Key messages
• Africa RISING Ethiopian highlands is known for its strong partnership that is created through facilitated multi-stakeholder innovation platforms
• Innovation platforms stimulated collaboration and joint action among multi-stakeholders at different levels
• The sustainable intensification innovations have been co-evolved through the engagement of various actors at different level
• Research and development partners played significant role evaluating the innovations and supporting the scaling up efforts in phase I

Objectives and approach
Innovation Platforms (IPs) established and facilitated in all the project research sites at three level (strategic one at woreda/district, operational at kebele and commodity based innovation clusters at farmers research group level). The IPs stimulate collaboration and joint action to realize the co-creation of sustainable intensification innovations and scaling up efforts. Regular learning and reflection meetings and farmers field days facilitated and organized for all members and have been prioritizing, guiding, and evaluating the various research and development processes. Following the cropping season the IP learning events organized for planning, follow-up and evaluation at farmers field level.

Key results
• Capacity of local actors to cooperate, learn and innovate increased
• Strong partnership created and all actors own the SI innovations
• Strategic IPs have identified SI innovations that can be scaled up within the woreda and beyond (wheat and feed utilization facilities in Endamehoni woreda of Tigray region)
• Local decision makers and other key partners have started supporting scaling up efforts in all the four districts (Eg: Bale Zone Administration and Madawalabu University in Sinana woreda IP)
• Local partners empowered to develop their own research projects within Africa RISING (Eg. Lemo woreda IP on Enset research and Endamehoni woreda IP on Desho grass for improved livestock feed)

Significance and scaling potential
The strategic IPs at district level are widely recognized as a promising vehicle for addressing challenges at system level. Co-evolution of innovations that are suitable for the realization of smallholder sustainable intensification require the engagement of various R4D actors. Reaching more farmers can only be achieved through effective collaboration with key research ad development partners through IPs.

Core partners

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