

SUMMARY REPORT

IPMS YEAR 3 MONITORING & EVALUATION REPORT

FOR THE IPMS PROJECT (2007/2008)

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Abbreviations

BoARD	Bureau of Agriculture and Rural Development (at regional level)
BSc	Bachelor of Science Degree
CD	Compact Disk
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
DA	Development Agent
DVM	Doctor of Veterinary medicine
EAP	Ethiopian Agricultural Portal
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
FTC	Farmers' Training Center
GoE	Government of Ethiopia
HAPCO	HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control Office
HIV	Human Immune-Deficiency Virus
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
ILRI	International Livestock Research Institute
IPMS	Improving Productivity and Market Success
IT	Internet Technology
KM	Knowledge Management
M & E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MoARD	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
MSc	Master's of Science Degree
NAIRC	National Agricultural Information Resource Centre
NALC	National Advisory and Learning Committee
NGO	Non-governmental Organizations
OoARD	Office of Agricultural and Rural Development
PA	Peasant Association, also referred to as 'Kebele' or 'Tabia'
PLW	Pilot Learning Woreda
PLWHA	People Living with HIV/AIDS
PMF	Performance Measurement Framework
RALC	Regional Advisory and Learning Committees
RARI	Regional Agricultural Research Institute
SMS	Subject Matter Specialist
SNNPR	Southern Nation Nationalities and People's Region
VCD	Video Compact Disk
WALC	Woreda Advisory and Learning Committee
WKC	Woreda Knowledge Center

1. Introduction

This report is a summary of the Monitoring and Evaluation Report of Year 3 of the Improving Productivity and Market Success of Ethiopian Farmers (IPMS) Project.¹ It is also based on the detailed baseline study completed for the Project.² The report presents the changes or results that have been achieved over the first three years of project implementation. Consequently, most of the findings in this report present achievement of output level results. The reader may wish to consult the research database found on the IPMS website which contains many studies and papers that highlight the achievements of IPMS and which support the findings presented in this report.³

The IPMS Project (the Project) was originally a five year project extended to a sixth year (March, 2011). It is funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and implemented by the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) on behalf of the Ethiopian Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MoARD). The Project's goal is to strengthen the Ethiopian government's efforts to bring about improved agricultural production and productivity through market-oriented agricultural development.

2. IPMS Approach

This is a successful project. It is successful because the Project has introduced an innovative approach to agricultural development in Ethiopia, the "IPMS Approach". This approach is a participatory, market-oriented agricultural development approach that facilitates the adoption of appropriate technologies and innovative input supply and output marketing schemes and financial services. The approach is founded on four key principles: *value chain/market orientation*: that is driven by market demand and potential, with linkages to supply inputs, services and production and natural resource management and to business principles; *innovation system perspective*: that comprises technological, organizational and institutional interventions with partner linkages, involvement, interaction and learning, and is knowledge based; *participatory*: that promotes and facilitates the participation and involvement of actors in the value chain as well as in the creation of demand; and is *environment, HIV/AIDS and gender sensitive*.

Before the Project, knowledge in research and extension was mainly provided by the government extension system which was also the major supplier of inputs to farmers in the 10 Pilot Learning Woredas (PLWs) where the Project is focused. This situation represented basically a top-down transfer of knowledge, inputs and resources. What IPMS has been able to do in its 10 PLWs is to diversify information sources and increase the role of other actors in input supply, marketing and financial services in order to transform the extension system's existing agricultural development approach into a more participatory and market-oriented agricultural development approach. The IPMS approach supports the Government of Ethiopia's (GoE) market-oriented agricultural and

¹ Monitoring and Evaluation Report of Year 3 (Draft), for the IPMS Project

² Baseline Data Report from the IPMS Project

³ www.ipms-ethiopia.org

smallholder development strategy which in turn complements the GoE's food security and natural resource management agricultural development strategy which has been in place since the early part of this decade. The Project was conceived and designed originally to assist the GoE, and particularly the MoARD, in achieving this agricultural development strategy through learning by doing and by documenting the lessons learned.

What makes the IPMS approach innovative and distinctive is the creation of partnerships. Partners are starting to work together and to contribute to each other in different ways: farmers, extensions services, research institutes, educational institutions, all working in partnership in ways that they have not done so before. Furthermore, the number of Partners who are participating in the market system has increased; these are Partners who supply inputs, who provide micro-finance, and who market agricultural commodities. Consequently, the roles and interactions between Partners, including the government extension system, have improved. For example, in the IPMS PLWs, the burden on the extension system as the major supplier of inputs is now shared with the private sector which is now able to supply some of these inputs. The extension system is moving increasingly toward becoming a knowledge provider and a facilitator that supports linkages in the system. The private sector, including individuals and farmer groups, is becoming the input suppliers and marketers of agricultural commodities. Interaction amongst Partners is collegial instead of being a top-down process. And when you have new systems and ways of doing things coupled with the increased capacity of different Partners, you then have a lot of different knowledge and this is what creates innovation. The IMPS approach is allowing Partners to work together in a new fashion that is also gender and environmentally sensitive. These partnerships enable farmers to adopt new technologies that are supplied by private sector input suppliers and to sell their higher quality and market-oriented commodities to private sector marketing entities. This situation has led to farmer-driven agricultural development as opposed to government-driven agricultural development. In year 5 of project implementation, IPMS should be at the edge of innovation, and Partners and Stakeholders should be able to watch and observe these changes.

There are four strategic components that support the development of the IPMS approach. These components are knowledge management, innovation capacity development, commodity development and the development and promotion of recommendations. Most of the Project activities take place in 10 PLWs within the four largest regional states of Ethiopia: Amhara, Oromiya, SNNP and Tigray. In addition to these Woreda-level activities, the Project has committed substantial resources to strengthened knowledge management and to develop human resources capacities of the federal MoARD and regional level partners. The following sections highlight the results achieved in each of the four strategic components over the past three years of project implementation.

3. Knowledge Management

The knowledge management component aims to develop an agricultural knowledge management system to improve the availability, access, sharing and use of relevant knowledge and information on Ethiopian agriculture. The change or outcome level result

expectation of this component is a functional agricultural knowledge management system established, that would be interconnected and utilized at all levels, employing innovations and appropriate technologies.

A number of significant changes or results have been achieved in this component at the federal, Woreda and at the Peasant Association (PA or kebele) level. At the federal level, IPMS facilitated the establishment of the National Agricultural Information Resource Centre (NARIC) which has been completed and handed over to the MoRAD, including an e-mail server, a web server for the Ethiopian Agricultural Portal (EAP), a system management server, an Internet Security and Acceleration server and window active directory server. The EAP is accessible to the public and is populated with 400 documents relevant to market-oriented agricultural development collected from various sources. At regional Bureaus of Agriculture and Rural Development (BoARDs) and Regional Agricultural Research Institutes (RARIs) as well as at Zonal Offices of Agriculture and Rural Development (OoARDs) the establishment of mirror sites to allow offline access to the contents of the portal is under way at 19 locations.

The Woreda Knowledge Centers (WKC) is one of the new mechanisms established by the Project which is used for knowledge sharing with Woreda level experts and Development Agents (DAs). The WKCs collect electronic knowledge assets in the form of CDs and printed materials from different sources. These materials are reserved at the WKCs for on-the-spot reading and browsing information from CDs or the internet. The Project has furnished each WKC with three computers, a printer, a television, VCD player and a chair, table and shelves. Information obtained from WKC attendants indicated that the utilization of WKC services has shown a significant increase in terms of the number of users, duration of stay and utilization of different services (OoARD staff borrow materials for a short time). Even though the major users of the WKCs are subject matter specialists (SMS) and graduate students, DAs from the nearby PAs also reported using the facilities. Computers at the WKCs were mainly used to further develop IT skills of OoARD staff in addition to using it to browse information from the available CDs. SMSs also have started using the computers to write regular office reports, which were handwritten previously, and in some PLWs computers are also used to store market information and basic data concerning agricultural development in the Woreda.

At the PA level, two model Farmers' Training Centers (FTCs) were selected in each PLW and supplemented with knowledge management tools and methodologies (e.g., audiovisual equipment, ICT tools, access to internet where possible and generators where there is no electricity) to enable them serve as ready access points to information sources. Other physical demonstration materials (e.g., beehives, ploughs, milking equipment), some printed materials and a few CDs/VCD are also available for use during farmers' training. In addition, plots are used as live learning sites for demonstrations. The use of FTCs as knowledge sharing centers has shown mixed results. DAs use the printed materials especially the training manuals and other reference materials. DAs and SMSs are also using the demonstration materials at the FTCs during farmers training. However, results related to the use of ICT and audio-visual equipment have been limited. Beside the above mentioned knowledge sharing mechanisms, other mechanisms were also promoted

and some degree of institutionalization of these approaches has been recorded. For example, all PLWs made significant progress in incorporating the different knowledge management approaches in their annual plans. OoARD staff started to organize within PAs, or PA to PA, study tours, field days, and exhibitions. Some staff also started to record promising innovations on video and use audio-video tools. In addition, collecting and disseminating of market information is slowly being adopted (using roadside broadcasts of tape recordings and postings on notice boards)

4. Innovation Capacity Development

Another component of the Project is to strengthen the innovation capacity of farmers, pastoralists, and public and private sector agricultural organizations to respond to development challenges and opportunities. The outcome level result expectation of this strategy is strengthened innovation capacity of farmers, pastoralists, community-based and private sector organizations, and agriculture and natural resource management public organizations to support the development of small-holder, market-oriented agricultural production systems.

To achieve this result, the Project has supported numerous capacity building initiatives that complement the knowledge sharing mechanisms discussed in the previous section. Examples of these initiatives are various short-term training courses and BSc/MSc studies provided by the Project to build capacity of staff in public organizations. Training courses covered subjects related to crops and livestock, marketing, environment, gender, HIV/AIDS, information and communication sciences, innovative extension, and other social and technical subjects relevant to market-oriented agricultural development. The Project has organized about 136 short-term training initiatives up to the end of year 2008 in collaboration with other Stakeholders. These training initiatives have benefited 1,896 public sector staff (16 % female) and 4,557 farmers, traders and input suppliers (36 % female). In addition, about 97 students (24 % female) who were supported by the Project for their BSc/DVM/MSc degrees have graduated by the year 2008.

Training participants reported that the various training initiatives have improved their knowledge and skills. These changes in participants are reflected in the extent of their utilization of this newly acquired knowledge and skills in their daily work. For example, DAs and SMSs especially, reported using the acquired technical knowledge for training farmers and DAs in other PAs. Similarly, improvement in knowledge and skills was observed among male and female farmers, farmers groups, individual traders, input suppliers, private sector organizations and members of cooperatives and unions who entered into market-oriented and innovative production, input supply or marketing activities, something that they may not have done without the benefit of training. Knowledge management and innovation capacity development have combined together to facilitate the adoption of various and new technological and institutional innovations that have achieved changes related to commodity development.

5. Commodity Development

The third component of the Project is to introduce a market-oriented commodity development approach in the 10 PLWs to improve the adoption of improved technologies. The outcome level result expectation of this strategy is improved technologies, innovative input supply, output marketing, and financial services adopted in order to improve agricultural productivity and production as well as to ensure sustainable livelihoods in these PLWs through new approaches, strategies and methods.

Considerable progress has been made with respect to commodity development. Ten PLWs along with target beneficiaries have been identified by IPMS as research sites for the adoption of improved technologies. IPMS, working closely with its Partners, has identified and promoted many technological and institutional innovations for production, input supply and for the marketing of crop and livestock priority commodities. About 52 new or improved crop varieties together with improved management practices have been introduced and innovative input supply systems and market linkages have also been promoted. These innovations were initially introduced to selected farmers in a few PAs as demonstrations. But by Year 3 of the Project, some of the innovations went beyond the initial stage of demonstration and were adopted by a number of farmers in other PAs and in other Woredas. A few examples of where farmers have adopted new technological innovations are presented in the following paragraphs.

At the beginning of the Project there were only a few farmers in Metema PLW who were growing local, low yielding banana varieties. At this time, the government fruit nursery was the only banana sucker supplier in the Woreda with a limited supply of suckers. With the facilitation of IPMS, banana innovation in Metema started with the identification of the constraints and potential of the Woreda for banana production. Next the Project introduced two new varieties of bananas from Southern Ethiopia to a few farmers in the Woreda while at the same time facilitating the development of a farmer to farmer banana sucker supply system. By Year 3, banana innovation was adopted by more than 300 farmers in 16 PAs covering an estimated area of 100 ha. All the expansion into new PAs came from the farmer to farmer sucker supply system developed with IPMS support. The suckers are now being transferred to 5 neighbouring Woredas.

In Fogera PLW, the IPMS Project has facilitated the establishment of farmer-based onion seed production. Before the Project, farmers used to bring onion seed, with low germination rates, from other areas at higher prices. IPMS facilitated the training of farmers on onion seed production and now there are about 26 farmers in 5 PAs engaged in onion seed production where there were none before the Project. In addition to satisfying onion seed demand within the Woreda itself, farmers have started selling onion seed to other Woredas. This innovation not only improved availability but has led also to improved quality and reduced prices for onion seeds. Tests indicate that germination rates of locally produced seed are 93 % and the price has been lowered to 130 birr/kg from the previous high of 200 birr/kg.

In Astbi PLW, the IPMS Project introduced the innovations of area closure with a cut and carry feeding system and enriched grazing area at the bottomlands to support dairy development in this Woreda. This area closure intervention, which was tested in only a few PAs during the initial years of the Project, has now been adopted and expanded to 13 other PAs covering an area of 682 ha. Similarly, degraded or sloppy lands were enriched with improved forage species with the support of the Project. This innovation has now been expanded to 8 PAs and covers over 448 ha of land. Beneficiaries have reported that this innovation has improved both the quality and quantity of milk and meat production. Households have now started to harvest forage 2-3 times a year which was not possible before this innovation was introduced by IPMS. Poor households, especially women-headed households, are benefiting as well. They rent out their land and for this receive about 600 birr per year. The area closure innovation has also improved the availability of bee forage and the stabilization of steep slopes where forage is grown.

6. Research

The fourth strategy of the Project is to promote evidence-based alternatives on agricultural development approaches, including policies, technologies and institutional arrangements. The outcome level result expectation is strategies, policy, technology options and institutional innovations developed (from both research and lessons learned), documented and promoted in order to enhance market-oriented agricultural development.

The Project has been successful in developing and documenting approaches, methods, tools, processes and various inter-relationships. Over 267 studies have been undertaken by IPMS Project staff, consultants, researchers from EARS and graduate and attachment students on topics related to primary commodities and cross-cutting issues, of which 156 studies have been finalized by the end of 2008. The completed studies covered various topics on production, marketing, extension, innovation, gender, HIV/AIDS, environment and knowledge management. Sixty-five percent of these studies covered production and marketing of priority commodities, and 16% covered gender and HIV/AIDS issues. Thirteen of the completed studies have been published by the Project and have been distributed as working papers to libraries and to WKC of RARIs, BoARDs and OoOARDs. In addition, 23 completed studies have been presented at national and international conferences and were submitted as part of the conference proceedings. Graduate students sponsored by the Project have presented major findings of their research to PLW staff. Copies of their research reports and reports from consultants and attachment students were also made available at WKC as much as possible.

7. Cross-Cutting Issues

The IPMS Projects strives to ensure that the interventions being tested are sensitive to gender equality and environmental considerations. The Project also aims to mitigate the potential risk of HIV/AIDS due to market-oriented agricultural development activities. Since the beginning of the Project a number of initiatives have been undertaken to increase knowledge and understanding about these cross-cutting issues. Examples of this are the gender and HIV/AIDS strategies that have been developed for the Project; gender

analysis of crop and livestock production, technologies and service provision; and conducting HIV risk and AIDS vulnerability assessment at the Woreda levels. These toolkits and tools have played a significant role in building the knowledge, understanding and practical skills of project staff and Partners in collecting gender disaggregated information about the roles of men and women in commodity development. In addition, a number of informative materials have been produced by the Project such as idea sheets for Gender and HIV/AIDS, and fact sheets for gender and HIV/AIDS. In total, about 11 booklets, leaflets/brochures and posters have been produced. These materials have served as evidence of the existing situation with respect to gender and HIV/AIDS and have helped to build a common understanding among project Partners on how to address these issues. The materials have also been used in many events to raise awareness of these issues amongst Partners and beneficiaries.

Separate gender and HIV/AIDS action plans were prepared for all PLWs. Annual meetings between staff from IPMS and PLWs are used as a monitoring tool to review the progress being made annually based on the action plans and to share the experience of what is working and what is not. Furthermore, meetings stress the accountability of PLW staff who are in charge of addressing gender and HIV/AIDS. The Project is currently conducting case studies and household surveys on women participants to assess the benefits derived from the Project's interventions and to assess women's level of participation in commodity development. As the Project moves to outcome level results achievement, the effect of these initiatives will be more closely assessed by Project staff.

Gender Equality

A number of approaches and strategies have been developed in support of gender mainstreaming. One is setting specific targets of 50% women's participation in every event such as community training; another is supporting the development of crop and livestock commodities that are under women's domain; and another is the deliberate targeting of women. For example, about 126 women farmers have been targeted for poultry development. Another initiative is making specific efforts to engage women in male dominated commodities such as in apiculture, small ruminant and cattle fattening to show that women can benefit in traditional male domains. For example, about 15 women farmers have been targeted for apiculture in 4 PLWs. Women have been engaged in those enterprises where their contribution is high such as in coffee production. In Goma, about 11 women have been supported to improve coffee drying and in 3 other PLWs they have been supported in seed raising and marketing. Reaching women through established women's groups or by forming new ones like small ruminant, onion or dairy groups is another approach used by the Project. Using successful women as role models for motivating other women has also been a successful initiative.

HIV/AIDS

A number of approaches and strategies have also been developed in support of HIV/AIDS interventions. HIV/AIDS awareness raising sessions are built into most project supported events in all PLWs. These approaches have been adopted by some

Partners. For example, the OoARD staff in Goma arranged to provide personal testimonies to the staff from the OoARD and to community members by inviting persons from urban and rural residences to share their life experiences in relation to HIV/AIDS. In a number of direct and indirect ways the Project is contributing to the reduction of farmers' risk of exposure to HIV/AIDS. The creation and equipping of FTCs with audio visual equipment allows community members to receive training in their community thus reducing the need of community members to travel to urban centers for training. Other initiatives of the Project such as linking Alamata farmers with Fogera onion seed producers, input farm supply shops in Goma and in Alba, have also reduce farmers' movement and has contributed to the reduction of farmers' exposure to the risk of HIV infection. The Project has supported a few initiatives in supporting HIV/AIDS affected households to reduce their vulnerability to AIDS. For example, in Metema, technical back stopping was given to people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) who engaged in cattle fattening. Provision of small ruminants fattening training was provided to PLWHA in Atsbi who got credit from other NGOs but who didn't know what to do with the credit.

Environment

Mainstreaming environmental issues into IPMS interventions has been addressed mainly by raising awareness of Partners about the effects that market oriented agricultural development has on the environment. Examples of awareness raising initiatives are Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) workshops that were conducted in each PLW and environmental monitoring plans that have been prepared for all PLWs. Though the implementation of the plans has not been as effective as desired, various IPMS interventions over the past three years have helped to address environmental concerns in different PLWs. For example, and as mentioned previously in the report, the promotion of area closure in Astbi PLW contributed to improved coverage of degraded areas with diverse forage species which led to stabilization of gullies, decreased runoffs and led to the re-appearance of springs in the area. Similarly, in Alamata PLW, a previously swampy area which was considered by local farmers as wasteland was reclaimed. About 160 ha of such land were converted in to crop and grazing land in two PAs. In addition to the economic benefits of income generated through the use of this land, this intervention also contributed to community health by reducing the fertile ground for multiplication of malaria mosquitoes and fluke worms. Another example is the clearing of weed infested grazing area in Fogera PLW. The Project promoted the eradication of Amecela weed which infests grazing lands and then facilitated the introduction of new grass and legumes forage species in the grazing land. The Project also introduced community management of grazing land using a cut and carry system. This intervention, which started originally with weed eradication campaigns by mobilizing community members, has resulted in the clearance of about 17 ha of land in 5 PAs for community grazing.

8. Year 4 Focus Areas

As the Project moves into its fourth year of implementation it will focus on a number of areas to strengthen the progress being made to the achievement of outcome level results.

Research and Promotion

The utilization and promotion of research findings, including the IPMS approach, is where the Project intends to focus its work over the next reporting period. For example, key Partners such as the staff from BoARD and OoARD reported limited awareness about the findings of IPMS studies and thus, so far, there has been a limited use of the studies to solve local problems. There appears to be an absence of mechanisms that provide summaries of main findings and implications for local development initiatives. Therefore, the Project will look at developing mechanisms that would help to provide an abridged version of major research results tailored to the needs of PLW staff in order to inform and promote new ways and approaches to agricultural development.

IPMS is a learning project. From a research component perspective, information should be generated and synthesized about innovations tested in the PLWs and shared across sites with others through different means to allow learning from experience. Even though there were some instances of recording innovation history in some PLWs, studies on efficiency and effectiveness of innovations have been limited. This is also true with respect to studies on the extent to which approaches, methods, tools and processes for the major components are relevant (requested) by stakeholders and on the extent to which completed studies on priority commodities are characterized for application outside of the PLWs. Tracking and documenting processes of innovation, synthesizing lessons learned and sharing knowledge and promoting innovations within and outside PLWs will be a major focus of the Project over the remaining period of project implementation.

Monitoring Assumptions and Risks

Seventeen assumptions and risks were identified by project staff during the design of the IPMS Project. Twelve affect the progress moving from activities to outputs, 4 affect the progress moving from outputs to outcomes and 1 affects the contributions to impact. The four assumptions affecting the movement from outputs to outcomes will be monitored and reported on to see if there are any changes in their risk assessments. These assumptions are: there will be supportive economic, institutional and policy environments that foster technology adoption and learning; there will be supportive social, economic, and policy environments that foster institutional support to clients; there will be support from community organizations, households and local administrations in PLWs; and that governments, partners and investors will see value in recommendations, policy options and strategies made by the Project

Review of Sustainability Strategies

The IPMS Project completed a sustainability analysis at the beginning of the Project and identified strategies to sustain Project outcomes. As the Project enters the last two years of implementation, project management will monitor and report on the originally proposed strategies to see if they will still be effective in ensuring the sustainability of Project achievements. The Project will also review performance indicators to ensure that there are a reasonable number of indicators to capture and confirm the sustainability of Project achievements.

Reporting on Results

The Project will use the Performance Measurement Framework to assess progress made toward the achievement of outputs and outcomes at the end of year 4. A performance report will be prepared indicating the output or outcome results expectations, assessing progress made toward the achievement of each result expectation through the use of qualitative and quantitative performance indicators comparing baselines with targets of change and remarking on any observed variances. The report will also comment on any changes in assumptions and risks, on progress made toward the institutionalization of Project outcomes, on behavioral or attitudinal changes amongst beneficiaries, and on the likelihood that Project outcomes will be sustained after project completion in March 2011 and beyond.