

Jewe Kebele Farmers Research Groups and “Seleme” Operational 2nd Innovation Platform Meeting Report

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Through action research and development partnerships, Africa RISING will create 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 projects are led by the International Livestock Research Institute (in the Ethiopian Highlands) and the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (in West Africa and East and Southern Africa). The International Food Policy Research Institute leads an associated project on monitoring, evaluation, and impact assessment.



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Introduction to Innovation Platforms in Africa RISING

[Africa RISING in Ethiopian highlands](#) is a research for development project that focus on system interventions in the crop-and-livestock mixed farming system in four big regions (Amhara, Oromia, Tigray and SNNPR). The project understands the need for engaging various research and development partners in addressing system interventions. For this the project established and support innovation platforms at field sites for cooperation and co-learning. The platforms are supported to facilitate meaningful and effective interactions that prioritize, guide, and evaluate the various research and development processes specific to the sites. The platforms started helping connect farmers to profitable and efficient value chains for the main commodities. The members of the platforms are contributing in designing, implementing, evaluating project activities and disseminate and communicate research findings through regular meetings and farmers field days.

Innovation platforms and farmer research groups

Innovation platforms (IPs) have been formed at all the research sites. The platforms aim to nurture linkages among farming communities, the Africa RISING research teams and other public and private actors working in the areas. They work at three levels:

1. At woreda (district) level, strategic IPs support kebele platforms and farmer research groups. They bring together stakeholders to support wider adoption of innovations.
2. At kebele level, operational platforms oversee local research activities, foster integration among the farmer research groups, and promote alignment of local on-farm research with district priorities.
3. Farmer research groups are like innovation clusters. They involve all farmers who are active around specific clusters of research activities – such as forage production, water delivery or varietal improvement. The roles of these groups are expected to expand to promote scaling of innovation to wider groups of farmers.

Regular IP meetings are held at strategic and operational level for sharing and communicating research findings. This report aims to share one of the strategic IP meeting that was organized in one of the project site called Lemo woreda, SNNPR.

Jewe kebele FRG and 2nd Kebele IP meeting was organized on two consecutive days. The FRG meeting was aimed for participatory farmers selection of their own representatives who joined as a member of the kebele operational IP. On the second day together with the representatives selected from each FRGs and the kebele Technical Group members the second kebele IP meeting was organized to communicate the research findings of 2014. Second strategic IP meeting was held on 19th Feb 2015 in Hosanna, the capital of the woreda.

Africa RISING project: Jewe Kebele Farmers Research Group meeting

Date: 17 Feb 2015

Venue – Jewe Kebele Admin Office

Technical Group members of Lemo woreda “Seleme” IP members participated are:

1. Belayneh Osire (Lemo woreda IP Chairman)
2. Lobe Hayile (Lemo woreda IP member)
3. Tamrat Erjano (Lemo woreda IP Member)
4. Mukerem Elias (Lemo woreda IP member)
5. Ashenafi Yohanes (Lemo Woreda IP Facilitator)
6. Fikadu Tessema (Lemo woreda IP member)
7. Workineh Dubale (Lemo woreda IP secretary)
8. Zelalem Lema (ILRI)

Agenda of the meeting

- Introducing the concept of IP, purpose, functions and FRG approach
- Members of each FRG self-introduction as a group
- Selection of representatives from each FRG and local naming for each groups

Welcome and Introduction:

Welcome and introduction of the agenda was made by Belayneh Osire (from woreda office of Agriculture) who is a chairman of lemo woreda strategic innovation platform. All farmers who have been participating in different Africa RISING research activities have been participated. Self-introduction was facilitated by Ashenafi Yohannes (from Machamo University) where farmers were introducing in which research protocol or commodity they are participating and while the woreda TG members also introduced their role to farmers as a technical advisory for the kebele IP as well as for FRGs undertaking research on their farm.



Figure 1: TG members writing Agenda on flipchart (Zelalem/ILRI)

Introduction to the concept, purpose and function of IP

Introducing the concept of Innovation Platform, purpose and functions of innovation platform at Lemo woreda was briefed to farmers in local language by TG members from woreda. It was mentioned that Africa RISING as a research for development project is using innovation platform to undertake the research activities. These platforms operate at three level, woreda, kebele and FRG. Using flipchart the TG members demonstrated an illustration of how these IPs found in the woreda and two kebeles are connected to the FRGs and how knowledge is transferred. They have been briefed that the meeting is intended to organize farmers who participated in research to organize them in a farmers research group based on commodity and then each group are expected to select their representatives by considering also women participation and other criteria. The selected representatives are going to join the Jewe Kebele Operational IP members. In doing so each commodity representatives will contribute in the ongoing discussions and actions/ of the kebele IP meeting have been entertaining the meeting with discussion on question that they want to clear about the farmers' research group approach.



Figure 2: TG members introducing the FRG meeting Agenda to all farmers (Zelalem/ILRI)

Formation and local names given for each FRGs based on commodity

Each farmers who have been participating in each commodity have been facilitated and discussed in their group to give local names to their group that have a meaning attached to the importance of the commodity they are working on. The local name was given in Hadiyigna language and there was a good group decision making process to nominate three and more names first and select one that all the group members liked to be.



Figure 3: TG members facilitating discussion among farmers (Zelalem/ILRI)



Figure 4: Avocado FRG members in Jewe Kebele (Zelalem/ILRI)

Selection of representatives from each FRGs

A total of 9 (nine) FRGs have been established in Jewe kebele based on commodity rather than research agendas. The participants set a criteria to select their representatives and one of the criteria is that at least one women should be selected as a representative. The other criteria include active farmers who can be a role model, those who are willing to share knowledges to the group members and others. The FRGs have nominated their representatives who will be members of Jewe Kebele Seleme Operational IP. The names of each representatives with gender segregated data is presented here below. See the following table to get information on each FRGs.

Table 1: Jewe Kebele FRGs, local names and selected representatives

No	Protocols-Treatment Types	Local Name of FRG	FRG members			FRG representatives			
			M	F	T	Name	Responsibility	Sex	Total
1	Tree Lucerne	<i>Adebo (milk provider)</i>	56	5	61	Gezahegn Kebede	Leader	M	3
						Wondimu Weshiso	Secretary	M	
						Bekelech Belachew	Member	F	
2	Avocado	<i>Hundibiko (that can be everything)</i>	27	11	38	Alemitu Abiyo	Leader	F	3
						Adinew Habore	Secretary	M	
						Brihanu Tirkaso	Member	M	
3	Irrigated fodder (Oat & vetch)	<i>Sugamo (satisfactory feeds)</i>	18	6	24	Zenebe Lende	Leader	M	3
						Bekele Nigussie	Secretary	M	
						Alemitu Erbetto	Member	F	
4	Wheat (PVS -1 , CSP – 1, Soil fertility management - 23)	<i>Awenso (productive/leading crop)</i>	23	2	25	Abule Suleyman	Leader	M	3
						Brihanu Deboro	Secretary	M	
						Desalech Helelo	Member	M	
5	Faba been (PVS-1 and CSP-1, Faba Been with Forage 25)	<i>Getiso (save from hunger)</i>	29	6	35	Alemu Kebede	Leader	M	3
						Workineh Dende	Secretary	M	
						Amarech Abiko	Member	F	
6	Potato (PVS-1, and CSP-1, Yield Gap Analysis – 8)	<i>Godiso (yemiyategeb-enough)</i>	10	0	10	Ermias Legeto	Leader	M	3
						Abera Mekengo	Secretary	M	
						Weshiso Lamboro	Member	M	
7	Food and Malt Barley	<i>Kutiso (makes strong)</i>	2	0	2	Mechulo Ameno	Leader	M	2
						Defar Mekengo	Secretary	M	
8	Crop residue	<i>Ushetiso (that can give rest)</i>	19	6	25	Beyene Handiso	Leader	M	3
						Demeke Oche	Secretary	M	
						Amarech Wolde	Member	F	
9	Enset	<i>Ulgesso (administrating /leading food)</i>	9	6	15	Eshetu Doliso	Leader	M	3
						Wolde Gefafo	Secretary	M	
						Aster Kassa	Member	F	

Jewe Kebele 2nd “Seleme” Operational IP meeting

Date: 18 Feb 2015

Venue: Kebele Administration office

Technical Group Member of Lemo woreda IP participated are:

1. Belay Osire (Lemo woreda IP Chairman)
2. Lobe Hayile (Lemo woreda IP member)
3. Tamrat Erjano (Lemo woreda IP Member)
4. Mukerem Elias (Lemo woreda IP member)
5. Fikadu Tessema (Lemo woreda IP member)
6. Workineh Dubale (Lemo woreda IP secretary)
7. Zelalem Lema (ILRI)



Figure 5: Ato Tamirat (woreda TG member) presenting the concept of innovation platform (Degefa/ILRI)

Agenda of the meeting:

- Re-introducing the concept of innovation platform, purpose and function and membership of Jewe Kebele Seleme operational IP.
 - Introducing the representative of each FRGs as members of the kebele IP
-

- Communicating Africa RISING research activities and results of 2014 in Jewe kebele and collecting farmers feedback
- Selecting representatives from Jewe Kebele who will be member of Lemo woreda IP

Welcome and Introduction:

Welcome remarks to the 2nd IP meeting was done by Workineh Dubale and introduced the agenda of the meeting. All participants introduced themselves and their role in IP and farmers were good at remembering the local name given for their FRG and also their role as a representatives of each FRGs.



Figure 6: A development agent presenting the research activities and participating farmers (Degefa/ILRI)

A good discussions happened after the briefs on the concept and purpose of the operational IP. Farmers noted the importance of such a meeting to happen regular to reflect ideas and feed backs and also evaluate research activities. There are important comments and questions raised by farmers while the woreda TG members also suggested that farmers themselves should also be open for learning based on lessons learnt.

Farmers' questions and comments (dialogue session):

- Farmers raised a question to Africa RISING that is there a compensation mechanism for those farmers who faced crop damage affected by different factors?
 - Late application of chemical in potato research due to delay in chemical supply affects the production. Disease was a problem mentioned by the farmers. Farmers suggested that the chemical should be available at the same time with seed for the potato
 - The researchers didn't not considered the timing of planting for Faba Bean and Barely at different locations with on Jewe kebele. Farmers mentioned that there is perfect time they plant when the worms and water logging is finished. Researchers planted early and at the same time
-

in different location which affected the yield. Farmers suggested that researchers should also combine their local knowledge in the research activities.

- Germination problem in potato due to the seed packed material is not good for this reason the seedling are easily damaged. The seeds of the potato should be packed in carton so that they quality seed arrive at the kebele for planting
- Seed must be available before the time of sowing
- Absence of different management practice like shortage of soil covering in potato research caused the seed to be easily exposed to the rain.
- Yellow rust problem wheat research still remains a problem mentioned by farmers
- Avocado fungus diseases are affecting the leaves
- Tree Lucerne seedling must available at a time and also their quality in terms of strength should be also considered to increase its survival
- Farmers also mentioned that the series shortage of agricultural water as well as drinking water is affecting also the research activities in Jewe mainly on those high value crops and fodders
- Farmers appreciated the different weather condition measurement tools installed by Africa RISING and they requested the data to be processed and information to be communicated to farmers in Jewe Kebele. One of the last year (2014) problem that affected the yield was a weather condition which was bad so farmers need to get information on weather condition for planting as well as for harvesting.

Technical group members informed to kebele IP members about lessons learnt that farmers should take into account for the next year activities are:

- The TG members appreciated the discussion and comments given by farmers. They also mentioned that they have learnt from last year research activities that they will take in to consideration for the next year activities. The challenges that farmers mentioned on seed, timing of planting, chemical and other issues will be given due attention for the next year.
- There are also things that farmers should correct for the next year. The TG members encouraged farmers for open discussion and requested that they should mention some of the problems that the farmers own on last year (2014) research activities. Then farmers themselves mentioned the following as their own problem and agreed to correct for the future
- Deliberately there are farmers who knows that their land is not good for some of the crops they participated and that is why some of the crops failed.
- All farmers are not protecting the Avocado and tree Lucerne by fencing
- The management is also poor with some of the farmers on timely weeding, spraying etc

In general both farmers and TG members have discussed on all important issues on research activities accomplished in Jewe kebele and agreed to continue discussing through the upcoming IP meetings.

Next activities agreed by platform members and TG members

The operational IP members agreed to meet regularly so that learning and sharing will foster among its members. They agreed to follow up and support participating farmers. They will organize farmers' field day in October before harvesting so that the woreda IP members, invited guests and other new farmers will visit the demonstration sites for sharing experiences and also using it for scaling up and out activities.

Annexes

Annex 1: List of Jewe Kebele Technical Group members

Kebele level Technical Group (TG) which have eight members was selected and approved by the participants. Their role and functions will mirror that of the operational IP. The TG members will mainly play a key role in establishing the farmers clusters IPs and facilitate their implementation and experience sharing among the clusters. The kebele and woreda TG members will work closely as their roles overlap (see Table 3).

N O	Organization / institute	Full Name	Sex	Responsibility in the institute	Responsibility in the IP	Phone number
1	Kebele Office of Agriculture	Andualem Bezabih	male	Coordinator	Chairman	
2	Kebele Office of Agriculture	Mulatu Basha	Male	Crop Extension DA	Secretary	
3	Kebele Office of Agriculture	Adinew Eriwaro	Male	NRM Extension DA	Member	
4	Kebele Office of Agriculture	Birtukan Bizuneh	Male	Livestock Extension DA	Member	
5	Kebele Office of Agriculture	Birtukan Shigute	Female	Crop Extension DA	Member	
6	Women Affair Office	Bekelech Belachew	Female	Representative of women affair	Member	
7	Kebele Administration	Melese Shobiso	Male	Manager	Facilitator	
8	Omo Microfinance Institution	Ayele Abebe	Male	Omo Agent	Member	

Annex 2: List of Jewe Kebele “Seleme” Operational innovation platform members

N O	Institute	Name of person representing the institute	Sex	Responsibility in the institute	Responsibility in the IP	Phone number
1	PA(Kebele) office of administration	Adinew Ayele	Male	Chair man	Chairman	
2	PA(Kebele) office of administration	Abebe Soye	Male	Kebele Speaker	Member	
3	Women Affair Office	Bekelech Belachew	Female	Representative of women	Member	

				affair		
4	Youth Affair Office	Zelege Haile	Male	representative of youth affair	Member	
5	Kebele Administration	Melese Shobiso	Male	Manager	Member	
6	Health Extension at PA level	Bizunesh Zewde	Female	Health extension worker	Member	
7	Jewe Multipurpose farmers' cooperative	Misgano Lendido	Male	Chair man	Member	
8	Jewe Multipurpose farmers' cooperative	W/Yohanis Ashebo	Male	Member	Member	
9	Kebele Office of Agriculture	Andualem Bezabih	Male	Coordinator	facilitator	
10	Kebele Office of Agriculture	Birtukan Bizuneh	Female	Livestock extension DA	Member	
11	Kebele Office of Agriculture	Mulatu Basha	Male	Crop extension DA	Secretary	
12	Kebele Office of Agriculture	Adinew Eriwaro	Male	NRM extension DA	Member	
13	Kebele Office of Agriculture	Birtukan Shigute	Female	Crop extension DA	Member	
14	Omo micro finance institute	Ayele Abebe	Male	Omo Agent	Member	
15	Women's' Association	Aberash Abebe	Female	Representative	Member	
16	Youth Association	Riske Alemu	Male	Chairman	Member	
17	Saving and Credit association	Samual Abate	Male	Chairman	Member	
18	Religious Leader /Kebele Elder	Menchulo Ameno	Male	Leader	Member	
19	Africa RISING	Workneh Dubale	Male	Site coordinator	Member	09 33 16 34 20
20	Africa RISING	Fikadu Tessema	Male	Assistance Site Coordinator	Member	0910143195

