Sustainable intensification: Africa RISING experience

Kindu Mekonnen, ILRI

Presented to Texas A&M University Professors Visit, 20-22 September and to GIZ Project Appraisal Team, 25 September 2017, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Africa Research in Sustainable Intensification for the next Generation (Africa RISING) program

- Funded by USAID BFS through the FtF initiatives;
- Operational in three African regions (West Africa, South and Eastern Africa and Ethiopian highlands);
- Principal focus: Sustainable Intensification (SI) of mixed farming systems to contribute to climate smart development, gender integration, improved nutrition, inclusive agricultural sector growth, private sector growth and research and capacity building (FtF focus areas); and
- Duration: 2012- Sept 2016 (Phase I) and Oct 2016-2021 (Phase II).
Africa RISING in the Ethiopian highlands– Phase I

- An action research project;
- Implemented in eight research kebeles across the four, main highland regions (Amhara, Oromia, SNNPR, Tigray);
- Partners: 9 CGIAR centers, 4 local universities, 4 regional and 2 federal research institutions, 4 woreda agriculture and livestock offices, NGOs, innovation laboratories (SIIL, ILSSI, PHIL, LSIL) ... and farmers;
- Priority issues: Climate variability, low crop yields (< 1 t ha\(^{-1}\)); soil fertility depletion, crop pests, weeds and diseases, post harvest losses (30-40%), acute shortage of animal feed; seasonal water shortages, poor household nutrition and weak links to markets.
- Major constraints and challenges faced by Africa RISING’s target households are addressed through 17 action research interventions.
Africa RISING interventions: Examples

Irrigated/rain-fed forages

Feed and food crop (Sweet lupin)

Fodder and fertilizer trees/shrubs

Post-harvest feed management and utilization
Soil-test based nutrient amendments

PVS on major crops

Community based seed multiplication

High value fruit trees - apple
Water harvesting, lifting and saving - ponds, rope and washer and solar pumps

Multipurpose 2-wheel drive tractor

Land reclamation through biological and physical means at model watershed scale
Africa RISING in the Ethiopian highlands – Phase II

- Action research continues but move towards backstopping a portfolio of development partnerships;
- Who are the development partners?
  - MoA, AGP, ATA, other ministries;
  - NGOs (GRAD-REST, Inter Aide France, CRS);
  - Private sector (Maltsters, Kalyti Pasta and Macaroni)
  - Other bilateral donors (GIZ, ADA, IDC);
  - Other USAID investments (ICARDA Malt Barley and Bean Project); and
- Preliminary targets: 0.7 million direct beneficiary hhs with the potential to scale to a further 3.4 million hhs.
Africa Research in Sustainable Intensification for the Next Generation

africa-rising.net