

FARMER TO FARMER EXPERIENCE SHARING REPORT



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1. Introduction

The best way for farmers to learn is to let them discuss and share their experiences with their colleagues. As a result, sixteen model farmers and six pastoralists from three regions in Ethiopia namely: Tigray, Southern People Nations and Nationalities (SNNP) and Afar have been gathered in Alamata Tigray, Ethiopia and discussed and shared their valuable experiences on water management, agronomic practices, crop protection, water sharing, institutional arrangements including how water user associations could be strengthened. Field visits were also arranged to two spate systems in Alamata and Raya Azebo districts to practically acquaint them with the topics listed above. The farmers and pastoralists were also accompanied by eight professionals from the three regions to help them in translating and documenting the outcomes of the workshop.

2. Objective

The objective of this farmer to farmer experience sharing workshop were therefore:

- To create a platform for knowledge and experience sharing in management of flood based farming systems among farmers, pastoralists and professionals from different regions of the country.
- To familiarize pastoralists and professionals from Afar region to practically learn on how flood based farming is practiced in Tigray region.
- To opportune farmers, pastoralists and professionals visit some of the modern as well as traditional flood based farming systems.
- Promote networking and strengthen linkage among the farmers and professionals from the three regions.

3. Experiences Shared

The valuable experiences shared that can be scaled up are outlined below.

- Establishment of WUA

- Conflict management in flood based farming systems
- Water rights, rules and regulations in flood based farming systems
- Efficient Water management techniques in flood based farming systems
- Improvements in the design of hybrid systems
- Water management and agronomic practices in spate systems and flood spreading weirs
- Crop protection in flood based farming systems
- Fruit plantation and seed exchanges between the different regions
- Transforming pastoralists from Afar into agro-pastoralists using flood spreading weirs constructed in the districts of Awra and Chifra.



Figure 1 Farmers discussion



Figure 2 Field visit to Oda and Guguf spate systems



Figure 3 Discussion among participants of the workshop

Furthermore, a one day training (on 19th May, 2016) was also delivered to eleven farmers from Tigray. The training was delivered using Tigrigna, local language of the farmers. The training contents were:

- The role of WUA in water management
- WUA establishment and
- Conflict Management

The training was delivered by Mr. Degol Fissehaye a member of the spate irrigation network and phd candidate in Wageningen University. Video documentation of the farmer to farmer experience sharing event and farmers training is under production.



Figure 4 Farmers discussing about conflict management



Figure 5 Participants of the Farmers training

4. Participants and Organizations Involved

Spate irrigation network has previously conducted similar farmer to farmer experience sharing workshop in Sudan (2012) and Yemen (2013). During these events, the participants were from Ethiopia, Sudan and Yemen. Currently, the event was held in 16-17 May, 2016 in Alamata town. The list of the participants is as listed in table 1. The event was organized by Spate Irrigation Network foundation Ethiopia, Mekelle University and Meta Meta in collaboration with International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), Participatory Small Scale Irrigation Development program of the Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples (SNNP-PASIDP) and Capacity Building for Scaling up of Evidence-based Best Practices in agricultural Production in Ethiopia (CASCAPE).

Table 1 List of participants

S.no	Name	Job	Mobile Number	Region	District	Organization
1	Teame Hagos	Expert	+251944121668	Afar	Chifra	ICRISAT
2	Atsede Hailu	Expert	+251920427238	Afar	Chifra	ICRISAT
3	Mehari Brhanu	Expert	+251913667485	Afar	Awra	ICRISAT
4	Seid Endris	Expert	+251915546124	Afar	Chifra	ICRISAT
5	Seada Mohammed	Pastoralist	+251948890449	Afar	Awra	ICRISAT
6	Fatuma Mohammed	Pastoralist	-	Afar	Awra	ICRISAT
7	Habib Abdela	Pastoralist	+251933468598	Afar	Chifra	ICRISAT
8	Ahmed Wegriss	Pastoralist	+251921549713	Afar	Chifra	ICRISAT
9	Ali Witika	Pastoralist	-	Afar	Chifra	ICRISAT
10	Humed Abdu	Pastoralist	+251940202316	Afar	Chifra	ICRISAT
11	Assefa Alemayehu	Farmer	+251916336112	SNNPR	Amaro	SNNP-PASIDP
12	Tinsaeie Tamene	Farmer	+251972587809	SNNPR	Amaro	SNNP-PASIDP
13	Wetachew Bulsere	Farmer	+251916375841	SNNPR	Amaro	SNNP-PASIDP
14	Weche Chute	Farmer	+251933989261	SNNPR	Burji	SNNP-PASIDP
15	Werku Shibiya	Farmer	+251927132404	SNNPR	Burji	SNNP-PASIDP
16	Demissie Dejene	Expert	+251932713228	SNNPR	Burji	SNNP-PASIDP
17	Bekalu Zewde	Expert	+251933205870	SNNPR	Hawassa	SNNP-PASIDP
18	Kiros Tesfay	Farmer	+251910336133	Tigray	Alamata	SPNF Ethiopia
19	Tigabu Adhena	Farmer	+251919064836	Tigray	Alamata	SPNF Ethiopia
20	Hagezom Equar	Farmer	-	Tigray	Alamata	SPNF Ethiopia
21	Belay Shekole	Farmer	-	Tigray	Alamata	SPNF Ethiopia
22	Mengesha Tsegay	Farmer	+251914483766	Tigray	Alamata	CASCADE
23	Kelellew Sisay	Farmer	+251920873901	Tigray	Alamata	SPNF Ethiopia
24	Gabr Seyoum	Farmer	+251914168202	Tigray	Raya Azebo	CASCADE
25	Kiflom Eyasu	Farmer	+251914421754	Tigray	Raya Azebo	CASCADE
26	Teame Zereu	Farmer	+251914297744	Tigray	Raya Azebo	CASCADE
27	Awel Mohammed	Farmer	-	Tigray	Raya Azebo	CASCADE
28	Shame Abebe	Farmer	+251921990466	Tigray	Alamata	SPNF Ethiopia
29	Tawye Gidey	Expert	+251921032145	Tigray	Alamata	SPNF Ethiopia
30	Gebeyaw Tilahun	Expert		Amhara	Woldia	ICRISAT