

Summary report NALC workshop Bahr Dar

Dates: December 28/29, 2008

Venue: ARARI, Bahir Dar

1 Workshop background and program

The workshop, brought together key partners from each of the project's 10 Pilot Learning Woredas (WALC chair, RDO, RDA), RALC chairs from 4 Regions, Representatives from EIAR, RARIs from the 4 project Regions and steering committee members from the federal MoARD and CIDA (see a detailed list of participants in **Annex 1**).

The workshop objective was: To learn from each others experience on the use of market oriented approaches and introduced/evolved interventions, including challenges and opportunities.

Introductory opening remarks were made by Ato Bedullu – Deputy Head of the Amhara Regional Bureau of Agriculture and Rural Development and Ato Wondirad Mandefro , Head Extension Department MoARD.

This was followed by an introductory presentation by Dirk Hoekstra (project manager) of the IPMS project and the workshop objectives, program and expected outcomes.

Four sessions were then organized around the flowing themes:

Session 1: Knowledge management and capacity development

Session 2: Crop and livestock enterprise development

Session 3: Gender, HIV/AIDS

Session 4: Environment

For session 1, an overview of the knowledge management/capacity development activities was given and discussions were organized to assess WKC's and FTC's and knowledge sharing tools, knowledge inputs by partners, and targeting of trainees for capacity and commodity development.

For sessions 2, one sub session was organized on crops and one on livestock enterprise development. Posters, prepared by each of the PLW were presented showing production, input supply and marketing interventions and lessons learned for key commodities. Working groups were formed on crop enterprise development, while a plenary session was organized to discuss the livestock interventions.

For session 3, an overview of gender and HIV/AIDS activities and achievements were presented followed by a discussion.

For session 4, an overview of the project's environmental activities and achievements was presented also followed by a plenary discussion session.

The workshop was closed with summary remarks by the project manager and the deputy Head of the Amhara Bureau of Agriculture and Rural Development.

A DVD with all the presentations and posters is attached to this report..

2 Summary observations findings

Knowledge management/capacity development

- The Woreda Knowledge Centers are gradually accepted by Woreda staff. Full potential will only be realized when internet access is improved. Linkages with the FTCs was stressed.
- Sustainability of the WKC will depend on the institutionalization of the WKC in the MoARD development strategy. If successful, donor funding should be directed to this new initiative.
- FTCs are very much supported by MoARD strategy. Project partners in several PLWs have shown good examples of innovations in utilization/community ownership of FTCs. Documentation of the lessons learned is top priority, so these can be scaled out by the MoARD.
- Other approaches, including targeting require more detailed discussion, analysis and documentation.

Crop and livestock development

- IPMS should avoid creating an impression of having achieved results by themselves. It should be remembered that the project's objective is to improve the effectiveness of the partners in the agricultural sector. The program is integrated into the Ministry and the results are the product of the partners in particular the MoARD as a result of using new approaches (value chain, commodity focus and innovation system perspective).
- Promising experiences are already shared and scaled out by some Regions/Zones, however the MoARD is in urgent need of a summary of the lessons and experiences of the IPMS approaches/tools and technology interventions which have shown promise. Posters provide an initial overview, but further synthesis and documentation of the commodity interventions across PLWs for different

audiences is therefore a top priority for the coming months. Such syntheses of case studies across the PLWs are expected to draw lessons for strategy and policy.

- Synthesis/documentation should address the scaling out and impact at the Woreda level, to avoid the impression that results are only achieved in small (localized) scale.
- Capacity development on approaches/tools to support the transformation of partners to participatory market oriented agriculture is another important component to be addressed by IPMS.
- As we are moving to a more (export) market development the regulatory role of MoARD in the commodity value chain has to be strengthened to ensure quality standards

Gender and HIV/AIDS

- The project has generated training materials for gender and HIV/AIDS assessment which should be “mainstreamed” in the MoARD capacity development efforts, since gender and HIV/AIDS are cornerstones of the PASDEP strategy.
- Also, examples of promising interventions in gender and HIV/AIDS, especially in commodity development, should be summarized for scaling out by the MoARD. It was stressed that as much as possible; evidence of the effect of such interventions should be included in the documentation.

Environment

- The project recognizes the danger of environmental damage as a result of market oriented agriculture development and has therefore adopted an environmental impact assessment and monitoring system which is compliant with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) guidelines.
- So far the project limits its assessment and monitoring to its own project activities, however it has been noticed that several other environmentally harmful activities take place in the PLWs.
- The project can collaborate with the MoARD to institutionalize the assessment and monitoring system in the PLWs and take into account all development and mitigation measures.
- Examples were presented of mitigating measures which address potential negative effects of market oriented agriculture. These can be shared for scaling out by the MoARD.

Annex 1 List of participants on the NALC workshop and Amhara region farmers festival

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