

Impact Evaluation of Feed the Future Program in Ethiopia (2013–2017)

The baseline survey for the Feed the Future (FTF) program will be launched at the end of March 2013.



Feed the Future (FTF) is a major U.S. Government program that aims to address the root causes of global hunger by sustainably increasing agricultural productivity to meet the demand for food, by supporting and facilitating access to markets, and by increasing incomes for the rural poor so they can meet their food and other needs. Ethiopia has been designated a priority country for the Feed the Future (FTF) Initiative. It is within this context that USAID/Ethiopia has developed an approved FTF strategy which is being implemented by a host of implementing partners like IFPRI/ESSP.

Impact Assessment of Improved Teff Technology

An impact assessment survey on the “Improved Teff Technology” experiment was started at the end of February 2013 in 10 woredas of Oromia Region.



A three-day intensive training on survey methodologies and contents of questionnaires was given to 24 enumerators and 4 field supervisors.

Staff News

Ermias Engeda, Research Officer at EDRI, got married on February 23, 2013.

Congratulations!

Upcoming Events

- A workshop on agricultural extension will be held in March in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA).
- Training on “Introduction to Mendeley” will be given in March for researchers at EDRI and ILRI.

Highlights of presentations in January – February, 2013

Assessing the Demand for Improved Seed in Ethiopia: Data, Analysis, and Policy Alternatives. David Spielman. January 11, 2013. ILRI Campus.

- ATA’s overall vision for Ethiopia’s seed system is “A dynamic, efficient, and well regulated seed industry that provides farmers with sufficient, affordable, timely, and high quality seeds of improved varieties for all key crops through multiple production and distribution channels”.
- Current bottlenecks are multiple, including regulation, variety availability, quality, quantity, adoption, reach, gender equality, and climate variability.
- Recommendations:
 - Organize, regulate, and liberalize the industry.
 - Advance cooperatives as one of the primary marketing agents in a competitive market.
 - Leverage the Ethiopian Seed Enterprise and Regional Seed Enterprises to improve market intelligence.
 - At level of the Ministry of Agriculture: urgently prohibit intra-state barriers to seed trade; urgently prohibit ad-hoc state bans on seed marketing; reduce state intervention in seed pricing; and encourage industry coordination.

Presentations given at the Conference “Comparison of the Economies of Ethiopia and China.” January 21, 2013. Ghion Hotel. Addis Ababa

Experiences and Lessons Learnt: China’s Rural Industrialization. Prof. Xiaobo Zhang, University of Peking University (CCER).

Experiences and Lessons Learnt: The Role of Management Skill Training and Learning from Abroad in the Ethiopian Manufacturing Sector. Girum Abebe (EDRI).

Experiences and Lessons Learnt: Economic Growth, Urbanization, and its Impact on Agricultural Markets in Ethiopia. Alemayehu Seyoum Taffesse and Bart Minten (ESSP/IFPRI)

Experiences and Lessons Learnt: China’s Land Reform. Prof. Lingxi Li, University of Peking University (CCER).

Experiences and Lessons Learnt: China’s Macroeconomic Policy. Prof. Feng Lu, University of Peking University (CCER).

New ESSP Publications

Urban Food Retail in Africa: The case of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Thomas Woldu, Girum Abebe, Indra Lamoot, and Bart Minten. ESSP Working Paper 50.

Gender Differences in Access to Extension Services and Agricultural Productivity. Catherine Ragasa, Guush Berhane, Fanaye Tadesse, and Alemayehu Seyoum Taffesse. ESSP Working Paper 49.

Effects of Extension Services on Technology Adoption and Productivity among Female and Male Farmers. Catherine Ragasa, Guush Berhane, Fanaye Tadesse, and Alemayehu Seyoum Taffesse. ESSP Research Note 21.

Insuring Against the Weather. Guush Berhane, Daniel Clarke, Stefan Dercon, Ruth Vargas Hill, and Alemayehu Seyoum Taffesse. ESSP Research Note 20.

A Spatial Assessment of Livestock Production and Market Access. Helina Tilahun and Emily Schmidt. ESSP Research Note 19.

Capacity Building

Indra Lamoot, collaborator of ESSP, gave a training on “Introduction to Mendeley” for 10 ESSP researchers. February 13, 2013. ILRI Campus.



Ethiopia Strategy Support Program II

Research Initiatives 2013:

- Agricultural Productivity: Performance and Constraints
- Determination of Food Prices
- Determinants of Adoption and Impacts of Sustainable Land and Watershed Management
- Dynamic Implications of Production Shocks and Policy on Livestock Markets and Household Welfare: A Sectoral and Economywide Analysis
- Aspirations, Risk, and Household Investment Behavior
- Agricultural Growth Program (AGP) Impact Evaluation
- Accelerating Agricultural Market Transformation in Ethiopia: Processes, Potentials, and Challenges
- Teff Value Chain
- Teff Technology Study
- Understanding and Improving Agricultural Extension Service Delivery in Ethiopia
- Weather Index Insurance
- Evaluating Feed the Future (FTF) Program
- Social Cash Transfer Program (SCTP)

Capacity Building Initiatives 2013:

- **Ethiopian Development Research Institute (EDRI)**
 - Support to EDRI SAM/CGE analysis
 - Support policy analysis on agricultural productivity, markets, and economic growth
- **Central Statistical Agency (CSA)**
 - Support to GIS analysis and federal and regional GIS training
 - Support impact evaluation of FTF and PSNP
- **Ministry of Agriculture (MoA)**
 - Support analysis of impact of agricultural extension and impact of new agricultural technologies
 - Support impact evaluation of the Agricultural Growth Program (AGP)
- **Agricultural Transformation Agency (ATA)**
 - Support the establishment and scouting of the Ethiopian Soil Information System geo-database and survey through GIS analysis
 - Support the teff research
- **Ethiopian Economics Association (EEA)**
 - Technical and financial support to the Price Dynamics Hub
 - Support the annual conference

Policy Related Analysis

Preliminary results of teff research ‘Evaluation of the Impact of Improved Teff Technologies’ by Mekdim Dereje, Joachim Vandecasteele, Alemayehu Seyoum Taffesse, and Bart Minten.

Background

- There are three important reasons to conduct teff research in Ethiopia: (1) Teff is the most important crop in the country—as measured by value of production [1.6 billion USD in 2011/2012]; (2) Teff is the second most important cash crop, after coffee; the value of commercial surplus of teff is as important as wheat, maize, and sorghum combined; (3) Teff is a “neglected crop” in the country as there has been relatively little research done, there are a limited number of improved varieties available, and there is therefore significant room for improvement of the sector.
- Improved teff technologies, i.e. row planting with reduced seed rate and transplanting, have shown high potential in research station trials. However, there is currently little information on the effect at the farm level. IFPRI/ESSP has therefore conducted an impact evaluation at the farm level as to estimate the effects on land and labor productivity.
- The study is conducted in response to demands by the teff value chain group at ATA and the Ministry of Agriculture. The plan is to upscale the technology to 3 million farmers next year.

Study set-up

- ATA and the Ministry of Agriculture have rolled out improved teff technologies in a first phase (2012/2013) with about 70,000 farmers.
- A baseline survey of 900 farmers spread over 36 farmer training centers (of 10 AGP woredas in Oromia region) was conducted in October 2012. In the set-up, there is one control group (broadcasting at traditional seed rate) and two treatment groups (1/ row planting; and 2/ transplanting).
- All farmers that are part of the set-up receive the same modern inputs (same quantity of chemical fertilizers and same type of seeds) and are asked to set one experimental plot aside where they apply the new technology.
- Measurement of the output of the experimental plot was done in three different ways as to assure robustness of results: (1) declarations by farmers; (2) crop-cuts; and (3) measurement of total output. This information was collected in November 2012–January 2013 (in collaboration with CSA).

Preliminary results

- Compared to nationwide teff yields, we observe higher yields in our sample, possibly driven by the use of recommended modern inputs (fertilizer and improved seeds).
- When controlling for inputs, we find relatively small additional yield benefits for row planting in the first year (a 10–20% yield increase), controlling for all these other inputs. Transplanting has a much larger effects (a 50% increase in yields), but most farmers complained about the work involved.
- Some farmers in the experiment obtain very high yields with row planting and/or transplanting. The conducted focus group interviews confirm this and indicate that these technologies at the farm level can indeed lead to high yield increases (even doubling of yields). Future research will try to understand these heterogeneous effects.
- An additional survey in the five major teff production zones (with 1,200 farmers chosen in a random way) indicates that 44 percent of the farmers will use row planting next year (but some of those expect that if they do, they will receive free fertilizer and seeds and it might thus not be driven by the row planting technique alone).

Implications

- It seems that a package approach is needed (with improved access to and availability of improved seeds and chemical fertilizer) to boost yields significantly and row planting without these complementary inputs alone might not do.
- Possibly some learning of these new technologies is required, but it seems that the first year of roll-out will not lead to a big bang in yield increases and it will seemingly be a gradual process over time. However, even if yields do not improve that much, farmers will still benefit because of the lower seed rate.

IFPRI – ETHIOPIA STRATEGY SUPPORT PROGRAM II

<http://essp.ifpri.info>

Contact:

Bart Minten

IFPRI c/o ILRI

P.O. Box 5689, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Tel: +251 11 6 17 25 55 Fax: +251 11 6 46 23 18

Email: mahlet.mekuria@cgiar.org

INTERNATIONAL FOOD POLICY RESEARCH INSTITUTE

<http://www.ifpri.org>

Contact:

2033 K Street, NW • Washington, DC

20006-1002 USA

Tel: +1 202 862 5600

E-mail: ifpri@cgiar.org

ETHIOPIAN DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH INSTITUTE

<http://www.edri-eth.org>

Contact:

P.O. Box 2479,

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Tel: +251 11 5 50 60 66; +251 11 5 52 53 15

Fax: +251 11 5 50 55 88

Email: info@edri-eth.org