

## **Application of Innovation Systems approach and Principles in Agricultural Research and Development: A Report on Training Workshop 3-5 July 2007, ARARI, Bahir Dar**

### **Background**

Improved Productivity and Market Success (IPMS) of Ethiopian Farmers is a five-year project funded by Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and being implemented by the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), on behalf of the Ethiopian Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MoARD). IPMS supports the efforts being made by the government to identify and implement appropriate policy and institutional reforms geared towards the realization of the market-led agricultural and rural development policy objectives.

The project focuses on the development of new approaches and processes for: development of market oriented agriculture emphasizing marketable commodities; knowledge management; and innovation capacity development (MoARD-IPMS, 2006). Gender, HIV/AIDS and environmental issues are systematically mainstreamed in all project interventions. Innovation Systems Perspective has been adopted as an organizing principle, and it informs planning and implementation and monitoring and evaluation of all types of interventions by IPMS.

IPMS/ILRI, as part of its public sector innovation capacity development efforts, conducted a training workshop on “Application of Innovation Systems approach and Principles in Agricultural Research and Development” from 3-5 July 2007, ARARI campus, Bahir Dar.

### **Participants**

The participants were 25 researchers from IPMS, EIAR and RARIs. Complete list of the participants is provided in Annex 1.

### **Training Workshop Objectives**

The overall purpose of the workshop was to strengthen the capacity of researchers in the understanding of the innovation systems approach and its application in AR4D for enhanced impact. The specific objectives were:

1. to discuss the evolution of Innovation Systems Perspective (ISP) and to clarify key concepts
2. to demonstrate the application of ISP in project planning, implementation and evaluation
3. to understand the implications of applying ISP in AR4D and research management
4. To provide necessary skills and tools to analyze innovation processes

**Training Materials**

The training materials developed by IPMS were revised and used. The participants were provided with a complete set of training materials. The materials included trainers' guide, text, PowerPoint presentations, exercise and worksheets, and additional reading material.

**Structure of the Training Workshop**

The workshop was divided into ten sessions to enable logical flow of ideas and continuity. Each session included a brief and interactive presentation, followed by a group exercise and, plenary presentations and discussion. This ensured optimal participation and provided adequate time for interaction and experience sharing among participants. The groups were divided based on their organizational affiliations, and were encouraged to use cases of the research projects they were engaged in, for the group exercises. This allowed them to apply and relate the concepts they learnt to their real life experience, to demonstrate their utility and potential application.

Annex 1

S. No.	Name	Affiliation
1	Tilahun Jember	IPMS
2	Yisehak Baredo	IPMS
3	Yigzaw Dessalegn	IPMS
4	Tesfaye Lemma	Haramaya University/IPMS
5	Endrias Geta	SARI
6	Belete Gebru	SARI
7	Shimelis Altaye	ARARI, Extension, Adet
8	Yalfal Temesgen	ARARI, Economics, Adet
9	Habetemariam Assefa	ARARI, Extension, Andassa
10	Simegnew Tamir	ARARI, Economics, Andassa
11	Habitamu Yesigat	ARARI, Ag Business, Gondar
12	Biruhalem Tesfa	ARARI, Extension, Gondar
13	Aklilu Negussie	EIAR, Socio-economics, Melkawerer Research Center
14	Theodros Hailemariam	EIAR, Extension, Melkawerer Research Center
15	Abrehalegn G/Libanos	TARI, Alamata Research Center
16	Kebede Manjure	TARI, Mekele Research Center
17	Beyene Seboka	EIAR, Res-Extension, Melkassa Research Center
18	Yitayal Abebe	EIAR, Socio-economics, Melkassa Research Center
19	Almeu Toleramariam	OARI, Adami Tulu, Agricultural Research Center
20	Tekalign Gutu	OARI, Adami Tulu, Agricultural Research Center
21	Dereje Wolteji	OARI, Holetta Bee Research Center
22	Berhanu Megersa	EIAR, Awada Research Center
23	Addisu Tesfaye	EIAR, Awada Research Center

24	Habtam Geremew	EIAR, Debre Zeit, Research Center
25	Jemanesh Kifetew	EIAR, Debrezeit, Research Center
26	Ranjitha Puskur	IPMS
27	P. Anandajayasekeram	ILRI