Livestock and Irrigation Value chains for Ethiopian Smallholders project

Background
The Government of Ethiopia (GoE) is pursuing a market-oriented agricultural development strategy to increase agricultural production and improve the livelihoods of smallholders. This strategy is reflected in its Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP) and the Ministry of Agriculture’s Agricultural Growth Program (AGP).

Fueled by these new strategic directions, there is significant demand by value chain actors for technical assistance, improved production technologies, business development services and linkages to commercial agents along value chains. However, limited access to input and output markets constrain smallholder agricultural development in Ethiopia. Lack of knowledge and limited capacities of public and private agents to undertake market-led agriculture development also hamper growth.

In this context, the Livestock and Irrigation Value chains for Ethiopian Smallholders (LIVES) project has been funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development (DFATD) of Canada to promote market-led agricultural development. Led by the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) and the International Water Management Institute (IWMI), it builds on the achievements of its predecessor, the ‘Improving Productivity and Market Success of Ethiopian Farmers’ project (IPMS). Starting in April 2012, LIVES has been scaling out successful approaches and interventions for key high-value livestock and irrigated crop commodities. The project is due to end in March 2018.

Logic model of Livestock and Irrigation Value chains for Ethiopian Smallholders (LIVES) project

| Ultimate outcome | Increased economic wellbeing for male and female smallholder producers in the regions of Oromia, Amhara, Tigray and Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Region (SNNPR) through the development of livestock and irrigated value chains |
| Intermediate outcomes | Increased use of improved knowledge and capacity by (♀♂) livestock and irrigated agriculture value chain actors and service providers to develop gender sensitive and environmentally sustainable market-oriented livestock and irrigated value chains | Increased adoption of gender sensitive and environmentally sustainable market-oriented value chain interventions by (♀♂) livestock and irrigation agriculture value chain actors and service providers |
| Immediate outcomes | Improved capacity of (♀♂) livestock and irrigation agriculture VC actors and input/service suppliers to participate in improved gender sensitive and environmentally sustainable VC development models in project areas | Increased access to knowledge by (♀♂) livestock and irrigation agriculture VC actors and input/service suppliers in project areas on improved gender sensitive and environmentally sustainable VC |
| | Increased access to project generated gender sensitive and environmentally sustainable results and lessons learned by (♀♂) value chain actors and service providers outside the project | Increased access to improved gender sensitive and environmentally sustainable VC interventions by (♀♂) livestock and irrigation agriculture VC actors and input/service suppliers in the project areas |
| | Increased number of gender sensitive and environmentally sustainable documented project generated results and lessons learned for (♀♂) VC actors and service providers in project areas and beyond |
Goal
LIVES aims to contribute to enhanced income and gender equitable wealth creation for smallholders and other value chain actors through increased and sustained market off-take of high value livestock and irrigated crop commodities.

Strategy
The project uses a value chain framework to develop targeted commodities. Such a framework recognizes that value chain actors add value at different stages of the value chain and that individuals and organizations provide inputs/services to the value chain actors. Key value chain actors are producers of agricultural inputs and outputs as well as traders and processors at village, district, regional and national levels. Important service providers include the public research and extension sector which does technology development, capacity building, and knowledge generation and dissemination. Offices of Agriculture are also involved in input supply and services e.g. supply of seeds, artificial insemination, veterinary services and other agricultural crop and livestock inputs. The involvement of communities, cooperatives, farmers and the private sector in producing inputs and providing services is also emerging.

LIVES aims to improve the effectiveness of the research and extension system to support market-oriented commodity development by:

• Promoting the use of participatory, market driven, gender sensitive and sustainable development approaches;

• Promoting the involvement of value chain actors and suppliers of inputs and services in the development process;

• Promoting improved knowledge management approaches for capturing, storing and sharing knowledge;

• Supporting village and district level development of community, cooperative, farmer and private sector production and supply of inputs and provision of services;

• Promoting linkages/dealership networks with value chain actors and service providers at regional and federal level;

• Promoting diagnostic, action, impact studies on value chain interventions. Documentation of results and lessons learned will be used for learning within the project areas and to scale out beyond the project areas.

Reach
LIVES will work with public and private sector partners to develop livestock (dairy, small and large ruminants, poultry, and apiculture) and irrigation (fruits, vegetables and fodder) value chains in clusters of districts in 10 zones of the 4 regions, i.e. Tigray, Amhara, Oromia and SNNP. Entrepreneurial smallholders (estimated at 10 to 15% of the households) and value chain actors in 31 districts (767 peasant associations) engaged in production and processing of selected commodities will be targeted. Staff in the selected districts, zones and regions will be assisted to increase their skills and knowledge to support market-oriented agriculture development.

Commodities by Zone

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Zone</th>
<th>Dairy</th>
<th>Beef</th>
<th>Small ruminant</th>
<th>Poultry</th>
<th>Honey</th>
<th>Irrigated agriculture</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eastern Tigray</td>
<td>x</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Central Tigray</td>
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<td>x</td>
<td></td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
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<tr>
<td>West Gojam</td>
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<tr>
<td>North Gondar</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>South Wollo</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>x</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>East Shoa</td>
<td>x</td>
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<tr>
<td>West Shoa</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
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<td>x</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jimma</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gamo Gofa</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sidama</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Activities
The project will carry out activities in five focus areas: capacity development, knowledge management, promotion, commodity value chain development and documentation. For all activities the project aims to be gender-balanced and environmentally sustainable.
**Capacity development**

To develop skills of trainers and supervisors in participatory market-oriented agricultural development for livestock and irrigated agriculture, the project staff and partner institutions will provide training of trainers (TOT) and specialist training to staff of bureaus and offices of agriculture at regional, zonal and district levels. The trained staff and specialists will in turn train field staff, farmers and other value chain actors. Project staff will support this capacity development through regular coaching and mentoring sessions at field and supervisory levels. The project will also fund about 100 public sector staff to obtain MSc and BSc education to fill capacity gaps in targeted district, zonal and regional institutions.

**Knowledge management**

Capturing, storing and sharing knowledge through various interventions will ‘fuel’ the value chain development process and complement capacity development interventions in project target areas.

Key interventions to be promoted and supported are the development of knowledge centres targeting public sector staff, field days, seminars, study tours, learning platforms and events to share lessons and new knowledge. Particular attention will be paid to the use of audio, video, computers and internet to capture and share knowledge.

**Promotion**

To reach value chain actors and service providers outside the project’s target areas, promotional activities will be delivered in nearby zones and districts with similar development potentials. Priority will be given to AGP and Household Asset Building Program (HABP) districts and zones. Furthermore, promotional activities will be targeted at strategic partners in Ethiopia and beyond. Key promotional interventions include the upgrading and populating of the Ethiopian Agricultural Portal (www.eap.gov.et), distribution of project findings through audio, video, print and other digital tools.

**Value chain development**

Using innovation systems and value chain approaches, the project will determine, design and promote new and tested interventions and linkages through a participatory process in each of the 10 zones. Each zone has a maximum of four commodities. Innovations may consist of organizational, institutional and technological interventions.

Key livestock interventions include the development of improved input/service supply system to improve genetic potential of animals, in particular through community-based breeding system of sheep and goats, hormone assisted mass insemination, and village-based hatchery and pullet production. Interventions will also be targeted to improved fodder production and feeding systems, animal health delivery including the involvement of paravets, use of diagnostic toolkits and animal diseases decision support systems for veterinarians, and the distribution and use of thermostable vaccines for Newcastle disease, and Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR).

Key crop interventions include input and service supply systems for irrigated agriculture, including vegetable, fruit and fodder seed production systems and the establishment of private nurseries operated by individuals and or groups, irrigation pump repair services and irrigation scheme management. Attention will also be paid to post-harvest handling and storage on farm and grading, packaging and value addition.

**Documentation**

To ‘feed’ the other project components, project lessons and results will be documented through strategic diagnostic, action and impact studies by project staff, in partnership with regional, national and international research institutes. The results of these studies will be published and disseminated widely.
Implementation
The project is aligned with the Ethiopian government’s strategy and is implemented by ILRI, IWMI, the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), the Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research (EIAR), Regional Agricultural Research Institutes (RARIs), Regional Bureaus of Agriculture (BoAs) and Regional Livestock Health and Development Agencies. Implementing partners are regional bureaus of agriculture, regional agricultural research institutes, livestock development agencies, offices of agriculture at zonal and district levels and universities. Project staff have been deployed at federal, regional and zonal levels to work alongside focal persons from the partner institutions at different levels. The project is led by a project coordination team and steering committee at the national level, with project implementation committees at the regional level.

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