Dale. The team confirmed the existence of tse-tse fly transmitted trypanosomosis in Dale and mechanically transmitted trypanosomosis in Fogera. Strategies for community-based trypanosomosis control have been developed and interventions will be tested in the next 6 months.

#### **413 Regular monitoring of introduced technologies**

- The baseline survey which includes an assessment of production and natural resource management technologies for the priority commodities in the PLS was completed during this reporting period. Project staff completed and field tested the survey instruments and trained enumerators and supervisors. Data coding and entry has started. Due to the poor security situation in Meisso, the baseline survey was postponed. Data analysis and report writing will commence in the next quarter in collaboration with IFPRI scientists.
- The baseline survey has collected information on farmer adoption of improved technologies for the priority crop and livestock commodities identified by the project.
- The introduction of improved production and natural resource management technologies for the priority technologies in farmers field is limited (see 330). However, some of these interventions are operational e.g. introduction of improved banana varieties in Metama, introduction of sericulture and improved chickpeas varieties in Ada'a, forage plot development in Atsbi etc. Some informal monitoring of these interventions has started by project staff and partners backstopping these interventions.

**Activity 420** Undertaking research on alternative and innovative institutional arrangements for extension systems, input supply, rural finance and markets.

#### **421 Focused studies on marketing of priority commodities in PLS**

- The PRA studies in the PLS include an initial assessment of the marketing arrangements for the priority commodities. During this reporting period an initial assessment of marketing for crop and livestock commodities in Alaba and Meisso was conducted. The findings were included in the commodity assessments in the PRA report.
- The baseline survey has collected information on market access and market participation of households with respect to the priority crop and livestock commodities
- To conduct the more focused marketing studies for the priority commodities the project made contact with the Agricultural Universities, to involve MSc students in this work. The following market oriented MSc thesis studies are underway with IPMS sponsorship.
  - MSc thesis research on pepper marketing for Alaba by a female student from Alemaya University from August 2005 to April 2006
  - MSc thesis research on coffee marketing in Dale by a male student from Alemaya University from August 2005 to April 2006.
  - MSc thesis research on sesame marketing in Metema by a male student from Alemaya University from September 2005 to May 2006.
- ICRAF started with a marketing study on fruits. So far a rapid study was conducted in Tigray, looking at the supply chain and distribution of fruits originating from outside the Region and the potential for producing such fruits in the Region, in particular in Atsbi and Alamata. A start was also made with an assessment of the Addis fruit market structure, in particular for fruits marketed to Tigray and fruits retailed in Addis. The study will be completed next quarter.
- Marketing of chickpeas in Ada'a Woreda was studied by a female attachment student from the University of Maryland, USA. An initial assessment of chickpeas was also made by ICRISAT in collaboration with IPMS.
- To provide a structure to these and future studies, the project in collaboration with CIAT's partnership program developed outlines for two manuals, one for rapid market appraisal (RMA), and another for sub sector assessment i.e. one based on qualitative rapid assessment methods and one based on quantitative methods.
- SAPTECH conducted a rapid assessment of potential market outlets for honey in Ada'a PLS.

- A milk marketing chain study was commissioned in Ada'a Woreda to a consultant. The study is aimed at describing the various actors involved in the milk marketing chain, the transaction mechanisms and possible interventions
- Discussions have started with ILRI theme 3 for the development of livestock marketing studies. The theme, with IPMS funding has employed, a PhD holder in agricultural marketing as a research officer as of September 19, 2005.

#### 423 Studies on existing extension, input supply and credit or priority commodities in PLS

- The PRA studies in the PLS include an initial assessment of the existing extension, input supply and credit services for the priority commodities. During this reporting period such an assessment was also conducted for Alaba and Meisso. The findings were included in the commodity assessments in the PRA report.
- The baseline survey has collected information on institutional support services (input supply, extension and credit), their effectiveness and farmer perceptions of the relevance and responsiveness of the institutional support services to the needs of farmers
- The project team prepared two papers summarizing the PLS findings on i) the extension system and the ii) input and credit services. These papers identified the major shortcomings of the current extension and input supply/credit services and provided recommendations for improvement.
- CIAT conducted a rapid assessment of the haricot bean seed systems in Dale and Alaba in collaboration with EARO Melkassa, the Ethiopian Seed Enterprise (ESE) and IPMS. The findings were put in a report which indicates that for this year emphasis may be put on improving the capacity of the farmers and local traders to improve the efficiency of the existing seed supply system through capacity building.
- ICRISAT in collaboration with EARO DZ and IPMS conducted a rapid assessment of the chickpea seed input supply and marketing system in Ada'a Woreda. The assessment revealed that the Yerer Farmers' Cooperatives Union has taken the lead in the supply of kabuli type chickpea varieties targeting the export market.
- ICRAF in collaboration with IPMS Dale, conducted a rapid assessment of potential fruit tree nurseries in Dale PLS. The nurseries identified are existing private nurseries, which operate commercially.
- A male student from Alemaya University developed an MSc proposal to study the existing extension system in Alaba. The study has started and will last from September 2005 to may 2006.

**424 Monitoring of the development and impact of institutional innovations for extension, input supply, credit and marketing**

- The baseline survey which includes an assessment of institutional arrangement and their impact in the PLS was completed during this reporting period. (also see 413)
- Monitoring of newly introduced institutional innovations (see 413)

**428 Workshops/conferences/seminars to present and disseminate findings and recommendations**

- The project team presented a paper in an EARO/University of Michigan Conference on the existing extension systems in the PLS and Ethiopia and provided a strategy for improving the effectiveness of the system.
- At the same conference a paper was also presented on the input and credit services of agricultural commodities

**429 Publications to present and disseminate the institutional innovations**

- The extension paper and the input supply/credit paper were presented at an international conference organized by EARO and Western Michigan University. The papers will be published as IPMS official publications and also will be sent for journal publications.
- The papers will be presented at national or regional fora in the future.

**Activity 430** Conducting and synthesizing environmental studies, environmental assessments and analyses in relation to the market oriented commodities.

- Due to the sudden death of the environmental consultant, the project recruited a new consultant, who initiated his consultancy in September.

**Activity 440** Conducting gender analyses and studies related to priority commodities, technologies and services.

**441 and 443 Studies and stakeholder meetings on gender roles in production and marketing of priority commodities in and across PLS**

- The gender data collection was completed in 8 PLS by the RDOs with the help of Woreda staff. The raw data were sent to the consultant, who reviewed them and prepared a draft paper which will be used for a training scheduled for the first week of October.

- A summary report including gender fact sheets for priority commodities will be prepared
- Follow up meetings will be held with the WALCs in the PLS to discuss actions based on the findings of the studies.

**Activity 450** Conducting studies on the interrelationship between HIV/AIDS and agricultural productivity and production vis-à-vis the priority commodities.

**451 and 453** Studies and stakeholder meetings on HIV/AIDS in production and marketing of priority commodities in and across PLS

- The HIV/AIDS data collection for the remaining 5 Woredas was completed in 8 PLS by the RDOs with the help of Woreda staff. The raw data were sent to the consultant, who reviewed them and prepared a draft paper which will be used for a TOT training scheduled for the first week of October.
- A seminar will also be held to discuss the findings of the study.

**2.4.2 Analysis recommendations and policy options component**

The emphasis in the past reporting period has been on initiating and conducting diagnostic or focus studies of technologies and institutions. These studies aim at characterization and analysis of an existing situation. So far not enough emphasis has been put on documenting the innovation system. Such studies focus on institutional changes which have taken place in the past and the process which influenced these innovations. This will receive increased attention in the next six months using the so called “innovation history” approach. Project will try to work through students for such studies.

A limited start has been made with action learning studies, which aim at learning and documenting lessons from technology and institutional innovations introduced in PLS and also to monitor the evolution of comprehensive innovation systems in these PLS which are responsive and adaptive to changing market situations. More emphasis will be placed on such action learning studies in the next six months. The approach/methodology for the same will be developed in collaboration with partners and a consultant.

The processes employed by the IPMS project in facilitating the innovations themselves will be captured using tools like process mapping and After Action Reviews (AAR) and will be used as knowledge management tools for learning and codification.

## **3 Project management**

### **3.1 Planned and completed project management activities**

#### **Activity 510 Recruitment of project staff**

During the reporting period the project continued with the recruitment of the following staff:

- Ranjitha Puskur – Innovations Specialist, financed for 50% by ILRI's Innovation's Theme
- Research & Development Assistants for Atsbi, Alamata, Meisso & Fogera. A temporary RDA was recruited for Ada'a
- Drivers for Alaba, Meisso, Ada'a, Dale, Fogera & Metema

Besides, the staff recruited directly by the IPMS team, the project also assisted in the recruitment of the following:

- Dr. Teresa Adugna – Research Officer as a joint appointment between ILRI's Markets Theme and the IPMS project
- A local consultancy firm to code data collected during the baseline survey
- Five data entry staff to enter the data collected during the baseline survey
- 13 supervisors & 93 enumerators were recruited to conduct the baseline survey (not including Meisso for which the survey has not yet commenced)

An overview of the staff recruited is provided in Annex 2

In the next six months the recruitment of RDAs and drivers will be completed. Enumerators and supervisors will be recruited on a temporary basis. The project will furthermore recruit a local gender specialist. The need for a local project RBM specialist will be discussed with project's RBM consultant.

#### **Activity 520 Recruitment of consultants**

##### International consultants

During this reporting period, the project recruited a new environmental consultant (Ian Campbell), who has started updating the project's environmental strategy vis a vis the possible use of biotechnology.

During the reporting period, the project also (re)-engaged the services of Clare Bishop, the project's gender and HIV/AIDS consultant to guide the analysis of the gender and HIV/AIDS data collection in the project PLS.

In the next six months the project will continue to employ the gender and HIV/AIDS consultant to complete the on-going study consultancy and the planned monitoring and synthesis of lessons learned. The environmental

consultant will also continue to be engaged to assist in the implementation and monitoring of the environmental strategy.

The project will also engage the services of the project RBM consultant to review the present framework.

#### Local consultants

A local consultant was hired to conduct a milk marketing study in Ada'a.

SAPTECH, a local consultancy firm specializing in apiculture, was hired to develop and monitor a market oriented honey and wax development program for Ada'a.

An agreement with SOS Sahel for the development of honey in Fogera is under preparation.

Arrangements with other local consultants will be developed in the next six months on a needs basis.

#### **Activity 530 Contracting – Research and development partners**

During this reporting period the project finalized the format for the Letter of Agreements (LoA) between ILRI and the CG partners for partnership in the IPMS project, as well as the general format for the annual program of work, outputs and budget. The following partnership arrangements are now in place/operational with the CG centers.

- IWMI for water development activities for marketable commodities in Alamata and Atsbi
- ICRAF for fruit marketing studies for Dale, Addis Ababa and Tigray, and a fruit and coffee shade study in Dale and a fruit nursery system in Dale
- ICRISAT for chick pea development (production, input supply and marketing) in Ada'a Woreda
- CIAT for agribusiness development and market chain analysis support across PLS and for haricot bean seed input supply systems in Alaba and Dale (the overall agreement was signed but the signing of the program of work and budget was delayed due to unfortunate family circumstances of the program coordinator- work is however conducted as planned)
- IFPRI for preparation and analysis of baseline data collection
- IFPRI/ISNAR for the introduction of innovation/extension methodology (program of work and budget has been integrated into a joint program for agricultural innovation systems in sub Saharan Africa (AISA) between ILRI and IFPRI).

The following partnership arrangements are still under preparation

- Partnerships arrangements with The WorldFish Center and EARO in Fogera were delayed since planning of the activities proved to be difficult because of flooding of the targeted areas during this period.

- Discussions were held with CIMMYT for partnership arrangements for wheat development. Partly due to the fact that CIMMYT has no wheat specialists in the African continent anymore, no concrete areas for collaboration have been identified so far. Similarly, discussions with ICARDA have started but not yet resulted in identifying partnership arrangements.
- Discussions have started with the African Highlands Initiative (AHI) to get involved in improving the capacity of the extension staff, elite farmers and other development actors in the use of tools and methods in integrated soil fertility and land management for enhanced production of market oriented goods and services.

During the next six month the project will also explore potential collaboration with other CG partners.

During this project period, the project has received excellent collaboration from staff of the Ethiopian Agricultural Research System (EARS) including EARO and RARI staff. Collaboration so far has focused on capacity building of Woreda OoARD staff, farmers and private sector partners in several of the PLS (see 300 and 400) and some rapid assessment studies for seed input supply system. No special agreements have been signed for these “short” well defined activities. Involvement of EARS in monitoring technology and institutional adoption (which will take place over a longer period) will require a more formal arrangement and the project will explore how to develop those agreements. In this respect a distinction will be made between agreements in which the EARS is the lead partner and a situation in which these activities are a joint effort with a CG partner. One such agreement is presently being developed between ICRISAT and EARO for the chickpea development program in Ada’a.

The project furthermore signed an agreement with Dejenna Endowment, a commercial enterprise in Tigray to link the project’s livestock activities in Atsbi and Alamata with Dejenna’s export abattoir planned to be established in Mekelle in Tigray Region.

The project will also collaborate with Land O’ Lakes, who will implement a USAID funded project for dairy development, including some of the PLS. Linkages have also been made with a USAID funded project on livestock marketing.

The project is also interacting with the Dutch funded agro business development program, implemented by SNV. A series of meeting on the enterprise development of selected products (honey/wax, fruits) was attended by project staff. Contacts have also been made with other stakeholders in PLS including SG Global 2000 and SOS Sahel in Fogera. Contacts were also made with the Ethiopian Seed Enterprise, in particular for the activcites in the South. More contact with development partners will be made in the next six months on a needs basis.

Finally the RDO of Alamata (Dr Gebreyohannes) has been assigned to the advisory committee of the Millennium Village Development program in Koraro, Tigray.

The project has furthermore started using local NGOs and private sector institutions in capacity building activities for institutional staff and farmers (see 200 and 300 series for details). No agreements are signed for such inputs.

### **Activity 540 Office Establishment**

#### ***Headquarters***

The HQ office has now been established and the following items are in place:

- Office furniture & laptop for our new Innovations Specialist
- Digital camera
- Digital video camera

Orders have been placed for 2 additional laptops as well as a heavy duty photocopier and printer.

It is foreseen that in the next six months, office facilities for the IPMS at HQ will have to be further expanded to provide temporary facilities to partner institutions, consultants, attached students and visiting RDOs from the PLS. Furthermore office space needs to be provided to the locally recruited gender specialist.

#### ***Pilot Learning Sites***

8 of the PLS have been established and the following is in place:

- Laptop computers
- Desktops
- Printers
- Furniture
- Telephone & Internet lines
- Vehicles
- Digital cameras
- GPS

A fax machine has been purchased for one of the sites where Internet connections are quite difficult. Fax machines will be ordered for the other PLS as necessary. Orders for 8 motorcycles have also been placed and the bikes should be ready to be dispatched to the PLS by mid November.

Some additional equipment and furniture may be required to accommodate the needs of temporary staff and the locally recruited gender consultant. An assessment will be made and be forwarded to CIDA for approval.

### **Activity 550 Project planning, monitoring and evaluation**

During this reporting period 2 planning workshops were held to initiate the programs in Metama and Alaba. RDO's in the other PLS have regular meetings with the different stakeholders to plan activities.

A project steering committee meeting was held in April during which the first progress report was presented, together with the proposed plan and budget for the next six month. It was recommended that the steering committee should be enlarged to include EARO, and representatives from the marketing and natural resource management state ministries. Another steering committee will be convened in October/November to review the project's progress and decide on specific activities for the next 6 month.

The project developed a database system to enter information on:

- capacity building activities for public institutions
- capacity building for farmers, pastoralists, CBO, cooperatives and private enterprises
- studies conducted on production and NRM technologies, input output marketing and extension

(Capacity building may include workshops, training courses, field visits and study tours).

During this reporting period, one of the Project Implementation Committee (PIC) Members was moved to another position in the Ministry and a new member was appointed. Some PIC members were involved in the capacity building activities (see 200), and project staff interacted on specific activities) with the designated PIC member and the MoARD steering committee members.

Baseline data collection for the project has been completed in 7 PLS (see also 400).

Proposals for the use of the project Micro Finance Funds and the National Agricultural Resource Information Centre were developed and forwarded to CIDA for approval.

## **Activity 560 Project Reporting**

### ***Financial Reporting***

Quarterly financial reports have been submitted to CIDA for the following periods:

- January – March 2005
- April – June 2005

We are currently in the process of preparing a report for the third quarter of 2005 (July – September).

### ***Half Yearly Progress Reports***

The present report covers the period April- September 2005.

## **Activity 570 Project communications**

During this reporting period, project staff took part in various workshops, meetings and field days. See Annex 3 for details.

A formal presentation on the project was made during the CBAS workshop organized by CIDA/World bank.

Dr Azage introduced the IPMS project to senior management staff of EARO, including the DG, DDG and the Directors of the various divisions.

To get an increased understanding of the project in the MoARD and to introduce the knowledge management component, a presentation of the project will take place in early October. The presentation will be organized by the Office of Planning from the MoARD and participants will be drawn from the 3 State Ministries (Production, NRM and Marketing).

During the planning workshop in Alaba, the project received nationwide TV and Regional radio coverage. Interviews, highlighting the project's background and objectives were given by senior staff.

### ***Website***

The project website was updated during the reporting period. The project has also started to work on a database-driven content management system that will drive all content to be placed in the website. This change will enable more frequent and easier content updates enabling us to have a more powerful communications tool. Easier update mechanism will also enable us to incorporate "authenticated access" to selected website areas -- such as detailed project status reports.

### ***Brochure, posters and newsletter***

The brochure on the project was distributed to visitors. The project also developed a poster which is displayed in all the PLS and the MoARD.

The first project Newsletter is under preparation and will be issued at the time of ILRI's open day on October 15. In addition, we will soon have Newsletters for each PLS.

### ***Publications***

The project intends to develop its own publication series to communicate its findings to a targeted audience. The format, and review process will be developed during this period and some of the papers scheduled for inclusion in the series are mentioned in the 400 series.

## **3.2 Analysis of the project management component**

### Project Management

The reporting period was characterized by a pre and post election period which caused considerable uncertainty about the institutional arrangements at different levels. This uncertainty included organizational structures within the Ministry as well as the officials in key positions. The project has therefore not yet moved/pushed to achieve a better management structure at the Federal level (inclusion EARO, and State Ministries of NRM and Marketing in the steering committee).

The institutional situation is expected to “settle” in the last quarter of 2005 and an improved management structure is expected to be in place in the next six month.

The project has not yet initiated the institutional panel of experts (IOE). So far it has used “expert” visitors to ILRI to interact on project strategies. One expert visitor was Dr Ashok Gulati (IFPRI), who interacted with the project team during a field visit to Ada’a Woreda. More such interactions are planned during the next period. Discussions are also underway with the ILRI management to identify potential candidates for this panel.

### Result Based Management Framework

While the RBM proves to be a very helpful tool in systematizing the project’s activities, the innovation system activities (linkages, processes), outputs and outcome are difficult to put into a “box” since they cut across the project’s 4 components. This issue will be discussed with the project’s RBM consultant and may result in some restructuring of the RBM.

### Partnership Development

While the project has made good progress with the partnership agreement development, more needs to be done to engage partners into an innovation systems framework in which all actors work towards a common goal.

### Project Finance

Variances in the budgeted and actual amounts during the past 6 month period on the most part can be attributed to:

- Delay in the recruitment of international and national staff.
- Postponement of the engagement of some IARCs and international consultants to the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter (Some IARCS were engaged already but have not yet received the first installment due to the delay in signing formal agreements)
- Overestimation in the number of study tours to take place
- Limited activities in PLS and costs which have so far been limited and are lower than anticipated
- Postponement of the baseline survey until the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter mainly due to delays in receiving the new GPS but also because of problems encountered in hiring qualified staff
- Overestimation in the number of training courses that were to take place during this period

- Lower than anticipated expenditures for materials, supplies and general expenses partly because of the fact that some of the PLS were not yet fully operational but also because actual expenses incurred such as rent/utilities have been less than what was budgeted for since PLS are sharing offices with the MoARD
- Overestimation in the actual travel costs and the amount of travel by IARCS, MoARD and research staff which has so far been limited

**Annex 1 List of MSc/BSc candidates supported (tuition and research) by the IPMS project during Phase I (2005/6)**

**A. Oromiya Regional State**

<b>Oromiya Region</b>	<b>Sex</b>	<b>University</b>	<b>Degree</b>	<b>Area of Training</b>
<b>Regional Level</b>				
Jamal Kuru Mama	M	Alemaya	MSc	Agricultural Marketing
Ahimed Yuya Hibro	M	Alemaya	MSc	Agricultural Extension
<b>Ada'a PLS</b>				
Misrak Aberra	M	Debub	BSc	Natural Resources Management
Assefa Diribsa	M	Alemaya	BSc	Agricultural Economics
Getenesh Bekele	F	Alemaya	BSc	Animal Science
Kebebush Gedyelew	F	Alemaya	BSc	Agricultural Economics
<b>Meisso PLS</b>				
Aynalem Birhanu	F	Alemaya	BSc	Agricultural Extension
Derrese Kassa	M	Alemaya	BSc	Animal Science

**B. Amhara Regional State**

<b>Amhara Region</b>	<b>Sex</b>	<b>University</b>	<b>Degree</b>	<b>Area of Training</b>
<b>Regional Level</b>				
Tesfaye Asseffa Dachew	M	Addis Ababa	MSc	Information Technology
Bosena Tegegne Delele	F	Alemaya	MSc	Agricultural Economics - regular
<b>Fogera PLS</b>				
Etenesh Abate Hailu	F	Alemaya	BSc	Agricultural Economics
<b>Metema PLS</b>				
Daniel Tadesse	M	Alemaya	MSc	Agricultural Extension
Dasash Omer	F	Alemaya	BSc	Animal Science

**C. Tigray Regional State**

<b>Tigray Region</b>	<b>Sex</b>	<b>University</b>	<b>Degree</b>	<b>Area of Training</b>
<b>Regional Level</b>				
Simret Hailemichael	F	Alemaya – R	MSc	Agricultural Extension
Asmelash Tesfay Melless	M	Alemaya – R	MSc	Agricultural Economics
Teka Gebretekla Tekle	M	Alemaya – R	MSc	Agricultural Marketing
<b>Alamata PLS</b>				
Adugna Gesesse Tekka	M	Alemaya	MSc	Agricultural Economics

Tesfaye Gebreegziabher Alemayehu	M	Jimma	BSc	Plant Sciences
<b>Atsbi PLS</b>				
Hailay Berhane	M	Mekelle	MSc	Natural Resources Management
Tewodros Gebremedhin	M	Alemaya	MSc	Agricultural Economics
Tsehaynesh Gebreegziabher	F	Alemaya	BSc	Agriculture

#### D. SNNP Regional State

SNNP Region	Sex	University	Degree	Area of Training
<b>Regional Level</b>				
Habte Gebre Wolde	M	Alemaya	MSc	Agricultural Marketing
Derebe Kaske Katcharo	M	Alemaya	MSc	Agricultural Economics/extension
<b>Dale Pilot Learning Site</b>				
Mulugeta Arega	M	Alemaya	MSc	Agricultural Marketing
Shimellis Wolde	M	Debub	BSc	Natural Resources Management
Tenfelesh GebreMeskel	F	Alemaya	BSc	Agricultural Extension
<b>Alaba Pilot Learning Site</b>				
Rahmeto Negash	M	Alemaya	MSc	Agricultural Extension
Murida Yassin	F	Debub	BSc	Rural Development & Family Science
Mohammed Urgessa	M	Alemaya	MSc	Agricultural Economics

#### Other students sponsored for research/studies by IPMS – 2005/06

No	Region	Sex	University	Degree	Area of Training	Site
1	Kadija	F	Alemaya	MSc	Agricultural Marketing	Miesso
2	Rehima Mussema	F	Alemaya	MSc	Agricultural Marketing	Alaba
3	Messay Getachew	F	Maryland, USA	MSc	Economics	Ada'a
4	Belete Anteneh	M	Debub	MSc	Animal Science	Fogera
5	Demeke Tilahun	M	Alemaya	MSc	Agricultural Marketing	Dale
6	Efrem Assefa	M	Addis Ababa	MSc	Economics	Atsbi
7	Kinde Aysheshum	M	Alemaya	MSc	Agricultural Marketing	Metema
8	Teferra Belay	M	Wageningen, Netherlands	MSc	Social forestry	Dale
9	Biruk Nigatu	M	Alemaya	BSc	Forage crops	Ada'a
10	Bezawit Meheret	F	Alemaya	BSc	Forage crops	Ada'a
11	Misrak Siyoum	F	Alemaya	BSc	Forage crops	Ada'a
12	Lemlem Gurmu	F	Debub	BSc	Forage crops	Dale
13	Mindaye Nigatu	M	Debub	BSc	Forage crops	Dale
14	Amsalu Alena	M	Debub	BSc	Forage crops	Dale
15	Bethelhem Getachew	F	Mekelle	BSc	Information Technology & Knowledge Management	ILRI Addis
16	Tigist Yilma	F	Jimma	BSc	Information Technology & Knowledge Management	ILRI Addis

## Summary of IPMS supported MSc/BSc students – Phase I - 2005

<b>Degree</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Total</b>
Tuition and Research Supported			
• MSc	14	2	16
• BSc	5	8	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>29</b>
Research only Supported			
• MSc	5	3	8
• BSc	3	5	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>16</b>
All			
• MSc	19	5	24
• BSc	8	13	21
<b>Grand Total</b>			<b>45</b>

## Annex 2 IPMS staff

Name	Title	Duty Station	Recruitment Date
Dirk Hoekstra	Project Manager	Addis Ababa	April 2004
Berhanu G/Medhin	Market/Policy Analyst	Addis Ababa	April 2004
Azage Tegegne	Tech Dissemination Specialist	Addis Ababa	April 2004
Ermias Sehai	KM Expert	Addis Ababa	January 2005*
Ranjitha Puskur	Innovations Specialist	Addis Ababa	September 2005
Noah Kebede	GIS Officer	Addis Ababa	November 2004
Yassin Getahun	GIS Technician	Addis Ababa	November 2004
Kahsay Berhe	Research Assistant	Addis Ababa	July 2004
Abebe Misgina	Research Assistant	Addis Ababa	April 2004
Aklilu Bogale	Data Technician	Addis Ababa	August 2004
Muluhiwot Getachew	Senior Administrative Officer	Addis Ababa	April 2004
Birke Enyew	Administrative Assistant	Addis Ababa	July 2004
Tilahun Moges	Driver	Addis Ababa	April 2004
Kebede Assefa	Driver	Addis Ababa	February 2005
Abebe Shiferaw	Research & Devt Officer	Alaba	March 2005
Bereket Dindamo	Research & Devt Assistant	Alaba	October 2005
Kassahun Yehualashet	Driver	Alaba	June 2005
Zewdu Ayele	Research & Devt Officer	Meisso	March 2005
Dadi Gelashe	Research & Devt Assistant	Meisso	October 2005
Adgo Tassew	Driver	Meisso	May 2005
Nigatu Alemayehu	Research & Devt Officer	Ada'a Liben	December 2004
Alemu Gameda	Driver	Ada'a Liben	April 2005
Ketema Yilma	Research & Devt Officer	Dale	March 2005
Asfawossen Haile	Driver	Dale	May 2005
Gebremedhin W/Wahid	Research & Devt Officer	Atsbi	December 2004
Dawit W.Mariam	Research & Devt Assistant	Atsbi	June 2005
Gebreyohannes			
Berhane	Research & Devt Officer	Alamata	February 2005
Abraham G/Hiwot	Research & Devt Assistant	Alamata	July 2005
Yirgalem Assegid	Research & Devt Officer	Fogera	December 2004
Teshome Diresse	Research & Devt Assistant	Fogera	September 2005
Habtamu Wondimu	Driver	Fogera	July 2005
Worku Teka	Research & Devt Officer	Metema	February 2005
Teklehaimanot Seyoum	Driver	Metema	May 2005

\* This was the date that Ermias joined the IPMS project on a full time basis. Prior to that he was on the IPMS project team on a part time basis.

**Annex 3 Attendance conferences, workshops and meetings by IPMS staff April – September 2005**

<b>Sr. No.</b>	<b>From/Institution</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Date of Invitation</b>	<b>IPMS staff</b>
1	EDRI	Seminar on Fertilizer Adoption	April 5, 2004	Berhanu
2	Addis Ababa Chamber of Commerce	Consultative Meeting for AGRIFEX Ethiopia	April 16, 2005	Ermias & Berhanu
3	ILRI DZ	CIDA Communications Team Visit & Presentation by IPMS	April 26/05	Ermias,
4	EARO	Biotechnology Meeting	June 6, 2005	Azage
5	EARO	Biotechnology meeting	June 14, 2005	Azage
6	EARO/Ethiopian American Foundation (EAF) Michigan, USA	Transforming Agriculture and Subsistence Economy Conference	June 18-19, 2005	Dirk, Azage and Berhanu
7	Enterprise Ethiopia	Capacity Building Meeting	August 5, 2005	Dirk, Azage and Berhanu
8	Alage - TVET	Sericulture Training	August 13, 2005	Azage
9	Ethiopian Society of Animal Production (ESAP)	Meeting	August 25-27, 2005	Azage
10	EARO/BECA	Meeting	Sept. 4, 2005	Azage
11	Forage Diversity - DZ	Fodder System- Presentation by Graduate Student	Sept. 9/05	Dirk and Azage
12	SNV	First Consultation Group Meeting of the Honey and Bees Wax Value Chain	Sept. 16/05	Berhanu
13	Min. of Water Resources	Meeting on potential of ENRAEMED meta-database for use by MoARD	Sept. 20/05	Ermias & Noah
14	EARO	Pilot Studies-Field Visit in Melkassa	Sept. 24/05	Azage and Berhanu
15	Uganda-Ministry of Agriculture	1 <sup>st</sup> Eastern & Southern Africa School Milk Conference	Sept. 27-30/05	Azage

