Engendering smallholder irrigated agriculture in Ethiopia

Background

- Women play an indispensable role in irrigated agriculture value chain development. They can also be leaders in small scale irrigated agriculture in and around the homestead.

- LIVES Baseline Data shows the following facts on the participation of Male Headed and Female Headed Households in Irrigation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Male headed</th>
<th>Female headed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vegetables</td>
<td>427</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fruits</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

LIVES approaches

- LIVES encourages smallholders (women and men) to increase production, productivity and household income by engaging in irrigated agriculture

- LIVES set a gender target of 20% for Female Headed Households and 25% for individual women smallholders to benefit from its livestock and irrigation value chain research for development interventions in its project sites

Key interventions and activities

To increase involvement of women in irrigated agriculture (production)

- Involve all household members during coaching/mentoring on irrigation instead of focusing only on the household head

- Conduct couples training (husband and wife) on various skills such as fruit grafting and nursery development skills

- Train male and female youth, landless individual women and men groups to set up village level nursery development and management to encourage private or group input suppliers

- Involve men and women in commodity platforms, field days and experience sharing events

- Use of women friendly irrigation technologies/tools

- Create synergy between irrigated crops (fodder, fruit and vegetable residues) and women friendly livestock commodities (poultry, dairy)

To increase involvement of women in supply of inputs and services

- Encourage women at individual or mixed group (men and women) level to get involved in input production/sale such as vegetable seeds/seedlings, fruit seedlings

- Increased access for women to newly created pump maintenance and repair services

- Enhance the role of women in communally managed water schemes by actively involving them in Water User Associations (WUA)

To increase involvement of women in processing and marketing

- Inclusion of women in vegetable and fruit marketing groups for bulk sale of produce

- Creation of small scale fruit processing (juice) and petty trade businesses for women

- Creation of market linkages for female input suppliers through locally adopted information channels

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