Sustainable Agricultural Intensification Research and Learning in Africa (SAIRLA)

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SAIRLA Second National Learning Alliance Workshop
ILRI, Addis Ababa, 23 November 2017
• Agricultural production must increase (SDG2).
• While reducing environmental impacts
• Social challenges, such as poverty and inequality are also key (SDG1)
• Concept of SAI has aim of:
  ➢ increasing agricultural productivity
  ➢ maintaining or improving environmental services
• Complex challenge: Calls for multi-stakeholder social learning process
  • different perspectives to be discussed
  • scenarios and options jointly assessed
  • more inclusive decision-making
  • strengthening of capacity (capability, motivation, opportunity) to act
What is the National Learning Alliance (NLA) for Sustainable Agricultural Intensification (SAI)?

- Sustainable Agricultural Intensification Research and Learning in Africa (SAIRLA)
  - DFID funded R4D, in 6 countries, 8 projects, 4 projects in Ethiopia
  - Aimed at generating new evidence on SAI and develop decision making tools
- NLAs: Facilitate social learning among national actors on SAI
- Ethiopian NLA:
  - Launched on March 27-28, 2017
  - With six boundary partner groups
  - Developed the vision, mission and outcome challenges of the NLA
What happened since March?

- Fine tuning the vision, mission and outcome challenges
- Social learning, communication and M and E strategies developed
- Diagnosing the policy and decision making environment on SAI
- Participation in an International Learning Alliance

Clear and ambitious social learning strategy
Diverse NLA actors
How do we aspire to move forward?

• Social learning on 4 thematic areas
  • ICT for extension and research on SAI
  • SLM Vs livelihoods trade-offs
  • Livestock Vs environment trade-offs
  • Smallholder farmers risk management
  • [We can add more]

• Our next steps are organized in three learning cycles (LC)
  • Second LC, October 2017-July 2018
    • Identification of new evidences and tools
    • Identification of champions
    • Testing of tools and evidences
  • Third LC, August 2018-July 2019
    • Scaling up tools and evidences
    • Policy influence
  • Forth LC, August 2019-November 2019
    • Institutionalization
How do we plan to do it?

• We create the space and the opportunity for social learning
  • NLA Workshops
  • Thematic learning group meetings
  • Field visits
  • Strategic meetings with decision makers
  • Virtual and social media based communication platforms

The NLA is YOURS
Use it to further the SAI debate and realize collective actions
How is the workshop organized

• Theme of the workshop: Understanding and acting on SAI

• Key questions for the workshop
  • What is Sustainable Agricultural Intensification
  • What are the excising widows of opportunities to promote SAI at different scales
  • What tools and evidences on SAI exist that needs scaling up and scaling out?

• Workshop methodology: Presentations, Q and A sessions, group work and panel discussion
SAIRLA Projects led in Ethiopia
Thank You

*The Sustainable Agricultural Intensification Research and Learning in Africa (SAIRLA)*