

Post Conflict Agricultural Development in Ethiopia: General Overview

Jemal Yousuf, Haramaya University,
Ethiopia

Innovate workshop, 20-21 August, 2013,
Kampala, Uganda



HARAMAYA UNIVERSITY

ከረማያ ዩኒቨርሲቲ



1. Historical Perspective of the conflict

- Ethiopia was engulfed with conflict all through the 1980s
- The conflict consists of war with neighboring Somalia, the Eritrean independent movement, and ethnically-based insurgent movement, first started in north-west of the country and later north-east, south-east, south-west of Ethiopia.

2. Consequence of conflict on Education/ Agricultural education

- Resource diversion to war
 - Limited investment in capacity building/expansion of higher learning agricultural education
- Internal tension resulted in brain drain
 - Best mind of the country on higher level training in the West and those within country fled

3. Post conflict strategies to meet the challenges

- Post conflict, since 1991, government undertaken policy reforms whereby agriculture has been given a leading role in the country's economic development.

3. Post conflict strategies to meet the challenges...con't

- Realizing the importance of agriculture in the national economy, the Ethiopian Government has embraced the **Agricultural Development Led-Industrialization (ADLI)** strategy to promote the economic development of the country since the early 1990s.

3. Post conflict strategies to meet the challenges...con't

- The GoE has committed huge resources to strengthen the intervention capacity for agril dev't.
 - Among its commitment includes:
 - high level of investment in agricultural education, improving extension advisory service, national research institution, opening-up of new regional agricultural/agro pastoral research institute,
 - Organizational reforms
- (IFPRI, 2010; MoARD, 2010).

Post conflict capacity strengthening intervention...cont'd

- The GOE appears committed to developing the largest agricultural extension system in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA).
 - In 2009, there were about 8,489 FTCs established at the *kebele* level, with roughly 2,500 of these FTCs reported to be fully functional by then.
 - about 45,000 DAs were on duty at the *kebele* level, of whom about 12 to 22 % are women, depending on the region.

OUTCOMES OF THE INTERVENTION

- The agricultural sector has shown substantial growth over most of the last two decades.
 - Since 1996/97 the average growth rate of the agricultural GDP has been about 10 % per annum, and
 - Since 2004/05 the sector has been reported to have expanded at around 13 % per annum, which easily surpasses the CAADP target of 6 %.

OUTCOMES OF THE INTERVENTION...

- Over this period the **food poverty head count decreased** from 44 % in 1999/00 to 38 % in 2005/06, and was expected to be under 30 % by 2009/10.
- **Per capita grain production increased** from below 150kg in 2003/04 to 213kg in 2007/08, which is close to meeting the minimum 2,100 kcal/day nutritional standard.
- Ethiopia could also produce some milliner farmers although other farmers are still grappling with poverty (IFPRI, 2010)

Lessons for and future outlook on capacity strengthening for agricultural research and innovation

- Despite the importance of agriculture in Ethiopian economy **low productivity characterizes its agriculture.**
- This is in contrast to government investment in regional and federal research institutions and extension advisory services over the last two decades **(part of the explanation goes to quality of agricultural graduate curricula??).**

Lesson learned...Cont'd

- The absence of **effective linkage between agricultural research and extension systems** has repeatedly been reported as one of the major reasons for the low productivity of Ethiopian agriculture.
 - There had been no forum where this linkage problem had not been raised as a result of which it has become a concern among policy makers, researchers, development practitioners and funding organizations (Task Force on Agricultural Extension, 1994; FDRE, 1999a; Davis et al., 2010; MoA, 2010).

Lesson learned...Cont'd

- Partly, as a solution to the weak research-extension linkage, in 1999, the GOE issued a policy document to establish Research-Extension Advisory Councils (REACs) at the federal, regional, and zonal levels.
- Realizing that the RELCs had not been institutionally anchored, that farmers had not been represented in RELCs, the GOE decided to replace RELCs with Agricultural Development Partners' Linkage Advisory Councils (ADPLACs) in 2008.

Lesson learned...Cont'd

- The ADPLACs are multi-stakeholder platforms that are operational at federal, regional, zonal and woreda levels.
- The main changes that came with the establishment of ADPLACs include wider constituency and membership, institutionalization of the councils through the Bureaus of Agriculture and the establishment of councils at woreda level.
- The general performance of the ADPLACs platforms is found to be progressive.

Some challenges

- Low motivation of DAs
 - For example the overall total (60, 000) for DAs trained compared to DAs serving (45,000) in 2009 was indicated that some ATVET graduates have left the extension system since graduating from the ATVET system (IFPRI, 2010).
- Low level of skill of DAs
 - In areas of linking farmers to market
 - In areas of value chain
- High production with low market support leading to subsequent low adoption of improved technologies (e.g. maize in some years)
- Traditional nature of extension advisory services (while the cutting age ICT could be used to modernize extension advisory services)

Some challenge.....con't

- Missing strategic link between graduate curricula and their intended purpose

What can be done?/opportunities for future action

- The large number of DAs, ATVET, and Graduate and postgraduate agricultural programs are opportunities for intervention
 - tailor made innovative mid-career BSc Agricultural Extension program has proved its potential in serving the direct purposes of the overall ADLI policy/GTP

What can be done?/opportunities for future action

- Innovative graduate regional graduate program initiated in collaboration with RUFORUM is also among promising work in progress
 - MSc-AICM (deemed to solve problem of skilled manpower with both knowledge of ICT and agriculture)
 - A pilot AgShare project
<http://www.oerafrica.org/agshare/Background/tabid/1992/Default.aspx> intervention with funding support of BMGF and technical support of MSU & OER Africa of Saide has shown the potential to nurture graduate curricula and delivery to enable graduate program serving the intended purposes of transforming small holder farmers and thus agricultural growth and or nations economic development

What can be done?/opportunities for future action

- part of the experience has been documented/published on JALN journal
<http://sloanconsortium.org/jaln/v17n2/potential-multimedia-open-educational-resource-module-enhancing-effective-teaching-and-le>
- Phase II of AgShare is in the process to start but limited scope/finance
- The experience can be extended to tailor made-undergraduate BSc Agricultural Extension program and other graduate program such as the main stream MSc. Rural Development and Agricultural Extension

THANK YOU!