



LIVES project newsletter

Issue I

January 2016

Three years of LIVES: Highlights of key activities and lessons

The Livestock and Irrigation Value chains for Ethiopian Smallholders (LIVES) project has now been three years on the ground working with professionals, farmers, input suppliers, service providers and government officials to develop selected livestock commodities and irrigated crops. It is being implemented with development partners in Tigray, Amhara, Oromia and Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples (SNNP) regions.

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Project News

LIVES offers market-oriented extension and value chain development training in Oromia region

The Livestock and Irrigations Value chain for Ethiopian Smallholders (LIVES) project and partners recently carried out a training of trainers (ToT) on Market-Oriented Extension (MOE) and Value Chain Development for agricultural extension agents in Oromia. [Read More](#)

ILRI-LIVES' Solomon Gizaw recognized for role in animal genetics improvement in Ethiopia

Solomon Gizaw, an animal geneticist in the Livestock and Irrigation Value Chains for Ethiopian Smallholders (LIVES) Project, has been recognized by the Ethiopian government for his role in animal genetics improvement in the country. [Read More](#)

External monitoring mission visited LIVES intervention sites

The Livestock and Irrigation Value chains for Ethiopian Smallholders (LIVES) project is in a position to support the scaling out of the interventions across the project areas. While not final, this was the immediate perception of the external evaluation team after a five-day visit—between 16 and 21 November 2015—to LIVES sites in Bona, Bensa and Arbegona districts of Sidama zone in the Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples Region (SNNPR) of Ethiopia. [Read More](#)



Azage Tegegne

LIVES project manager

More news from the project:

- LIVES to scale out its successful interventions
- Better harvesting for mango production
- LIVES outputs

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LIVES regional workshops and exhibitions to support scale out of successful interventions

The Livestock and Irrigation Value chains for Ethiopian Smallholders (LIVES) project will, in coming months, organize regional workshops and exhibitions in Amhara, Oromia, Tigray and SNNPR to promote LIVES experiences in value chain development and encourage partners to further scale out these interventions. [Read More](#)

LIVES technologies at the 2nd Africa-wide agriculture extension

The Livestock and Irrigation Value Chains for Ethiopian Smallholders (LIVES) project is showcasing its value chain development interventions and project outcomes at this week's (12-16 October 2015) 2nd Africa-wide Agriculture Extension Week in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. [Read More](#)



LIVES and partners to launch new collaborative action research projects in Ethiopia

The Livestock and Irrigation Value Chains for Ethiopian Smallholders (LIVES) project and Ethiopian agricultural research partners have finalized plans for 50 new collaborative action research projects in the country. The plans and proposals were agreed at the third joint meeting of the LIVES team, the directors general (DGs) of the Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research (EIAR) and Regional Agricultural Research Institutes (RARIs) from Amhara, Oromia, SNNPR and Tigray in Addis Ababa on 17 Sept 2015. [Read More](#)



Stories from the field

Piloting solar water pumps use in Ethiopia

Household-based micro-irrigation systems can encourage smallholder farmers to start small businesses based on water lifting technologies. In many parts of Africa, smallholder farmers use motor pumps, hand pumps, treadle pumps, rope and washer pumps and pulley systems to irrigate their farms. [Read More](#)

Agricultural knowledge centres raise agricultural expertise in Seka Cherkorsa

Recurrent water pump damage and malfunction is a major challenge to smallholder farmers in Seka Cherkosa District, Jimma Zone. According to Yohannes Eshetu, an irrigation expert at the Irrigation Development Office of the district, lack of adequate knowledge and skills on water pump operation and maintenance, and absence of reliable repair and maintenance service are hindering irrigation development in the area. [Read More](#)

Building capacity in Ethiopian value chain actors

Market-oriented development is a relatively new strategy in Ethiopia and a lot of work is needed to help transform the country's agricultural sector. As part of this process, the capacity development pillar of the Livestock and Irrigation Value Chains for Ethiopian Smallholders (LIVES) project have undertaken to strengthen innovation and the learning capacity of value chain actors and service providers to develop livestock and irrigation agriculture value chains.

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Farmers in Gamo Gofa and Sidama benefit from improved local water pump repair services

Interventions by the Livestock and Irrigation Value chains for Ethiopian Smallholders (LIVES) Project are now enabling Ethiopian farmers better maintain their irrigation water pumps to improve their food production and food security.

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A farmer trainer and mentor is changing the extension services landscape in Jimma zone

To promote value chain thinking and practice in Ethiopia, the Livestock and Irrigation Value chains for Ethiopian Smallholders (LIVES) project is using coaching and mentoring combined with training, demonstration and study tours to facilitate knowledge sharing and skills transfer among actors in the livestock and crop value chains. [Read more](#)

Fruit seedling supply as lucrative business for youth: Tadele Gobeze's story

Tadele Gobeze is a young entrepreneur who is engaged in the supply of fruit seedlings in Mecha District of the Amhara Region. In 2010, he established a fruit nursery with an initial capital of ETB 1,300 (USD 65). The nursery is established on 2000m² of leased land. [Read More](#)





LIVES Graduate Fellows

LIVES is pleased to announce that 27 of its graduate fellows have completed their BSc/MSc studies. Strengthening the public research and extension sector through graduate training and research is a significant capacity development intervention of the LIVES project. Currently, 173 LIVES graduate fellows are pursuing their studies at different universities.

Our graduate fellows will be featured in our upcoming newsletters!



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