

# Africa RISING Ethiopia

*Improving food security and farm incomes through sustainable intensification of crop-livestock systems*



The Africa Research in Sustainable Intensification for the Next Generation (Africa RISING) program comprises three research-for-development projects supported by the United States Agency for International Development as part of the U.S. government's Feed the Future initiative.

Over a four-year period (2012–2016), Africa RISING aims to contribute to Feed the Future goals of reducing hunger, poverty and under-nutrition by delivering high quality research outputs that are relevant to these goals.

Through action research and development partnerships, Africa RISING is creating opportunities for smallholder farm households to move out of hunger and poverty through sustainably intensified farming systems that improve food, nutrition, and income security, particularly for women and children, and conserve or enhance the natural resource base.

In Ethiopia, the main aim of the project is to identify and validate solutions to the problems experienced by small-holder crop-livestock farmers. Some problems arise from the difficulties facing farmers in managing natural resources and achieving efficiencies from managing crops, trees, water and livestock together. These efficiencies are often influenced by other factors such as access to inputs and the reliability of markets.

To address this complexity, Africa RISING takes an integrated approach to strengthen farming systems. It conducts participatory research that identifies technologies and management

practices that work for farmers and take account of contextual issues like markets for inputs and outputs, community and other institutions and of the policy environments that influence farm households.

## Activities

To address the program-wide hypotheses listed in the program framework (<https://cgspace.cgiar.org/handle/10568/25079>), the project's research is organized around 5 research components and 7 research themes. The components are:

- **Component 1:** A full characterisation and stratification of households within engaged communities as a basis to identify and propagate improved technologies and management strategies
- **Component 2:** Activities supporting action at a more integrated, community scale, including support for peer-to-peer knowledge exchange within communities and strengthening and augmenting existing practises
- **Component 3:** Participatory market opportunity identification, and value chain analyses leading to the establishment of multi-stakeholder platforms
- **Component 4:** On-farm adaptive research to identify the strongest, options for integrating research deliverables with existing practices to promote sustainable intensification
- **Component 5:** Identification of options and processes for wider scaling and active formation of implementation partnerships.

The research themes guiding current activities are:

- Feed and forage development.
- Field crop varietal selection and management.
- Integration of high value products into mixed farming systems.
- Improved land and water management for sustainability.
- Improving the efficiency of mixed farming systems through more effective crop-livestock integration.
- Cross-cutting problems and opportunities
- Knowledge management, exchange and capacity development

## Expected results

By 2017, the project will have delivered the following:

- Knowledge and skills in farming communities will have been strengthened equitably, allowing all family members to benefit.
- We will see farmers operating systems that are 'sustainably intensified'- that is, levels of production and productive efficiency have increased in ways that can be maintained both environmentally and economically over the longer term.
- Improved partnerships among farmers, support services and other value chain actors will have reduced uncertainties about market function; more reliable input supplies will support more resilient production that will ensure a more consistent profit from produce sold at market.

## Sites

The project works in eight intervention kebeles (the lowest administrative units in Ethiopia) in four woredas (districts) of Amhara, Oromia, SNNP and Tigray regions.

Region	Woreda/district	Kebeles
Amhara	Basona Worena	Goshe Bado and Gudo Beret
Oromia	Sinana	Salka and Ilu-Sanbitu
SNNPR	Lemo	Jawe and Upper-Gana
Tigray	Endamehonei	Emba-hazti and Tsibet

## Partners

The project is led by scientists from ILRI in partnership with scientists from other CGIAR centres. It is implemented in close partnerships with national and local partners, including:

### Academic institutions:

Wachemo, Mekelle, Madawolabu, Debre Berhan and Hawassa universities, Maichew Agricultural College

### Regional research organizations:

Amhara Regional Agricultural Research Institute, Southern Agricultural Research Institute, Tigray Agricultural Research Institute, Oromia Agricultural Research Institute

### Offices of Agriculture:

Endamehonei (Tigray), Basona Worena (Amhara), Lemo (SNNPR) and Sinana (Oromia)

### Federal research organizations:

Ethiopian Institute for Agricultural Research, Ethiopian Health and Nutrition Research Institute

### Agricultural Transformation Agency

## Contact

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