



FEED THE FUTURE

The U.S. Government's Global Hunger and Food Security Initiative

Strengthening Extension and Advisory Services Challenges, Successes, Future opportunities **ETHIOPIA**





Ethiopia's Extension & Advisory Landscape

An increasingly pluralistic system that includes government, private sector, NGO, other actors – but dominated by public sector extension.



- 12 million farming households
- 32 agro-ecological zones
- 173 livelihood zones
- 80% of population depends on agriculture for livelihood
- Land area – about twice the size of Texas



Challenges & opportunities in public extension

- **Approx. 45,000 Development Agents – 3 per kebele**
- **Approx. 15,000 Farmer Training Centers with Demonstration Farms - one in each kebele**
- **Study in 2008 by IFPRI estimated the impact of extension - at least one visit from a Development Agent increased production growth for household by 7% and reduced poverty by 10%.**



But...

- **Most lack infrastructure, resources and operating expenses to make FTC/DF functional - need to become revenue generating FTC**
- **DA skills same for each FTC: crops, NRM and livestock - need farmer input, advice on high value crops, marketing, farm management and attention to gender**
- **Training of DAs needs improvement**



USAID Support - examples

Partnership with the Agricultural Transformation Agency and government - \$2.2 million funding for 2012 direct to government agency for Innovation Pilots and scaling

I. Scaling up Innovative Tef Agronomy Practices

- Using the FTC/DF and Development Agents to promote no-risk practices
- Optimum seeding rates to reduce lodging and competitions
- Planting in rows for easier weeding
- 2011 pilot 1,430 farmers (90 FTCs) achieved 50% - 80% yield improvements
- Scaling to 2.6 million farmers



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2. Using Mechanization to reduce post harvest losses

- Using the FTC/DF and Development Agents to provide advisory services to both farmers and entrepreneurs
- DA facilitate links to threshers and credit
- Establishing fee-based private sector service provision for threshing
- Focusing on farms with rotational system of tef, wheat, chickpea and barley



USAID Support - examples

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3. Business Advisory Support to Agricultural Cooperatives

- Initially using public sector advisory services
- Will explore financing through cost-sharing and private sector partnerships
- Linking with other USAID partners (e.g. ACIDI-VOCA, CRS) that have cooperative business models (note that the USAID Agribusiness and Market Development (AGP-AMDe) provides this service in the government-led CAADP, multi-donor Agricultural Growth Program AGP)



USAID Support - examples

Public Private Partnership with the Dupont-Pioneer

- Increase adoption of hybrid maize
- Using a model farmer approach – Dupont provides free seed as incentive for first season
- Pioneer expert agronomists provide technical support to public sector development agents
- FTC demonstration farms have plots comparing hybrid maize with local open pollinated varieties
- Best model farmers have opportunity to become dealers for Pioneer hybrid maize seed
- Dupont has included this as part of the New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition investment



USAID Leadership

- Coordinated efforts are critical
- USAID leader in Rural Economic Development and Food security (RED-FS) Working Group – a joint donor and government body
- USAID is major partner in the CAADP Country Investment Plan flagship investment – the Agriculture Growth Program (AGP) – leads on input systems, private sector and livestock components of the AGP



Thank you

Resources:

- ❖ IFPRI Discussion Paper #01041 “In-Depth Assessment of the Public Agricultural Extension System of Ethiopia and Recommendations for Improvement.” December 2010 (Kristin Davis, Burton Swanson et al)
- ❖ IFPRI Discussion Paper #00840, “The Impact of Agricultural Extension and Roads on Poverty and Consumption Growth in Fifteen Ethiopian Villages” December 2008 (Stefan Dercon et al).
- ❖ Dorosh, P. and Rashid, S., editors. 2012. Food and Agriculture in Ethiopia – Progress and Policy Challenges. University of Pennsylvania Press.
- ❖ Agricultural Transformation Agency website <http://www.ata.gov.et/>