

## Building capacity in Ethiopia's government institutions

Since 2010-2015, with USAID funding, IFPRI has supported the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) through embedding two technical assistants (TAs) in the working environment of the MoA and Federal Cooperative Agency (FCA). Using their skills, knowledge and expertise, the TAs have influenced and steered proceedings related to two major projects in particular – the HABP (Household Assets Building Program) rollout and implementation, and the review of the design document and program implementation manual (PIM) of PSNP-IV Livelihood component.

From initially overseeing the recruitment of the TAs, Dagne Menan Woldegiorgis and Alema Woldemariam Atsbaha, IFPRI has continually added support. These USAID-funded roles, jointly managed through IFPRI's regional office (ESAO) and ESSP, have boosted capability in the MoA and FCA at all levels to advance government projects.

**IFPRI has supported the MoA and FCA through:** i) Knowledge and expertise in the recruitment of technical experts ii) Assisting delivery of training, technical back-stopping iii) Designing a monitoring and evaluation system for HABP and implementing project components such as Micro-Insurance iv) Increasing the capacity to perform technical analyses v) Contributing to sustainable systems for long term development



Photo 1 – On-farm activities to generate income  
Photo credit: Ministry of Agriculture

The IFPRI-recruited TAs have helped facilitate operational progress within the MoA and FCA, making a significant difference to the monitoring and evaluation (M & E) of projects, specifically in the PSNP-IV livelihood component pathways. By adopting a systems approach, the institutional operations for HABP (linked to the PSNP) have become more defined and coordinated, with marked improvements in communications. This large project has a total program budget of US\$649 million spread over 5 years, of which 13 percent is provided by donated funds.

As a result of IFPRI's support and direct involvement with, for example, design of the M & E project components, business planning, and financial products and micro-insurance of the HABP, the TAs supportive delivery of critical design HABP guidelines and subsequent monitoring tools, as well as being onsite at the MoA to help manage and facilitate proceedings, have been invaluable to the project's success. This strong partnership and collaboration between IFPRI, the MoA and FCA and others have helped develop trusted relationships which are pivotal for the ongoing development of projects.

IFPRI, embodied through the TAs, has helped shift the MoA and FCA to a more systematic approach to both projects (HABP and Livelihood). Notably through rural savings and credit services, the TAs have acted as catalysts to help build rural assets through sustainable income generating activities, therefore building greater resilience in rural communities (see Figure 1). In addition to improvements in the effectiveness of projects, speedy undertaking of project activities by MoA and FCA staff is noticeable. The impact of IFPRI's supportive arrangements to build capacity through technical support has evidently helped to reduce issues that present challenges, such as clients' financial literacy and business management.

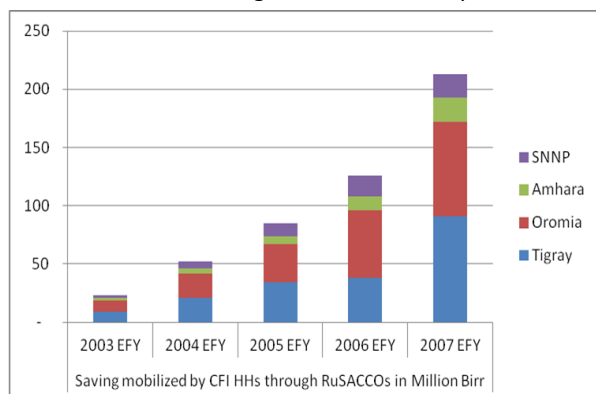


Figure 1 - Summary of savings (Ethiopian Fiscal Year) by client financial institutions (CFI) through rural saving and credit cooperatives (RUSACCOs), by region.  
Source: HABP - five years monitoring program data

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