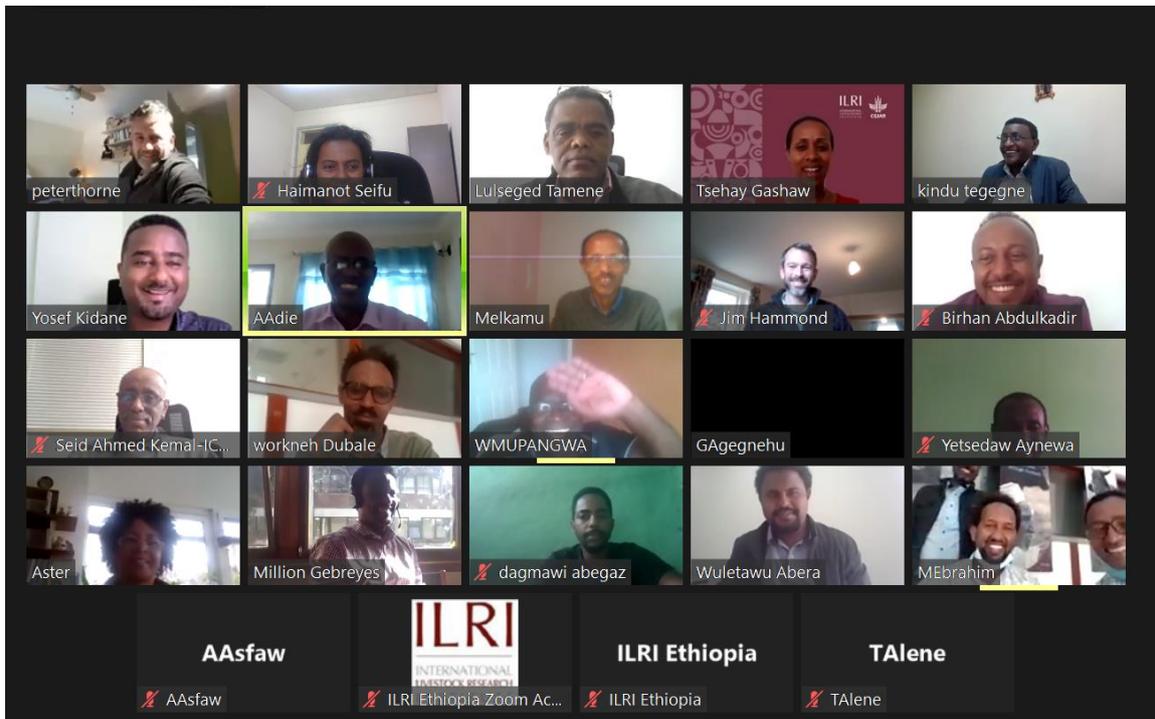




Africa RISING progress update and planning workshop with CGIAR partners

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Workshop report

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The [Africa Research In Sustainable Intensification for the Next Generation](#) (Africa RISING) program comprises three research-in-development projects supported by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) as part of the U.S. Government's Feed the Future initiative.

Through action research and development partnerships, Africa RISING is creating opportunities for smallholder farm households to move out of hunger and poverty through sustainably intensified farming systems that improve food, nutrition, and income security, particularly for women and children, and conserve or enhance the natural resource base.

The three regional projects are led by the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (in West Africa and East and Southern Africa) and the International Livestock Research Institute (in the Ethiopian Highlands). The International Food Policy Research Institute leads the program's monitoring, evaluation and impact assessment.



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Introduction

The Africa RISING project in Ethiopian highlands organized a two-day virtual workshop from 18-19 November 2021 with CGIAR partners to discuss project progress update and plan activities until the end of the project phasing out period 30 September 2021. Such review and planning meetings have been an annual ritual of the Africa RISING project over the last 10 years. This year, due to the COVID pandemic restrictions on movements and travel limits the workshop was held virtually, with close to 25 participants from CGIAR partners, Africa RISING project coordination and the site coordinators team.

Objectives of the workshop

The workshop aimed at achieving the following objectives.

1. Update all CGIAR partners on progress and achievements with R4D, capacity development and scaling;
2. Identify priority needs to support SI of the farming systems in Ethiopian highlands;
3. Discuss opportunities for Africa RISING legacy products that synthesize results and lessons (from R4D and scaling) for both local and global audiences;
4. Outline the exit strategies needed for Africa RISING in the Ethiopian highlands over the period to September 2022.

Welcome and opening addresses

Dr. Namukolo Covic, ILRI Director General Representative in Ethiopia

In her welcoming remark, Dr. Namukolo said ‘Dr. Mekonnen, and Africa RISING colleagues, I am grateful for the opportunity to address you today before this important meeting, and I thank you for welcoming me in your midst. Africa RISING with the many partners, is a truly multidisciplinary effort that brings CGIAR centres, government research institutions, local universities, community level extension offices, NGOs, and entrepreneurs to generate evidence for sustainable intensification of agriculture. Because of the way the programme is set up, the innovations on which evidence is generated, when effective, are strategically positioned for adoption within community, regional, and national agricultural development programme frameworks. The partnerships with the USAID innovation laboratories and farming communities in the US has added to the potential for sharing lessons across the diverse perspectives. In the context of the United Nations Food Systems Summit process, and the Country Food Systems Transformation Pathways that have been developed by Ethiopia and other countries where Africa RISING has been implemented, the evidence you have generated is further positioned to contribute to sustainable food systems transformation, that can deliver on livelihoods, sustainable production, diet quality, and nutrition while mitigating against environmental degradation and climate change. But you need to be deliberate in your efforts to ensure that this is indeed the case, in the shortest possible time. The consequences of climate change are already with us and there is no time to waste.’

Dr. Namukolo also added in the agenda of this meeting, ‘as you share and discuss the outcomes of the various research efforts, and think of how to synthesize these outcomes, I urge you to also address how the evidence that has been generated can impact Ethiopia’s food systems transformation pathway to help build truly transformative momentum.’

Finally, Dr Mekonnen and colleagues, I look forward to the fruits of this meeting and wish you a very productive process, as you set of to address the set objectives. With gratitude and anticipation, I hand over back to Ms Tsehay Gashaw to take this important process forward.

Workshop Deliverables

Deliverable One: Update from 2020/2021 research activities

#	Title of poster presentation	Key lessons	Links
1	Strengthening best-bet practices in feeds and forage development (Melkamu Derseh, ILRI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Validated cultivated forages and improved utilization practices have considerably increased feed availability at household level Adopters of the forage technologies have witnessed increased animal productivity and household income Owning crossbred animals with market linkages appears to be a driving factor for adopting validated technologies Sustaining a local forage seed system continues to be a challenge to overcome 	https://virtualsharing.ilri.org/africa-rising-progress-update-and-planning-workshop-cgiar-partners/1strengthening-best-bet
2	Diversification of wheat-based cropping system in the highlands of Ethiopia (Seid Ahmed, ICARDA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unions and farmers play key roles in crop technology multiplications Linkages with the Bureau of Agriculture (BoA), Unions and key partners is essential for validation and scaling Faba bean gall disease is a major threat on faba bean We identified released crop varieties with wide adaptations Researchers got a chance to evaluate their released varieties in Africa RISING sites Market linkages are required for durum wheat and malt barley Malt barley and durum wheat are being used for home consumptions Outputs of Africa RISING become inputs to new development projects 	https://virtualsharing.ilri.org/africa-rising-progress-update-and-planning-workshop-cgiar-partners/2diversification-wheat-based
3	Creating multifunctional climate resilient landscapes: synthesis, packaging and exit strategy (Leulseged Desta, Alliance Bioversity-CIAT)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> COVID-19 and overall security affected the level of our engagement with partners and data collection. The development of the landscape doctor toolbox should be tailored at both small-scale and landscape scale, contrary to what we initially envisaged to do at the national scale, because of the complexities of the decision-making process associated with it; possible extension need 	https://virtualsharing.ilri.org/africa-rising-progress-update-and-planning-workshop-cgiar-partners/3creating-multifunctional
4	Scaling out small-scale mechanization in the Ethiopian Highlands (Walter Mupangwa, CIMMYT)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aligning activities with government agriculture development priorities Appropriate niches for different mechanization technologies Characteristics of an ideal service provider Capacity development of stakeholders Importance of partnerships Employment creation Income generation by value chain actors Access to new equipment, spare parts, repair and maintenance services 	https://virtualsharing.ilri.org/africa-rising-progress-update-and-planning-workshop-cgiar-partners/4scaling-out-small-scale
5	Validation of landscape-based site-specific fertilizer recommendations and integrated soil fertility management practices for wheat production (Getachew Agegnehu, ICRISAT)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnership: Linkages and collaboration with research and development institutions have been strengthened Appreciating the challenges of working with diverse stakeholders at different levels Understanding the significance of landscape-based approach for soil, nutrient and water management research in undulating areas. 	https://virtualsharing.ilri.org/africa-rising-progress-update-and-planning-workshop-cgiar-partners/5-validation-landscape-based
6	Operationalization of the private-led scaling pathway for irrigation technologies and avocado and vegetable in Lemo woredas (Dagmawi Melaku, IWMI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a willingness to invest in irrigation equipment as well as to switch to high value crops and production systems as long as the economic benefit is demonstrable, and risk is minimal While there is a lack of experience and understanding of 'contract' farming, most farmers are highly interested to know more and engage as long as it is legal, and that they get the necessary supports to meet required standards for such arrangements While every farmer has an interest to make changes to improve production, productivity, and income, they aren't clear on how to achieve it collectively 	https://virtualsharing.ilri.org/africa-rising-progress-update-and-planning-workshop-cgiar-partners/6operationalization-private-led

#	Title of poster presentation	Key lessons	Links
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is high potential for commercial production but need some years for reaching the stable supply at a large scale 	
7	Assessing the seasonal Food Availability and enhancing cultivar diversity of faba bean and durum wheat in Ethiopia (Yosef Gebrehawariyat, Alliance Bioversity-CIAT)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The crowdsourcing approach places farmers as the main actor for the research process and decision in a variety selection 	https://virtualsharing.ilri.org/africa-rising-progress-update-and-planning-workshop-cgiar-partners/7assessing-seasonal-food
8	Scaling up of high value multipurpose trees and their management practices at multiple scales: homestead to landscape (Aster Gebrekirstos, ICRAF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avocado varieties begin to produce fruit in 2 to 4 years • Significantly highest mean fruit load was recorded for Nabal 281 (Fruit per tree) and Hass 249 (Fruit per tree) • Positive correlation between fruit load and crown diameter for each cultivar, and stronger for Ettinger ($r = 0.7$), and for Nabal ($r = 0.64$) • Fruit weight correlates significantly with fruit diameter and length • 80% of the fruit yield used for house consumption • 20% for sale, a household could generate income of 3000 birr per year • Farmers preferred the test of Hass avocado variety • Proper tree management practices are key to improve yield, fruit size and quality 	https://virtualsharing.ilri.org/africa-rising-progress-update-and-planning-workshop-cgiar-partners/8-scaling-high-value
PowerPoint presentations			
1	An overview of Africa RISING project in the Ethiopian highlands: Achievements and challenges from 2017 to 2021 (Kindu Mekonnen, ILRI)	https://www.slideshare.net/africa-rising/ar-overview-2021	
2	Assessments of Africa RISING: Sustainable Intensification and Return on Investment (Jim Hammond, ILRI)	https://www.slideshare.net/africa-rising/two-assessments-2021-250663164	
3	Nutrition assessment results and lessons Learned (Mestawet Gebru, Alliance Bioversity-CIAT)	https://www.slideshare.net/africa-rising/nutrition-assessment-2021	
4	Scaling Assessment of Africa RISING Interventions (Million Gebreyes, ILRI)	https://www.slideshare.net/africa-rising/scaling-assessment-2021	
5	Collaborative potato seed multiplication activity of Africa RISING and Debre Birhan Agricultural Research Center (Temesgen Alene, ILRI)	https://www.slideshare.net/africa-rising/potato-seed-multiplication-2021	

Deliverable Two: priority needs to support SI of the farming systems in Ethiopian Highlands

In the afternoon of the first day, participants were asked to brainstorm priority needs to support SI of the farming systems in Ethiopian highlands. The group exercises involved a discussion of two sets of questions. The first set asked participants priority needs that could be addressed in the period before the end of the project in September 2022. These are priority needs that the Africa RISING project could prioritize and invest resources to address them. The second set included priority needs that require a

longer period and more investment. These priority needs are meant to be communicated for USAID for future investment. The following are responses for these two sets of questions.

Priority needs identified and consolidated for implementation until September 2022

- Survey on determinants of adoption of innovations
- SIAF assessments on selected innovations such as feed and forage technologies and other technologies
- Assess the nutrition contribution of component technologies that we are implementing
- Return on investment assessment at project level
- Diffusion of innovation study: Tracing knowledge and material transfers, either through formal or informal means
- Scaling assessment to document scaling, identify entry points to amplify the current scaling work and co-design with partners scaling pathways beyond AR project period
- Mechanization suitability assessment: Targeting of the different mechanization technologies, given the different cropping systems and crop-livestock systems in different parts of Ethiopia
- Climate smart assessment of Africa RISING technologies
- RHoMIS and Gender Studies

Priority needs identified and consolidated for a long-term investment (after September 2022)

- Climate smart approaches for crop and variety diversity including improved, new and traditional crops
- Diversification and intensification in small scale irrigated food and forage crop production systems
- The seed system: Integrated approach for seed and seedling system of forage and crop technologies
- Postharvest management innovations
- The role of markets and value chains for innovations
- Management of problematic soils (waterlogging and acid soils)
- Generate evidence on the contribution of feed and forage innovations for soil fertility improvement and water conservation/retention
- Promoting cost-effective compound feeds
- Village-based poultry production and beekeeping
- Introduction and validation of more leguminous fodder trees for high-altitude ecologies

Enabling environment to be addressed for successful gap filling

- Capacity development for development partners
- Policy and regulatory issues: Articulating contribution of AR to food systems transformation agenda of the Ethiopian government. We can engage the ILRI DG rep. Dr Namukolo

Deliverable Three: Developing Africa RISING legacy products

As Africa RISING is coming to an end in September 2022, the focus for the remaining period of the project time is synthesizing the many research findings and producing outputs that would show the legacy of the project. This component was brainstormed during the morning of the second day. The following is a summary of the findings of this session. The general remark for this session is to prioritize what we can deliver soon and what tasks can take some time and effort and focus on what is most feasible.

- Extension manuals
- Policy briefs
- Africa RISING book/Journal special issue
- Videos
- Photobook

Deliverable Four: Developing exit strategy

The final section in the afternoon of the second day brainstormed the exit strategies that the project would like to focus on. Three questions were asked to the project management team, the CGIAR partners and site coordinators.

Knowledge transfer mechanisms to local partners – suggestions by Africa RISING project management team

- Print materials for partners
- In repository/ libraries put the product accessible
- Digital publication e.g. in tablets
- Partner with another project like AICCRA to share the publications
- Work with local media to transfer knowledge
- Use the existing AR website to share the publication with partners
- Identify mobile apps and portals for sharing all the publications
- Create a template to categorize what we have in hand in terms of technology, projects etc. And share it in creative ways
- Support Keep model farmers to be visited as a legacy product

Mainstream Africa RISING validated innovations with opportunities within ongoing or emerging initiatives within OneCGIAR – suggestions by CGIAR partners

- The approach, like an inclusive partnership, farmers participation, innovation platforms, can be mainstreamed in the upcoming one CGIAR
- High-value food and forage crops and trees can be mainstreamed under the emerging local and export markets.
- Under Excellence in Agronomy: Fertilizer recommendation. this can also be mainstreamed under government initiatives (ATA fertility map, AGP)
- Under Nature positive initiative: the diversity approach can be mainstreamed
- Under Agroecology: Landscape restoration (can include soil fertility management and health)

- Under sustainable intensification: mechanization, Irrigation, Variety identification/selection
- Under Nexus gains benefit across the water, energy food and forest and biodiversity: traditional varieties selection and marketing, Agroforestry innovations, water-related innovations, microbial innovations

Mainstream Africa RISING validated innovations in other initiatives (public/private or NGO) in the project operational areas – suggestions by Africa RISING project site coordinators

- Identification of critical actors for exit strategy development: Identifying Potential development partners such as research centres, universities, farmers, private, cooperatives/unions, Farmers etc. Raya university, Raya Hadnet union, Birhan Ayba cooperative and model farmers are AR Endamehoni Sites potential partners
- Knowledge products sharing: Documenting and compiling best practices, lessons, research outputs of AR in local language
- Capacity building: Identifying capacity gaps in infrastructure development such as DLS construction, recourse allocation for example for avocado grafters, skill, knowledge related through trainings
- Organize an exit strategy workshop with local partners to identify critical areas of intervention: organizing meetings/workshops to promote/sell best practices, lessons, best technologies to identified key partners
- Organize technology parks with research and University partners: Organizing technology familiarizing events (visits, meeting) for newly appointed decision-makers and partners
- Experience sharing in project areas and with model farmers; Experience sharing on Apple, Desho grass and fodder beet production and seed multiplication
- The public partnership is important to include the woreda office of agriculture promote and multiply feed technologies on FTC. Can implement new variety demonstration and PVS with union and Universities

Closing statements

Dr. Peter Thorne (Africa RISING project coordinator)

The following were the highlights of the closing remark made by Dr. Peter Thorne

- Phase one: Was some energized phase with great engagement with farmers and local partners. This has its own values for the overall engagement afterwards. This is something which we will take with us in future initiatives.
- The second phase came organically from the first phase: In the past, the delayed fund release had some effect on our project work. Despite that, USAID maintained its total commitment.
- Now we have the remaining period to synthesize our effort and make sure that the impacts of Africa RISING reach as many as possible. These experiences have been feeding and will continue to feed into the design of future projects.
- Overall, we can be proud of our achievements. The last two days were also very productive. We will be coming back to all of you to follow on action points. We must gather as much evidence as we can to document how effective our innovations have been.

Annexes

Annexe 1: Program of the workshop

Africa RISING progress update and planning workshop with CGIAR partners

Venue: Virtual meeting, November 18-19, Addis Ababa

Zoom link: <https://ilri-org.zoom.us/j/97030527952>

Meeting ID: 970 3052 7952

Objectives

- Update all CGIAR partners on progress and achievements with R4D, capacity development and scaling.
- Identify priority needs to support SI of the farming systems in Ethiopian Highlands.
- Discuss opportunities for Africa RISING legacy products that synthesize results and lessons (from R4D and scaling) for both local and global audiences.
- Outline the exit strategies needed for Africa RISING in the Ethiopian highlands over the period to September 2022.

Day 1: 18 November 2021

Time	Session	Note
10:45 am	Checking	
11:00 am	Participant's introduction	Tsehay Gashaw, ILRI
11:05 am	Welcome, objectives and agenda	Namukolo Covic, ILRI
11:10 am	Project Overview - Presentation	Peter Thorne, ILRI
11:30 am	Project status update	Poster session
12:30 pm	Lunch break	
13:30 pm	Poster session continues	
14:30 pm	Identifying major gaps that haven't been addressed in the mixed crop-livestock systems and prioritize them for future investments	Group exercise
16:30 pm	Wrap up the day and close	Kindu Mekonnen, ILRI
17:00 pm	Close	

Day 2: 19 November 2021

Time	Session	Note
10:45 am	Checking	
11:00 am	Day 1 recap and Agenda	Tsehay Gashaw, ILRI
11:10 am	Discuss on how we can synthesize our research results and lessons, and produce an Africa RISING legacy products	Group exercise
12:30 am	Transitional arrangements to cover short term funding gaps	Plenary discussion
12:40 pm	Lunch break	
14:00 pm	Develop exit strategy and way forward	Group exercise
16:40 pm	Next steps	Peter Thorne, ILRI
17:00 pm	Close	

Annex 2: List of workshop participants

#	Name	Organization	Email
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29	Zewdie Bishaw	ICARDA-Ethiopia	Z.Bishaw@cgiar.org

Annexe 3: List of partners contributed for the 2020/2021 research activities

- 2030 Water Resources Group (2030 WRG)
- Adane Geneti Metal Work.
- Addis Ababa University
- Agricultural development offices at different levels.
- Agricultural Transformation Agency (ATA)
- Agricultural Water Management Task Force (AWM-TF)
- Amio Engineering Plc.
- Bahir Dar University
- Butajira Nursery
- CGIAR centres (ICARDA, ILRI and Alliance Bioversity CIAT, ICRAF, IWMI, CIMMYT, ICRISAT)
- Dagem Kennedy General Trading
- Debre Birhan University
- Districts and Zonal Bureaus of Agriculture
- Ethiopian Environment and Forest Research Institute (EEFRI)

- Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research (EIAR)
- Farmer Cooperatives and Unions
- Federal and Regional Research Centers
- Green Way Farms Plc (Greenpath)
- Hawassa University
- iDE-Ethiopia.
- Inter Aide France
- Mada Walabu University
- Mechanization directorate in MoA
- Ministry of Agriculture
- Nigat Mechanical Engineering
- Raya University
- Regional Agricultural Research Institutes (RARIs)
- Regional Bureaus of Agriculture (Amhara, Oromia, SNNP, Tigray)
- Rensys Engineering & Trading Plc
- Selam Engineering Hawassa
- Send a Cow
- Sustainable Land Management (SLM)
- Wachemo University
- Waliya Capital Goods
- Wollo University