

Report of the Humidtropics Western Ethiopia Research for Development (R4D) Platform Launch Meeting, Addis Ababa, 5 February 2015

By
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Introduction

The Western Ethiopia Humidtropics R4D platform meeting was organized with the following Objectives:

- To collectively have an overview of Humidtropics research program, its approaches and activities in Western Ethiopia
- To establish R4D Platform for western Ethiopia action site based on suggested ToR
- To jointly set activities for 2015 as a proposal for cluster 4 grant

See Annex 1 for the detailed agenda of the day meeting

Overview of Humidtropics

There was a presentation made by Alan Duncan (ILRI) on Humidtropics program in general. This was done to give an overview of the activities of the program for the stakeholders. Alan's presentation is summarized as follows:

Humidtropics is one of the CGIAR research programs led by IITA that seeks to transform the lives of the rural poor in tropical America, Asia and Africa. It uses integrated systems research by harnessing on partnerships for better impact.

One of the keys to unlocking the potential is the Humidtropics research program which is implementing an Integrated systems approach that involves people, partnerships, production systems, innovation, policies, markets, Crops and livestock integration, livelihoods, food systems, and institutions. The approach is not only focused on technical research but thinking in a holistic system way for impact at scale.

The program has defined action areas - 4 Area-Based Flagships

- East and Central Africa
- West Africa
- Central America and the Caribbean
- Central Mekong

The East and Central Africa (ECA) Action Area, covers Rwanda, Burundi, East DR Congo (Kivu), southern Uganda, Western Kenya and Western Ethiopia.

Western Ethiopia action sites: At the geographical levels the Western Ethiopia action site lies in the Eastern Central Africa Action area which involves Ethiopia, Kenya & Uganda.

Field Sites in Ethiopia: Diga and Jeldu Woredas both located in Western Oromia region.

Administrative level: Regional, National & Community level

Local innovation platforms: 2 already established – one in Jeldu and one in Diga

Progress so far:

- Humdtropics Ethiopia action site launch meeting agenda – 23 September 2013
- Introduce humidtropics to wider stakeholders
- Consult on site selection
- Preliminary program on interventions - IWMI, ILRI, CIP OARI
- Situational analysis – ILRI, OARI and AVDRC
- Launch of R4D Platform Today Feb 5, 2015

R4D Platform concept and ToR for Western Ethiopia

Western Ethiopia R4D platform framework draft was presented by Zelalem Lema (ILRI) including suggested term of reference for the platform. Zelalem's presentation is also summarized as follows:

Innovation System in Agriculture - Innovation is defined as Process or producing, accessing, diffusing, and most importantly putting into use knowledge in socio economical useful way (Hall et al 2008). It can be technology, organizational, institutional, managerial, and related to service delivery or policy. Agriculture becoming more complex – not only increase production and productivity but also fit with the system intervention. Engaging different stakeholders to address research and development processes is paramount in this context. R4D innovation lies at the heart of the Humidtropics program. This needs to be shaped with the aim of linking impact at scale which will eventually achieve impact at national level. The R4D platform is expected to liaise with other action sites. Successful outcomes are to be scaled up and scaled out. The work at country level is expected to fit into the flagships.

Steering Committee members

It was suggested that we can have 2 or 3 representative from one organization if there is the need. The action site facilitator is going to act as the secretary, this is not a fixed imperative but flexible. The chair is going to be decided by vote. He / she will be responsible for organizing meetings and the steering committee can frequently meet up to 6 times per year. The general assembly will meet 2-3 times a year.

Questions and answer session

How were the potential members selected? – Criteria – and course of action taken and what is the expected relationship with the platform researchers?

The composition of the platform is aimed at addressing the East & Central Africa flagship. The proposed members are a suggestion – and participants were asked to add people if they thing anyone is missing from the list or give comments.

What will be the exact mandate of this platform with other researchers working within the site? This is an advisory body; this is an opportunity not a threat. The other researchers within the site are not going to be told what to do. The platform will serve in providing advice and context to the research activities in Humidtropics but also projects like N2 Africa, Legume CHOICE and Africa RISING can be mapped in to this platform for knowledge exchange.

Are the researchers expected to bring the research idea?

The platform will serve in reviewing some of the activities that has been going on and hoped to generate ideas of how the research is going to develop with a research for development approach that is targeted outcomes.

Procedural issues

Official letter to be submitted to the respective organizations stating that person is a member of the steering committee for the R4D platform. It is important the platform is made representative of the partners and the main idea is to make this platform institutional. Chairmanship will rotate among the members. Linkages are to be made with the national level R4D platforms.

Agreed suggestion on the membership and meeting (ToR)

Membership for the general assembly: Looking at the list, there are 2 representatives from OARI who are both social economists – it is better to have / replace one with another field of expertise. It was suggested that Dr. Tilahun should be involved from OARI in addition to Teha who is an ASF. Another suggestion was made that, unless the number limits us, to have someone from the Oromia Bureau of

Agriculture. It was also suggested that the Livestock Agency of Oromia needs to be involved in this R4D platform. Somebody from the Ministry of Agriculture from extension system should also be involved to represent from the national government bodies. In addition it was suggested that it will be good to involve someone from the markets – Oromia agricultural marketing agency and / or Oromia agricultural trade and market development bureau. This might not be for the steering committee but can be considered as a member of the R4D platform. Involve Farmers associations - Someone from the cooperatives / farmer's union from Diga and Jeldu. It was suggested that Wollega and Ambo Universities to identify and report the farmers' association to be R4D platform members. Media representatives: Involve Oromia TV and Radio as a member of the R4D platform meeting. At the grass root level, the Wereda Medias will also be involved at innovation platform level. OARI have a public relation office – they can decide which media is best to utilize depending on the specific events.

Suggestion on the steering committee members: It was suggested that AVRDC be moved out from the steering committee to a membership in the R4D platform. Extensive deliberations were made on who to appoint as the chairman both for the general assembly and the steering committee. It was suggested that as ILRI is the lead organization, it should take the chairmanship. ILRI will need to join the steering committee. On the other hand, suggestion was made the chair should be from the national stakeholders and the co- chair / secretary be from the CG centers. Experience of Makerere University in Uganda was shared. After extensive deliberations, a consensus was reached that we can take the lesson from the experience in Uganda. As the involvement of the universities is going to be high someone from Ambo University or Wollega University needs to be appointed as chair.

Finally, Dr. Endrias, Director for Research, Technology and Knowledge for Ambo University, was appointed to chair the R4D platform for 2015. Co-Chair – is going to be ILRI (led by Alan Duncan). Action Site Facilitation (ASF) is on Teha Mume (OARI) – who is appointed as the Secretary for the R4D platform. It was suggested that Bureau of Women Affairs representative from Oromia need to join the steering committee. That will enable to address Gender issues. Teha to contact Oromia Bureau of the women affairs for the contact.

Meeting and field visit: Exchange visit to the field sites and others will need to be organized. Farmers field day at Diga and Jeldu is one of the event suggested to be held every year before harvest. It was suggested that a field site trip to Jeldu will be organized side by side with the next meeting of the R4D. All members of the R4D platform to go to field day. Number of days for the R4D platform meeting: Minimum 2 days to maximize learning and sharing.

The members agreed to have two meetings per year and based on this two meeting is suggested for 2015. The first meeting is suggested around May / June and the host institution is agreed to be OARI head quarter in Addis. The 2nd meeting for 2015 should be at Ambo University attached with another day to visit field at Jeldu and the time should be around September / October so that there could be a full-fledged activity to be seen on the fields during the field visit. The detailed information of the term of reference (ToR) / framework for the Humidtropics R4D platform is annexed (see Annex 4).

Highlights of Humidtropics interventions at site level through Innovation Platform approaches

IWMI-Led Humidtropics Research activities in Western Ethiopia Field Sites at Diga and Jeldu was presented by Teklu Erkossa (IWMI). His presentation was briefly summarized as follows:

High potential for crop livestock products but productivity is low because of land degradation
The challenges: Deforestation, Soil erosion, Nutrient and organic matter depletion, Termite infestation
Water shortage towards the end of the rainy season, Food and feed shortage, In some places acidification is becoming a problem.

Objectives of the research: Reverse degradation, improve crop livestock productivity, Improve food security and nutrition, Improve farm household income. The approach: Obtained secondary data from NBDC program, Data analyzed and presented to the IPs. IPs helped to make situational analysis. Outstanding issue: how to manage the acidification and degradation.

Integrating market-oriented livestock feed interventions with NRM and crop intensification interventions

There is an increase in the utilization of crop residues being used as feed resources. Also there is an increase in biomass which affects efficiency. There is an absolute need to involve policy makers as there are policy issues with regard to NRM and there is a need for interventions to curtail soil fertility loss and acidity. Especially in East Wollega Zone – if no intervention is taken quickly the consequences can be great.

There was a strong initiative to continue the measurement of soil fertility loss but after the NBDC project came into closure the instruments were transferred to local partners. There was a plan to model how much soil is being lost and its impact on livelihoods and income of the farmers. Because of lack of funding and the high lab costs this couldn't be realized yet.

Livestock feed interventions to link with NRM and Market

A presentation was made by Melkamu Dersse (ILRI) on livestock feed interventions linked with soil and water conservation and also future plans on the utilization and market aspect of feed. His presentation is also summarized as follows:

- Build on past achievements during the Nile Basin development Challenge (NBDC) project at Jeldu and Diga:
- Improved utilization of cultivated forages (fill knowledge gaps through action research)
 - Harvesting
 - Conservation
 - Storage
 - Processing and utilization
- Improved post-harvest handling of crop residues for feed
 - Minimize wastage
 - Increase feeding value
 - Multipurpose legume crop/fodder
 - (legumeCHOICE support tool)
 - Increased intergradation of food-feed crops
- Sweet potato in Diga: Orange fleshed varieties
 - Tubers for food
 - Vines for feed (green, silage & hay)
- Use of surface and ground water for food - feed production:
 - Irrigated fodder and vegetable
 - Seedling nurseries for fodder and vegetables
 - Training farmers and testing water lifting technologies for irrigation activities
- Market oriented feed/livestock production

- Livestock husbandry practices:
 - o to shift to intensive feeding and management
 - o targeting specific market niches
 - o balanced rations for dairy and beef animals
 - Improved breed (Dairy) – reduced herd size
 - o AI and veterinary services; trainings
 - Organized farmer groups for input/output supply
 - o Cooperatives
 - o technical support along value chains
- R4D platforms
- Feed related interventions require engagement of multi-stakeholders
 - R4D platforms enable us work together from a system’s perspective
 - Create synergy in addressing farming systems constraints

Sweet potato and potato

From an International Potato Centre (CIP) working with other CGIAR centres in Humidtropics also presented last year intervention and plans for 2015 on Potato at Jeldu and Diga. The presentation was made by Britta Kowalski briefly summarized as follows:

Feed conservation for the dry season:

Joint field protocol with ILRI and IWMI that aims to avoid seasonal biomass peak, loss of quality and address fodder shortage in the dry season. Working with the Innovation Platforms to plan the grass and sweet potato cuts for silage and hay. Established a pilot fodder cut system with selected farmers at Diga.

Silage making:

- Develop silage recipes in a participative manner including grasses, sweet potato vines and roots both OFSP and DPSP, sugarcane, legumes, crop residues
- Develop low cost ensiling methods.
- experiment sweet potato vine hay as a feed supplement
- Identify and address impediments to adoption.

Fodder cut system for Diga:

- 1st cut of grass and sweet potato vines for silage in August
- 2nd cut of grass, sweet potato vines and roots, crop residues for silage in October
- 3rd grass cut for hay in November

“Late potato” for marketing:

High yield – Low prices? Traditional potato cropping with harvest gluts signifying low market prices, ware losses, transport and storage constraints. Potato cropping with water harvesting, staggered planting of early and medium maturing varieties, ware storage signifying an extended marketing period

Gender research in Humidtropics

A presentation on Gender was made by Annet Mulema (ILRI) and it is summarized as follows:

Gender strategy objectives

1. Diagnose and characterize constraints that hold back women from achieving full productivity potential and income generation
2. Develop, test and evaluate approaches for increasing women’s participation in and benefit from research
3. Identify and analyze opportunities for technological, institutional and market innovations that improve gender equity

Objective 1: Diagnose and characterize constraints

- Systematic literature review of gender-based constraints to intensification in Ethiopia
- Primary data collection using PRA tools and semi-structured interviews
- Global gender norms and agency study???

Objective 2: Increasing women's participation and benefits

- Capturing stories [Gender and technology at the crossroads](#) in Ethiopia

Objective 4: Opportunities for institutional innovation

Capturing lessons from the NBDC program

- Change in knowledge, attitude, practice and skills among policy makers, planners, researchers and farmers
- HT case study competition

The discussion on the above presentations showed that there is an approach taken is a system approach which focuses on food, feed and income. Strategic & scientific but applied with multipurpose interventions for the livelihood systems. The intention is to implement short steps leading to outcomes. One of the issues is how best to integrate these approaches and the R4D platform is thought to greatly help in harnessing the various efforts and bringing them together for better results and impact.

Joint proposal development for 2015 Humidtropics western Ethiopia action site

Afternoon time was dedicated to get an overview of the 2015 activities planned by CGIAR and national partner and develop a one page idea partners are going to be doing and the role each partners. The aim of the afternoon session is to develop a draft idea to write proposal for cluster 4 grant.

A presentation of the integrated activities for 2015 was presented by Teklu Erkossa (IWMI) followed by Ingrid Oborn (ICRAF) on cluster 4 procedures to get fund for the activities.

Alan was leading the write-shop by collecting ideas from participants and finally a one-page draft idea was put together. Roles of partners in finalizing the sections of the proposal were also identified. In the proposal the major topic addressed in the plan is soil and water conservation partly that is because of the history of the IPs but the crop rotation that focus on major crops is central.

The one page note developed jointly was shared on google doc for partners to see their roles in further developing the proposal. See Annex 3 to get the final proposal submitted.

Annex 1: Agenda of the Meeting

Time	Event/Activities	Presenter/ Facilitator	Chair
Morning: overview of Humidtropics and activities in Western Ethiopia			
8:30-9:00	Registration of participants	All	Taha Mume (OARI)
9:00-9:20	Introduction of the agenda and members self-introduction	Elias Damtew (ILRI)	
9:20-9:35	Overview of Humidtropics programme	Alan Duncan (ILRI)	
9:35-9:50	R4D Platform concept and ToR for Western Ethiopia	Zelalem Lema (ILRI)	
9:50 – 10:10	Q&A on presentations, brainstorming on the ToR and suggested steering committee and platform members	Zelalem Lema (ILRI)	
10:10 -10:30 - Health break (Tea/coffee) – Group Photo by Apollo			
10:30- 10:55	Highlights of Humidtropics interventions at site level through Innovation Platform approaches	Teklu Erkossa (IWMI)	Alan Duncan (ILRI)
10:55-11:10	Integrating market-oriented livestock feed interventions with NRM and crop intensification interventions	Melkamu Dereseh (ILRI)	
11:10-11:25	Introducing orange flash sweet potato and linking farmers with market	Britta Kowalski (CIP)	
11:25-11:40	Role of OARI in Humidtropics and interventions at site level	Taha Mume (OARI)	
11:40-11:50	Gender research activities at site level	Annet Mulema (ILRI)	
11:50-12:30	Feed backs from platform members for each presentations and activities	Elias Damtew ((ILRI)	
12:30-2:00 Lunch at ILRI Cafeteria			
Afternoon: steering committee members meeting for writing cluster 4 2015 proposal			
2:00-2:15	Refreshing on activities proposed for 2015	Teklu Erkossa (IWMI)	Alan Duncan (ILRI)
2:15-2:35	Briefing on Cluster 4 grant process in Humidtropics	Ingrid Oborn (ICRAF)	
2:15-4:00	Writing the cluster 4 proposal for western Ethiopia (Tea/coffee served inside)	All	

Annex 2: List of participants

Name	Organization	role/responsibilities within their organization	E-mail
Endrias Zewdu	Ambo University	Director-Research, Knowledge & Technology Transfer	Endrias.zewdu@gmail.com
Zelalem Lema	ILRI (International Livestock research Institute)	Researcher in Innovation System in Agriculture	z.lemma@cgiar.org
Taha Mume	OARI (Oromia Agricultural Research Institute)	Socio-economics and agricultural extension head	tehamume2005@yahoo.com
Kidus Nigussie	MoA – Livestock	Feed expert	kidusabc@yahoo.com
Teklu Erkossa	IWMI (International Water Management Institute)	Researcher, land and water	t.erkossa@cgiar.org
Britta Kowalski	CIP-SSA (International Potato Center-Sub Saharan Africa)	Systems Research Scientist	b.kowalski@cgiar.org
Aderie Adugna	GIZ-SLM Oromia	Representative	Aderie.adugna@giz.de
Hadiya Seid	World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF)	Research Technician	hadi03seid@yahoo.com
Guy Blomme	Bioversity International –Ethiopia	Scientist	g.blomme@cgiar.org
Dereje Duressa	Wollega University	Community Service Director	derejeduressa@yahoo.com
Abaya Wakwoya	Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus Development and Social Service Commission (EECMY-DASSC)	Director for planning, monitoring & quality management	abeyaw@eecmy.org
Tilahun Geleto	Oromia Agricultural Research Institute (OARI)	Director for Natural Resource Management	
Bateno Kabeto	FAO- Ethiopia	Sustainable	Bateno.kabeto@fao.org
Alan Duncan	ILRI (International Livestock research Institute)	Livestock - Principal Scientist	a.duncan@cgiar.org
Elias Damtew	ILRI (International Livestock research Institute)	Researcher in Innovation System in Agriculture	e.damtew@cgiar.org
Ulfina Shifera	Diga Woreda Administration office	Head	
Girma Leta	Jeldu Woreda Administration Office	Head	
Annet Mulema	ILRI (International Livestock research Institute)	Gender Scientist	a.mulema@cgiar.org
Melkamu Derseh	ILRI (International Livestock research Institute)	Postdoc livestock feeds	M.Derseh@cgiar.org

Annex 3: Joint proposal developed for 2015 Humidtropics western Ethiopia action site

Linking multi-stakeholder processes with sustainable intensification interventions in Humidtropics Field Sites in Ethiopia

Brief description of proposed activity. What does it involve?

The proposed work will build on the ongoing work of the evolving Humidtropics Research Consortium in Ethiopia to conduct action research on integrated Natural Resources Management (NRM), agronomic, livestock production, agro-forestry, nutritional and market interventions in two Humidtropics Field Sites in Ethiopia. A series of linked interventions were initiated in 2014, emerging from dialogue at local innovation platform level. These interventions involved, for example, intercropping of legumes with maize, row planting of wheat, combined with establishment of soil bunds to extend the growing season. Bunds were planted with indigenous forages which were linked to livestock enterprises. also, infiltration trenches were introduced into degraded grazing lands, which was integrated with oversowing of improved fodder. Sweet potato vines together with other biomass from the above were conserved as silage to ensure proper utilization of the increased feed resources and to fill the seasonal feed gap. The activities proposed for 2015/16 will consolidate this work through a multi-centre effort, also involving the Oromiya Agricultural Research Institute as a core partner. Other boundary partners will have a central role in the action research through their continuing involvement in local innovation platforms and in the Action Site R4D Platform.

Details of the various complementary activities by partners are given below (under Partner Roles). These involve a series of **interlinked interventions** playing to the technical strengths of each partner. In addition a series of cross-cutting activities are proposed as follows:

Capacity development: This component will develop and apply cutting edge learning approaches, and support platform implementation, including through technical training around interventions integrated into core activities. Innovation platform members will deliver training to the extent possible. An MSC programme will be established for detailed research on technical interventions. The work will also focus on developing local innovation capacity through innovation platforms.

Gender: This component will involve assessing the adoptability of the various pilot interventions through a gender lens. The work will also consider the impact of interventions on women and men. ILRI will lead a gender norms study as part of a global CGIAR initiative. In all activities there will be a focus on mainstreaming of gender.

Platform facilitation: Platforms at local and regional level are at the core of the proposed research and ILRI will continue to lead strategic development of platforms as assessment of their performance. Facilitation of platforms will be led by OARI with backstopping from ILRI.

Nutrition: Bioversity will lead work on assessing current diet diversity and identifying entry points to increase dietary diversity.

Justification for the proposed work and what it is aimed at achieving.

The proposed work is a laboratory for testing various core Humidtropics principles: place-based research; integration of complementary interventions to improve overall system productivity; the combination of productivity and natural resource integrity objectives within the intervention scheme; placing innovation platforms front and centre as the source of ideas and the sounding board against which to assess success; considering the nutritional and gender implications of intervention strategies; and connecting productivity enhancement to markets. Experiences derived from this laboratory will inform the ongoing Humidtropics Programme through cross-Action Site learning initiatives.

Brief description of process leading to the identification of this research

The proposed research emerges from an existing bottom-up initiative of the Research Consortium Partners. Humidtropics Ethiopia inherited existing NBDC local innovation platforms in Jeldu and Diga that were focused on NRM issues. The core theme of these IP's was broadened under Humidtropics to

place more emphasis on production and market issues. The IP's set the research agenda for 2014 interventions. Early in 2015 the nascent Regional R4D Platform was formalized and reviewed 2014 activities at an [inaugural R4D Platform Meeting](#). Building on these activities, core and boundary partners developed priorities for a new phase of activities for 2015/16.

Name of Lead Institution and Partner Institutions and their roles

The main activities proposed for different partners in Jeldu and Diga Field Sites are as follows:

ILRI (lead institution) will co-ordinate activities and backstop on innovation platform facilitation. ILRI will also lead work on integrating improved livestock management practices with other systems interventions. Livestock work will focus on testing options for better utilization of fodder for market oriented production, testing crop residue processing methods for improved livestock nutrition and looking at options for improved grazing land development. ILRI will also lead work on assessing gender norms in the study sites as part of the global CGIAR Gender Norms initiative.

IWMI has been leading the intervention effort so far and will continue to lead on soil and water conservation interventions, agronomy trials, socio-economic work and some work on gender impacts of interventions. Some of this work will be conducted using existing W1/W2 funds but Cluster 4 funds will be used to focus strongly on assessing the environmental and socio-economic impact of the integrated interventions.

OARI will capitalize on its extensive array of improved staple cereal technologies to introduce improved maize, tef, finger millet and sesame production technologies integrated with soil fertility improvement and soil and water conservation technologies. In addition OARI will take on responsibility for platform facilitation with backstopping from ILRI

CIP proposes experimentation around introduction and diffusion of orange fleshed sweetpotato for improved human nutrition. CIP will also conduct participatory research around staggered planting dates for potato to extend market season as well as introducing new varieties and post-harvest storage methods. Extended growing seasons will be facilitated by soil and water conservation interventions led by IWMI

ICRAF will focus on integration of multipurpose trees on crop land for soil erosion control, soil fertility improvement and fodder production. This will build on ILRI's existing efforts to stabilize soil bunds with grasses by introducing multi-purpose trees for erosion control, soil fertility improvement, fodder production, food, timber, fuel wood, for living fences and as wind breaks.

Bioversity will focus on the nutritional impacts of proposed ongoing and proposed interventions by documenting the available cultivated and wild food diversity (through production and markets) in the project zones and qualitatively studying dietary patterns to identify entry points for diversifying and improving diets.

Leveraging additional resources

The work has strong potential to leverage additional bilateral resources. GIZ regard the Humidtropics Ethiopian Action Site as their mandate area and they want to co-invest. Similarly the Ethiopian Government Agricultural Growth Programme is a key potential partner. The Field Sites have lots of potential for cross-CRP collaboration for example with WLE, Forest Trees and Agroforestry, Livestock and Fish. There are already many Humidtropics mapped projects: e.g. N2Africa, Africa RISING, Legume CHOICE. The ILRI Addis Ababa campus is the largest CGIAR hub in the world and there is strong donor interest in Ethiopia. The Ethiopian Ministry of Agriculture is a member of the R4D platform and is looking for promising options for scaling out.

Annex 4: Western Ethiopia R4D platform terms of reference

1. Mandate and tasks

1.1 The **Western Ethiopia Research-for-Development Platform** (hereinafter referred R4D Platform) is composed of stakeholder organizations from the public and private sectors, the non-government organizations, national and international research organizations, the universities, development investors and other actors who have interest in the environment and the livelihoods and wellbeing of people living in the humid tropics of Western Ethiopia.

1.2 The Platform will, among other tasks:

- ensure the coordination of the research for development activities implemented through the Innovation Platforms,
- facilitate stakeholder involvement (including investments) in Humidtropics activities by providing a forum for regular dialogue and exchanges
- assist in mobilizing additional resources for Humidtropics
- facilitate scaling up and out of successful innovations
- facilitate partnerships and networking amongst stakeholders.
- comment on and provide East & Central Africa (ECA) Flagship Coordinator (ECA FC) with feedback ECA's annual work program
- Comment on and provide feedback on the effectiveness of ECA's program of work;
- Alert ECA to key national issues of that are related to Humidtropics;
- Set up objectives to be achieved by the Platform during its mandate;
- Advise on communication to different target groups.

2. Composition of the Platform

2.1 The members of the Platform shall be organizations, fulfilling the following criteria: Representing stakeholders' interests in the following categories:

- i. Farmers' associations
- ii. NGOs;
- iii. Public sector (Ministries, Departments, and Agencies)
- iv. Universities and research organizations
- v. Private sector (produce buyers, financial institutions, input dealers, transporters, food industry including raw material processors;
- vi. Media
- vii. Development investors (including donors)
- viii. Trade and catering (wholesale, retail, hotel, restaurants, etc);

2.2 Agreed R4D platform members are listed in the table below:

The following list of stakeholders was identified as a potential Humidtropics Research for Development (R4D) Platform members during the launching workshop on 5 Feb 2015. Some of the stakeholders listed below are based on their previous involvement with Situation Analysis as a steering committee. The other members identified below are because of their mandate area in Western Oromia as well as their previous involvement with ILRI and IWMI project called Nile Basin Development Challenge. The **green highlighted** ones are steering committee members as well as the general assembly members.

Humidtropics Western Ethiopia Action Site R4D Platform members

Name	Organization	role/responsibilities within their organization	Categories	Roles within R4D Platform	E-mail
Endrias Zewdu	Ambo University	Director-Research, Knowledge & Technology Transfer	University	Chairman (2015)	Endrias.zewdu@gmail.com
Alan Duncan	ILRI (International Livestock research Institute)	Principal Scientist	CGIAR	Vice Chairman	a.duncan@cgiar.org
Taha Mume	OARI (Oromia Agricultural Research Institute)	Socio-economics and agricultural extension head	Research Organization	Action Site Facilitator – Secretary	tehamume2005@yahoo.com
??	Oromia Region- Bureau of Women Affair	??	Government organization	Members	??
Minilik Betsega	EIAR (Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research)	Biometrics and GIS researcher	Research Organization	Members	miniliktt@gmail.com
Dereje Duressa	Wollega University	Community Service Director	University	Member	derejeduressa@yahoo.com
Kidus Nigussie	MoA – Livestock	Livestock feed expert	Government organization	Member	kidusabc@yahoo.com
Tilahun Geleto	Oromia Agricultural Research Institute (OARI)	Director for Natural Resource Management	Research Organization	Member	tgeleto@yahoo.com
Abaya Wakwoya	Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus Development and Social Service Commission (EECMY-DASSC)	Director for planning, monitoring & quality management	Local- NGO	Member	abeyaw@eecmy.org
Teshome Terfessa	HUNDEE (Oromo Grassroots Development Initiative)	Site manager for Jeldu area	Local- NGO	Member	hundee1995@gmail.com
Aderie Adugna	GIZ-SLM Oromia	Representative	International- NGO	Member	Aderie.adugna@giz.de
Benti Tolossa	Anno Agro-Industry (Private sector)	Plant breeder and Owner	Private sector	Member	mbtst90@yahoo.com
Amare Mengiste	FAO- Ethiopia	Sustainable team leader	Donor	Member	Amare.mengiste@fao.org
Tracy K. Powell	US Agency for International Development (USAID)- Bureau for Food Security	International Research Advisor for Office of Agriculture, Research & Policy	Donor	Member	tpowell@usaid.gov

Shumi Bulessa	West Shewa zone farmers union representative	Chairman	Farmers union	Member	
	Oromia TV and Radio		Media	Member	
	Oromia agricultural trade and market development bureau		Market Agency (government)	Member	
	Oromia Bureau of Agriculture	Extension		Member	
Ulfina Shifera	Diga Woreda Administration office	Head		Member	
Girma Leta	Jeldu Woreda Administration Office	Head		Member	
Seid Mohammed	AVRDC (World Vegetable Center)	Human nutritionist	CGIAR Centre	Member	emana_b@yahoo.com
Annet Mulema	ILRI (International Livestock research Institute)	Gender Scientist	CGIAR Centre	Member	a.mulema@cgiar.org
Zelalem Lema	ILRI (International Livestock research Institute)	Researcher in Innovation System in Agriculture	CGIAR Centre	Member	z.lema@cgiar.org
Teklu Erkossa	IWMI (International Water Management Institute)	Researcher, land and water	CGIAR Centre	Member	t.erkossa@cgiar.org
Guy Blomme	Bioversity International – Ethiopia	Scientist	CGIAR Centre	Member	g.blomme@cgiar.org
Elias Damtew	ILRI (International Livestock research Institute)	Researcher in Innovation System in Agriculture	CGIAR Centre	Member	e.damtew@cgiar.org
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- 2.3 The Platform shall be composed of a balanced representation of the categories above, minimizing the participation of organizations covering the same areas or overlapping areas.
- 2.4 In order to facilitate active participation and effective discussions, the total number of organizations should be no more than 30.
- 2.5 Representatives of members' organizations attending the Platform meetings represent their organizations and are not attending the Platform in their individual capacity. Should the need arise, the Platform may grant an organization the right to be represented by more than one delegate. Special effort shall be made to attract and retain representatives of marginalized groups such women, the youth and resource poor.
- 2.6 The Action Site Facilitator shall not be considered as a member of the Platform although he/she will participate in meetings of the Platform as necessary (but not be less than 85% of the meetings) to ensure a proper exchange of information and dialogue, as well giving support to the Platform by providing the Secretariat
- 2.7 The Terms of reference and membership of the Platform will be reviewed on a regular basis by the Platform.

3. Chairperson

- 3.1 The Chair will be designated by the members of the Platform from among its members. The Chair will be elected by a vote by simple majority of members and appointed for a period of 1 year. The Chair can be re-elected following the same procedure. The Chair will be assisted by the ASF.

4 Meetings

- 4.1 The Platform will meet twice per year. Additional meetings might be organized if required.
- 4.2 The outcome of the meetings will be made available to ECA FC, apart from the members
- 4.3 Members of the Platform are expected to attend the Platform meetings with assiduity. Platforms are required to set clear conditions of non-attendance and dismissal of members. .
- 4.4 Observers may be allowed to attend meetings

5. Working methods

- 5.1 The Platform is an advisory group and its recommendations are not binding on Humidtropics or its Executive Director or the ECA FC.
- 5.2 The ASF Secretariat of the Platform will draft agendas and the minutes in collaboration with the Chair. It will also distribute documents and liaise with the participants with regards to practical arrangements for the effective operation of the Platform.
- 5.3 Agendas, documents, minutes and any other relevant information about the Platform activities will be placed on Humidtropics Afresco's website through ECA FC
- 5.4 Platforms are required to identify and adopt a documentation strategy including the framework, tools and human resources in its early establishment. Humidtropics will provide backstopping to ensure effective learning from the platforms.

6. Funding

- 6.1 The costs of participation in the meetings of the Platform will be borne by each individual organization.
- 6.2 Exceptionally, Humidtropics may contribute to financing the costs of those organizations that could not otherwise afford to participate in meetings of the Platform. Such organizations may include farmer organizations, ministries and government departments and agencies.
- 6.3 Humidtropics complementary financial support to the platform will depend on the effectiveness of the Platform as determined by monitoring and evaluation reports.