Ethiopia

PARM Project Co-Vision Workshop: "Strengthening Agricultural Risk Management through Capacity Development and Investment"
Report

November 2021

Ethiopia

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

PARM

PARM Project Co-Vision Workshop: "Strengthening Agricultural Risk Management through Capacity Development and Investment"

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AFD

AGENZIA ITALIANA PER LA COOPERAZIONE ALLO SVILUPPO

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Investing in rural people

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DEUTSCHE ZUSAMMENARBEIT

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AUDA-NEPAD
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I.   Introduction

Agriculture is Ethiopia's most important economic sector with 80% of its population being rural and depending for their livelihoods on subsistence agriculture. However, risks of natural, human activities, inappropriate agricultural practices, pests and diseases, flood, drought, market variability soil infertility etc. rend the sector vulnerable to climate variability and food insecurity. Consequently, these lead to decline of farm and livestock productivity and output exposing the country to relying on imported food. This is confirmed also by the Risk Assessment study (RAS) carried out in 2016 by the Platform for Agricultural Risk Management (PARM), in collaboration with Natural Resources Institute (NRI, University of Greenwich, that reported drought, crop and livestock diseases and pests, and rising inputs prices and quality variability among priority risks for the country. Various policies and strategies have been set to move the country's agricultural technology development and dissemination efforts. The rate of agricultural growth in Ethiopia depends on the speed with which the current subsistence production system is transformed into knowledge based and market-oriented production systems.

In this context, awareness and capacity development is a crucial tool to minimize agricultural risk effects and to contribute to sustainably increase agricultural production that meets the growing demand for food, industrial raw materials, livelihoods, foreign currency earnings and to respond to the growing demand from different stakeholders.

About PARM

Agriculture is a risky business. Extreme weather conditions and climate change are likely to negatively affect the performance of crop production and livestock activities. High food prices and global market uncertainties pose a major threat to food security, especially for the poor. Global, regional and national interests call for opportunities to develop sustainable tools to manage risk in agriculture beyond a humanitarian intervention to disasters and to implement an ARM system covering other risk layers for farmers, private sector and government.

In order to respond to the effects of agricultural risks, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), an international financial institution and a specialized United Nations agency dedicated to eradicating rural poverty and hunger, hosts the Platform for Agricultural Risk Management (PARM). PARM is a G20-initiative created in 2013 with the mandate to enable the integration of a holistic agricultural risk management (ARM) approach into policy planning, institutional capacities, and investment in the agricultural sector of Least Developed Countries and Lower Middle-Income Countries. Its final goal is to move away from a culture of coping with disasters towards a smart management of risk, and support building resilience in the agricultural sector.

The Platform for Agricultural Risk Management (PARM) is an outcome initiative of the 2010-2013 G8-G20 discussions on food security and agricultural growth. It was established in December 2013 through a multi-donor partnership between the European Commission (EC), the French Development Agency (AFD), the Italian Development Cooperation (DGCS), German Cooperation (BMZ/KfW) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). PARM works in strategic partnership with the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and other development partners to make risk management an integral part of policy planning and implementation.

PARM has an Advisory Committee that consists of key partners on implementation, private sector, cooperation, knowledge and farmers organizations. It meets annually and provides technical advice to PARM. Currently, the Advisory Committee is composed of: ARC, AGRHYMET, AGRINATURA, CARGILL, COMESA, EAGC, ECOWAS, FAO, MUNICH-RE, ROPPA, WFP and WORLD BANK.

PARM phase 1 (PARM Horizon 1) was implemented in 2013-2019. The objective was to mainstream ARM at global level and enable the integration of a holistic agricultural risk management (ARM) into the policy planning and investment plans in 8 African countries from Sub-Saharan Africa, including Ethiopia. The positive results of PARM Horizon 1 paved the way for PARM Horizon 2 (2019-2024). The objective of the second phase is to continue to bring evidence and build capacities on ARM at global and country level and dedicating more resources in the design of ARM programs for investments, with a more structured involvement of public-private-partnerships and in direct support to meso-level players (extension services, financial intermediaries, women's and youth's groups, NGOs, farmers' enterprises, and organizations).

Background

During its first phase (2014-2019) in Ethiopia, PARM conducted a comprehensive risk assessment study (RAS), a feasibility study on sustainable investment for capacity development in ARM and a five-day training course on ARM (see more details PARM-Ethiopia RAS report, 2016). The Government of Ethiopia (GOE), through its Ministry of Agriculture

(MoA) Directorate of Agricultural Extension, re-iterated its engagement with PARM for its second phase by signing an aide memoire in December 2019 after the PARM Secretariat's mission to Addis Ababa.

Through the leadership of the MOA, Directorate of Extension and the members of the steering committee of the mandate zonation an action plan has been developed to guide the next steps in the country to be taken by PARM and the appointed national partners. All parties agreed that this will initiate an inclusive process to eventually design an investment plan on agricultural risk management in Ethiopia. The investment plan will be based on the relevant and evidence-based approaches in developing capacities, aligned to the mandate zonation strategy of the Extension Directorate of the MOA.

The MoA and PARM Horizon 2's process has selected 3 zones in the three regions (Afar, Amhara and Oromia) as a pilot to test the PARM learning cycles with the final objective to develop an investment plan with the support of PARM's expertise. Jointly with the MOA, PARM conducted Learning Cycle 1 (LC1) and Learning Cycle 2 (LC2) with the objectives to engage key actors, raise awareness on agricultural risks, the holistic approach to assessing and prioritizing risks, and assessing capacities to manage risks to identify the most suitable strategies to respond to those priority risks.

The aim of this workshop was to share the lessons learned during the LC1 and LC2, and engage relevant institutions and Technical, and Financial partners to identify innovative and solution-based CD actions in agriculture and risk related issues which the ongoing design process could leverage to better manage agricultural risks and meet the sector's CD on ARM needs.

II.   Co-vision workshop

As part of PARM's broader Knowledge Management Plan within the ongoing project design process towards the development of an investment plan on capacity development on ARM, PARM, in close collaboration with the MoA, organized a Co-vision workshop on the 28th of October. The workshop engaged over 40 relevant institutions, such as Technical and Financial partners to identify innovative and solution-oriented initiatives on CD on agriculture and risk related issues to support the project design process. The design team will use and leverage the initiatives and lessons learned discussed during the workshop to better respond to the agricultural sectors, and particularly farmers', needs to adequately manage the risks they are facing.

The event was also an opportunity to present PARM's experiences and lessons learned in the recently concluded learning cycles and provide an avenue for PARM's existing partners and 10 selected partners showcased their CD approaches activities, together with working group to discuss the opportunities and challenges in disseminating ARM knowledge to farmers in a sustainable manner. These knowledge sharing activities will inform the pillars of the PARM investment plan that will also be presented to the stakeholders. In addition, and more importantly, the workshop provided an opportunity for key stakeholders, including development agencies, government, the private sector, and civil society (farmer organisations and NGOs), to discuss their recommendations in designing and implementing innovative CD approaches and ARM activities to ensure sustainable impacts at all levels of agricultural decision making (including micro, meso and macro).

II.1 Set up

The workshop relied on panel discussions, a showcase of agriculture and risk related CD and ARM related initiatives, as well as stakeholder group discussions. An introductory panel discussion set the scene of the event discussing the context of CD initiatives and ARM in Ethiopia and introduce the CD and ARM investment plan and design process, while the closing session summed up the outcomes from the earlier sessions and put forward the key take-aways and next steps of the design process and timeline based on the information collected throughout the day.

In preparation of the workshop, a selection process was put in place to request interested participants/institutions to present specific CD and ARM initiatives in the field of agriculture and risk related issues. Ten initiatives were selected to be showcased based on diversity, type of approach and innovation in relation to the key components of the project's components.

The showcase was followed by a group discussion session, which brought together participants to discuss opportunities, challenges and recommendation in the dissemination of agriculture and risk related knowledge through various CD approaches, and in designing and implementing risk management tools at policy level. See Annex 1 for the full programme.

II.2 Objective

The PARM Project Co-Vision Workshop aimed to inform the project design process on "Facility on Capacity Development on Agriculture Risk Management (CD4ARM)," which will be aligned to ongoing initiatives and national priorities.

Key objectives:
- to share experiences among key stakeholders in designing, implementing, evaluating CD and ARM initiatives in Ethiopia;
- to outline key opportunities and challenges, identify key factors and gaps and/or room for improvement; and
- to build partnerships for CD and ARM activities.

II.3 Expected Results

The key results of the event are:
- To develop a shared vision of the PARM/MOA investment plan to fill the gaps of CD in ARM;
- To identify and prioritize key factors for innovative, farmer-friendly and impact-oriented CD and ARM initiatives that could translate into concrete ARM and CD approaches to be mainstreamed into agriculture and food security agendas in Ethiopia (and other countries);
- To highlight stakeholders' partnership opportunities in CD and ARM activities, especially towards the CD and ARM investment plan.

II.4 Expected outputs

- Increase the ownership of the investment plan among the relevant stakeholders and TFPs, thus its sustainability;
- Collect existing initiatives on CD, agriculture and risk related issues;
- Identify related opportunities and challenges based on prioritized key factors;
- Outline key stakeholders' roles and further actions to reach farmers and increase impact through ARM-related CD activities.

II.5 Target

The event focused on CD approaches that disseminate ARM knowledge at micro, meso and macro levels, as well as ARM related tools and initiatives. The event brought together over 40 participants with specific expertise and interest on ARM. These include government representatives, extension service, donors and TFPs (including PARM's Advisory and Steering Committee members), farmer organisations, NGOs and universities, research institutes, and the private sector, and other country partners.

II.6 The workshop

Session 1: Setting the scene: Capacity Development as a pillar for agricultural risk management

Moderator:
Dr. Samson Eshetu

Panellists:
Jean-Claude Bidogeza, PARM
Amhara Region: Research – Ermias, Abate, ARARI
Afar Region: DRSLP – Fatuma/Abdurahman
Oromia Region: Dr. Siraj, Ambo University

Summary of discussions:

Out of the interesting exchange with the three panellists, multiple key points emerged. First, the panellists confirmed not only the need for further and in-depth training and learning on ARM, but the lack of available training on the topic. Agriculture is a risky business, and risks greatly affect Ethiopian farmers, especially small-scale farmers and pastoralists, their production, yields and livelihoods. Therefore, the learning cycles on ARM were useful to better understand what a risk is, which risks are affecting Ethiopia's agriculture sector, and more importantly, how to respond and manage the risks affecting the farmers/pastoralists in question. Notably the risk assessment methodology provided a rigorous method to rank risks, to then better identify and adapt to those priority risks.

Furthermore, the training and experience with the learning cycles on ARM, also rose awareness on the multiple and varied actors that should be involved in risk management. No one actor can respond to the plurality of risks affecting the agriculture systems, and thus the need for a holistic approach to ARM. It also paved the way for a concrete discussion on how to institutionalize the learning, or make it more sustainable through action plans, curriculum integration and cascading training/learning all the way down to farm level. An important conclusion is the role and importance of encouraging further research on the topic through universities and research centres. Notably to create more knowledge, but also to disseminate it and better adapt and contextualise it to the Ethiopian context and make it as inclusive as possible (by also including indigenous knowledge).

The key word of the session was learning, on ARM, but also on lessons learned on how to integrate ARM in Ethiopia's agriculture system, and better reach different groups, such as women, and how to involve a diversity of actors (from farmer to researcher to policy maker) and knowledge (including indigenous knowledge) to ultimately build a stronger agriculture system.

In conclusion, this type of learning is key to build resilience and it is imperative the learning be concretized and adapted to the context of Ethiopia, AEZ, and types of farmer/pastoralists, notably with the design of a project on developing capacity on ARM.

Session 2: Strengthening Agricultural Risk Management through Capacity Development and Investment

Note that the concept note for the PARM project presented at the time of the workshop has since evolved to develop the project design report. Thus, the version described below is the latest version of the objectives and components, developed from the aide mémoire, which is only slightly different from the one presented during the workshop.

The overall **goal** of the project is "Smallholder farmers/pastoralists' productivity, household income and resilience boosted through enhancing their capacity to manage agricultural risks in a holistic manner".

The **objective** is "Smallholder farmers/pastoralists (including women and youth) empowered to identify, prioritise and holistically manage risks using the best available ARM tools". This objective will be achieved through CD activities for the pluralistic agricultural extension system, financed from other sources, to provide efficient and effective ARM services to the ultimate beneficiaries, comprising smallholder farmers, pastoralists and agro-pastoralists.

The MOA, who is co-designing the facility, has identified an initial list of 27 Kebeles to be targeted. These are located in five Regions (Afar, Amhara, Oromia, SNNP and Tigray), 12 Zones and 13 Woredas. All of the selected Kebeles are participants in the Mandate Zonation strategy.

The project will have three Components, addressing both CD and complementary ARM measures, each of which will deliver its own outcomes:
- **Component 1: Zonal ARM Profiling and Tools**
- **Component 2: ARM Capacity Development**
- **Component 3: ARM coordination and knowledge management**

- **Component 1: Zonal ARM Profiling and Tools**

  - **Objective**: Develop a comprehensive profile of agricultural risks in the target zones and a set of Zone-specific ARM strategies and tools.
  - **Sub-Component 1.1:** Disaggregate risk analysis and prioritisation in the target Zones.
  - **Sub-Component 1.2:** Provide appropriate ARM tools, and technologies, ready for dissemination and suitable, for different Zones, stakeholder groups and farming systems**.**
  - **Sub-Component 1.3:** Provide sensitisation training for Zonal-level staff of MOA and other relevant institutions about the priority agricultural risks and the strategies and tools for managing them.

- **Component 2: ARM Capacity Development**
  - **Objective**: Enhance institutional and professional capacity for ARM throughout the agricultural research, extension, higher learning institutions, and other agricultural service-providers.
  - **Sub-Component 2.1:** Design ARM guidelines and training materials tailored to local needs and priorities, especially those of women and youth.
  - **Sub-Component 2.2:** Provide training on CD4ARM to the core group of trainers at Federal level MOA (in-depth ARM).
  - **Sub-Component 2.3:** Deliver ARM CD training at multiple levels in the target Regions, Zones, Woredas and Kebeles (intermediate to basic ARM).
  - **Sub-Component 2.4:** Support the roll-out of ARM CD within and beyond the target Zones/ Regions and in other agricultural sector programmes and projects.

- **Component 3: ARM coordination and knowledge management**
  - **Objective**: Coordinate CD ARM initiatives under the MOA Extension Directorate umbrella and create a sustainable system for ARM development and knowledge management.
  - **Sub-Component 3.1:** ARM Facility (CD4ARM)
  - **Sub-Component 3.2:** ARM Platform
  - **Sub-Component 3.3:** Ongoing resource mobilisation for investment in ARM
  - **Sub-Component 3.4:** ARM feedback and MEAL (Monitoring and Evaluation and Learning)

Session 3: Learning from experiences on capacity development approaches and ARM

During this session there were 3 parallel sessions where 10 ARM initiatives were showcased. For each group three to four initiatives were showcased. Participants chose the presentations (group) they are interested to follow among the 10 Initiatives presented in parallel sessions, which were grouped by 3 thematic topics:
1. ARM Policy and Tools
2. Capacity Development on ARM
3. Knowledge Management on ARM

The 3 topics were based on the three project components proposed in the initial concept note.

Here follows a sample of 4 initiatives that were presented during the workshop:

1. **GIZ - Sustainable Land Management Programme (SLMP), latter on Sustainable Use of Rehabilitated Land for Economic Development (SURED)**

Contact Details	
Contact details (title, organization, website) *	Title: Project Manager (European Union support to SLMP project) Organization: GIZ (Ethiopia) Website: www.giz.de
General Information	
1. Title/Name of the initiative or programme/project/tool *	Sustainable Land Management Programme (SLMP), latter on Sustainable Use of Rehabilitated Land for Economic Development (SURED) European Union Support to SLMP
2. Please specify the geographical scope of the initiative/project/tool (country, region, province, etc.). *	Watershed based intervention in 6 Regions: Oromia, Tigray, Amhara, SNNPR, Benishangul G., and Gambella, Ecoregion based intervention focussing on forest priority areas in Oromia region, (woredas surrounding Bale Mountain National Park (BMNP), and Yayu Coffee forest Biosphere reserve (YCFBR) areas).
3. Please indicate the budget (total cost) of the initiative/project/tool (Specify by donor if relevant) *	
4. Please indicate the length (start and end date) of your initiative/project/tool *	SLMP, 2009 – 2020 SURED 2017 – 2021 CLM to continue Mid 2021 - 2023 EU support to SLMP 2016 - 2021
5. Which organisation(s) designed and/or are implementing the initiatives/project? *	Key implementer is MOA, with involvement of more than 10 rural area-based Gov. institutions (Irrigation, Water Dev't, cooperatives, rural roads, livestock, environmental protection.
6. Who are your main target groups? *	Please tick more than one if applicable ☒ Farmers ☒ Extension workers ☐ Commodity marketers/middlemen ☒ Service providers ☐ Students/researchers ☒ Policymakers ☐ Other (indicate)
7. Does the initiative benefit farmers directly or indirectly? Please briefly explain (max 300 words). *	Directedly and primarily The initiative executes land management and livelihood enhancement investment interventions focussing on small holder rural farmers and herders (the case of EU s-to SLMP) aiming at contributing to the national economic and environmental goals through enhancing production and productivity as well as capacity of the end users and extension workers. The activities are planned at community level and consolidated upwards. The different technologies such as agricultural inputs and technical knowledge is delivered up to community level.
8. Do you work with support of other partners? Please name partners and type of support they provide explain (max 300 words). *	Rural area-based Gov't institutions with leading role of Agriculture office. There are two strands of platform from Federal Ministry to Kebele level. One is steering structure (Administration and office heads of over 10 institutions) and the second is the technical team composed of the subsequent technical focal persons from each institution. The platform delivers the overall role of administrative and technical duties. Technical cooperation (GIZ) and financial cooperation advises being taken by the respective development partners and donors such as GIZ, KfW, WB groups, DFATD, EU, etc.

9. What is the main aim of the initiative? Briefly describe your initiative/project (max. 300 words). *	The initiative is aiming at contributing to: Development Goal (Impact): "Improve the livelihoods, food security and economic wellbeing of the country's farmers, herders and forest resource users", and the Environmental Goal: "Rebuild Ethiopia's natural capital assets by overcoming the causes and mitigating the negative impacts of land degradation on the structure and functional integrity of the country's ecosystem resources". The SLMP Harmonized Results Framework follows and reflects a rationalised structure with four components, in line with ESIF: · Component 1: Investment in integrated watershed and landscape management, · Component 2: Capacity development of public and private SLM service providers, knowledge generation and management, institutional framework improvement, · Component 3: Rural land administration and certification, · Component 4: Program management, been achieved through the collaborative actions of all stakeholders.

Knowledge and capacity development approaches	
10. Which topic does your initiative/project/tool focus on? *	Please tick more than one if applicable ☒ Land/water ☒ Agricultural value chain 1) ☒ Production 2) ☐ Harvesting 3) ☐ Storage 4) ☐ Processing 5) ☐ Marketing ☐ Market access ☐ Nutrition ☐ Finance/credit ☐ Gender/youth ☒ Climate and environment ☒ Institutions and organization ☐ Others (please indicate)
11. Please describe the main services or activities provided by the project/tool/initiative? *	
12. Does your initiative disseminate knowledge or develop capacities on agricultural risk management?	☐ YES (if yes, go to question n. 13 and 14) ☒ NO
13. If your initiative or project or tool also works on capacity development, which of these channels best describes how you deliver/disseminate the training/knowledge to your target groups? *	☐ Classroom (e.g., lecture, seminar, workshops) ☐ Farm demonstrations ☐ Farm clinics ☐ Village and town meetings ☐ Mobile-based (e.g., calls, text messages, mobile application) ☐ Web-based ☐ Broadcast media (e.g., radio, megaphones) ☐ Social Media (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp) ☐ Print media (e.g., newspapers, notice board) ☐ Others (please indicate)
14. What types of learning materials are available to support the target trainees? *	Please tick more than one if applicable ☒ Pamphlet/Manuals/Flyers ☐ Posters ☐ Videos ☐ Test material ☐ Games ☐ Others (please indicate)

15. If you are dealing with agricultural risk or risk management areas, what type of knowledge do you disseminate?	Please tick the appropriate area or areas: **Weather** ☐ Droughts　　　☒ Floods　　　☒ Rainfall variability ☐ Other (explain) **Biological and environmental risks** ☐ Livestock diseases　☒ Plant pest and diseases ☐ Other (explain) **Market risks** ☒ Access to inputs　　☒ Quality of inputs　　☐ Output prices ☐ Other (explain) **Policy and institutional risks** ☐ Uncertain subsidies　☐ Trade policies　　☐ Land policies ☐ Exchange rates　　　☐ Interest rates　　☐ Access to finance ☐ Other (explain) **Infrastructure risks** ☐ Post-harvest losses　☐Transportation　　☐ Storage ☐ Other (explain)

2. ICRISAT- Scaling Validated Land and Water Management Technologies in the Semi-Arid Tropics

Contact Details	
Contact details (title, organization, website) *	Title: Senior Scientist Organization: ICRISAT Website: www.icrisat.org
General Information	
16. Title/Name of the initiative or programme/project/tool *	Scaling Validated Land and Water Management Technologies in the Semi-Arid Tropics
17. Please specify the geographical scope of the initiative/project/tool (country, region, province, etc.). *	Ethiopia, Afar and Amhara Region
18. Please indicate the budget (total cost) of the initiative/project/tool (Specify by donor if relevant) *	Over a million dollar per year
19. Please indicate the length (start and end date) of your initiative/project/tool *	2022-2024
20. Which organisation(s) designed and/or are implementing the initiatives/project? *	ICRISAT
21. Who are your main target groups? *	Please tick more than one if applicable ☒ Farmers ☒ Extension workers ☐ Commodity marketers/middlemen ☒ Service providers ☒ Students/researchers ☐ Policymakers ☐ Other (indicate)

22. Does the initiative benefit farmers directly or indirectly? Please briefly explain (max 300 words). *	Directly, through co-implementation of practical innovative solutions
23. Do you work with support of other partners? Please name partners and type of support they provide explain (max 300 words). *	Yes, GiZ, CRS and Wollo University are project partners
24. What is the main aim of the initiative? Briefly describe your initiative/project (max. 300 words). *	• Facilitate co-learning, capacity building and outreach activities through innovation forums, community watershed development committees and multi-stakeholder interest groups (technologies/methodologies validated in specific geographies). • Establish new learning sites to validate proven innovations based on context specific agroecologies and smallholder systems. • Facilitate scalability, and co-development of scaling options through public policy advocacy and community programs; and • Inform government investments directed towards scaling and sustainability and promote the effectiveness of IWD for development and humanitarian outcomes.

Knowledge and capacity development approaches

25. Which topic does your initiative/project/tool focus on? *	Please tick more than one if applicable ☒ Land/water ☒ Agricultural value chain 6) ☒ Production 7) ☒ Harvesting 8) ☒ Storage 9) ☒ Processing 10) ☒ Marketing ☒ Market access ☒ Nutrition ☐ Finance/credit ☒ Gender/youth ☒ Climate and environment ☒ Institutions and organization ☐ Others (please indicate)
26. Please describe the main services or activities provided by the project/tool/initiative? *	(i) establishing action learning sites co-shared by multiple stakeholders for technology validation, demonstration and scaling; (ii) increased adoption of validated technologies in different agroecologies and new geographies which leads to increased household food supply and market demand for the crops; (iii) institutionalizing participatory agroecological management through training, policy dialogue and enabling policies; (iv) cross-scale networks at the national level to bring together key sectors and programs and to facilitate mainstreaming in the national programs; and (v) adopting advanced technologies such as remote sensing
27. Does your initiative disseminate knowledge or develop capacities on agricultural risk management?	☒ YES (if yes, go to question n. 13 and 14) ☐ NO
28. If your initiative or project or tool also works on capacity development, which of these channels best describes how you deliver/disseminate the training/knowledge to your target groups? *	☐ Classroom (e.g., lecture, seminar, workshops) ☒ Farm demonstrations ☐ Farm clinics ☒ Village and town meetings ☐ Mobile-based (e.g., calls, text messages, mobile application) ☒ Web-based

	☐ Broadcast media (e.g., radio, megaphones) ☐ Social Media (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp) ☐ Print media (e.g., newspapers, notice board) ☐ Others (please indicate)
29. What types of learning materials are available to support the target trainees? *	Please tick more than one if applicable ☒ Pamphlet/Manuals/Flyers ☒ Posters ☒ Videos ☒ Test material ☐ Games ☐ Others (please indicate)
30. If you are dealing with agricultural risk or risk management areas, what type of knowledge do you disseminate?	Please tick the appropriate area or areas: Weather ☒ Droughts ☒ Floods ☒ Rainfall variability ☐ Other (explain) Biological and environmental risks ☐ Livestock diseases ☐ Plant pest and diseases ☐ Other (explain) Market risks ☒ Access to inputs ☒ Quality of inputs ☒ Output prices ☐ Other (explain) Policy and institutional risks ☐ Uncertain subsidies ☐ Trade policies ☒ Land policies ☐ Exchange rates ☐ Interest rates ☐ Access to finance ☐ Other (explain) Infrastructure risks ☒ Post-harvest losses ☒Transportation ☒ Storage ☐ Other (explain)

3. IFPRI - Promoting Resilience and Food Security through Risk-Contingent Credit in Africa

Contact Details	
Contact details (title, organization, website) *	Title: Research Fellow Organization: International Food Policy Research Institute Website: www.ifpri.org/profile/dawit-mekonnen
General Information	
31. Title/Name of the initiative or programme/project/tool *	Promoting Resilience and Food Security through Risk-Contingent Credit in Africa
32. Please specify the geographical scope of the initiative/project/tool (country, region, province, etc.). *	Ethiopia and Kenya
33. Please indicate the budget (total cost) of the initiative/project/tool (Specify by donor if relevant) *	1,200,000 Euro
34. Please indicate the length (start and end date) of your initiative/project/tool *	2021 to 2023
35. Which organisation(s) designed and/or are implementing the initiatives/project? *	International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), University of Greenwich, Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development in Transition Economies (IAMO) (IAMO), Haramaya University

36. Who are your main target groups? *	Please tick more than one if applicable ☒ Farmers ☐ Extension workers ☐ Commodity marketers/middlemen ☐ Service providers ☐ Students/researchers ☐ Policymakers ☐ Other (indicate)
37. Does the initiative benefit farmers directly or indirectly? Please briefly explain (max 300 words). *	Yes, it benefits farmers directly because farmers are expected to take up the RCC product.
38. Do you work with support of other partners? Please name partners and type of support they provide explain (max 300 words). *	Awash International Bank, Oromia Insurance Company
39. What is the main aim of the initiative? Briefly describe your initiative/project (max. 300 words). *	RCC is a linked financial product that embeds within its structure an insurance protection which, when triggered, offsets loan payments due to the lender. The RCC product not only mitigates drought-related agricultural risks but also provides access to credit for smallholder farmers, requiring minimal collateral. The current project will build on the earlier "Satellite Technologies, Innovative and Smart Financing for Food Security" (SATISFy) project (https://www.ifpri.org/project/satellite-technologiesinnovative-and-smart-financing-food-security-satisfy), which developed the original RCC product. SATISFy was tested in Machakos and Embu counties of Kenya from 2016-2019. Building on the existing partnership and field collaboration, the current project will : (1) improve the RCC product to minimize basis risk in product design by incorporating key environmental variables such as vegetation phenology, evapotranspiration, and soil moisture from state-of-the-art remote sensors, along with measurements from weather stations; (2) integrate a gender dimension into RCC analysis by including intra-household and cluster-level randomized controlled trials (RCTs) to reach, benefit, and empower women farmers; (3) develop formal relations with an increasing number of RCC service providers for piloting RCC in Kenya and Ethiopia and, ultimately, other developing countries that suffer from escalating risks due to higher weather volatility induced by climate change; and (4) build capacity on risk management through finance and agronomy trainings for farmers in Kenya and Ethiopia. The expected project outputs are: (1) An advanced composite weather index at high spatial and daily resolution that synthesizes ground data with satellite observations and that has been quantitatively validated; (2) High-quality evidence on the impacts of this innovative risk financing mechanism on women's and men's agricultural productivity, resilience, and nutrition; and (3) RCC services piloted in Ethiopia and Kenya with an expected adoption of RCC by 2,500 farmers (with an expected 50% target of female farmers); and a series of outreach and guidance documents developed and disseminated with national and regional policy stakeholders.

Knowledge and capacity development approaches

40. Which topic does your initiative/project/tool focus on? *	Please tick more than one if applicable ☒ Land/water ☐ Agricultural value chain 11) ☒ Production 12) ☐ Harvesting 13) ☐ Storage 14) ☐ Processing 15) ☐ Marketing

<table>
<tr><td></td><td>☐ Market access
☐ Nutrition
☒ Finance/credit
☒ Gender/youth
☒ Climate and environment
☐ Institutions and organization
☐ Others (please indicate)</td></tr>
<tr><td>41. Please describe the main services or activities provided by the project/tool/initiative? *</td><td>A linked loan and insurance product</td></tr>
<tr><td>42. Does your initiative disseminate knowledge or develop capacities on agricultural risk management?</td><td>☒ YES (if yes, go to question n. 13 and 14)
☐ NO</td></tr>
<tr><td>43. If your initiative or project or tool also works on capacity development, which of these channels best describes how you deliver/disseminate the training/knowledge to your target groups? *</td><td>☒ Classroom (e.g., lecture, seminar, workshops)
☐ Farm demonstrations
☐ Farm clinics
☐ Village and town meetings
☐ Mobile-based (e.g., calls, text messages, mobile application)
☐ Web-based
☐ Broadcast media (e.g., radio, megaphones)
☐ Social Media (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp)
☐ Print media (e.g., newspapers, notice board)
☒ Others (please indicate) policy briefs</td></tr>
<tr><td>44. What types of learning materials are available to support the target trainees? *</td><td>Please tick more than one if applicable
☐ Pamphlet/Manuals/Flyers
☐ Posters
☐ Videos
☐ Test material
☐ Games
☒ Others (please indicate) Trainings</td></tr>
<tr><td>45. If you are dealing with agricultural risk or risk management areas, what type of knowledge do you disseminate?</td><td>Please tick the appropriate area or areas:

Weather
☒ Droughts   ☐ Floods   ☒ Rainfall variability
☐ Other (explain)

Biological and environmental risks
☐ Livestock diseases   ☐ Plant pest and diseases
☐ Other (explain)

Market risks
☒ Access to inputs   ☐ Quality of inputs   ☐ Output prices
☐ Other (explain)

Policy and institutional risks
☐ Uncertain subsidies   ☐ Trade policies   ☐ Land policies
☐ Exchange rates   ☐ Interest rates   ☐ Access to finance
☐ Other (explain)

Infrastructure risks
☐ Post-harvest losses   ☐Transportation   ☐ Storage
☐ Other (explain)</td></tr>
</table>

4. JICA - Index-based Crop Insurance Promotion Project (ICIP) for Rural Resilience enhancement

Contact Details	
Contact details (title, organization, website) *	Title: Team Leader, ICIP Organization: Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Website: https://www.facebook.com/ICIP.Ehiopia/

General Information	
46. Title/Name of the initiative or programme/project/tool *	Index-based Crop Insurance Promotion Project (ICIP) for Rural Resilience enhancement
47. Please specify the geographical scope of the initiative/project/tool (country, region, province, etc.). *	24 woreda from 4 zones in Oromia Region, Ethiopia
48. Please indicate the budget (total cost) of the initiative/project/tool (Specify by donor if relevant) *	Approx. 4.39 million USD (projected)
49. Please indicate the length (start and end date) of your initiative/project/tool *	February 2019 – October 2024
50. Which organisation(s) designed and/or are implementing the initiatives/project? *	Japan International Cooperation Agency
51. Who are your main target groups? *	Please tick more than one if applicable ☒ Farmers ☒ Extension workers ☐ Commodity marketers/middlemen ☒ Service providers ☐ Students/researchers ☐ Policymakers ☒ Other (indicate): MFI
52. Does the initiative benefit farmers directly or indirectly? Please briefly explain (max 300 words). *	Yes, our initiatives directly benefit farmers against agricultural risks by providing crop insurances together with agricultural techniques. The technical transfer of agricultural techniques will increase production of farmers, and promotion of crop insurances will assure farmers to have fund to go on the planting for the next year.
53. Do you work with support of other partners? Please name partners and type of support they provide explain (max 300 words). *	(Not applicable)
54. What is the main aim of the initiative? Briefly describe your initiative/project (max. 300 words). *	Overall Goal of the project is to develop institutional capacity of IbCI through technical assistance. Also, the Project aims to establish "Dialogue Platform for supporting Agriculture insurance in Ethiopia"" among major donors initiated by JICA and WFP, to make guidelines on crop insurances to be reflected in National Agricultural Insurance Policy.

Knowledge and capacity development approaches	
55. Which topic does your initiative/project/tool focus on? *	Please tick more than one if applicable ☐ Land/water ☒ Agricultural value chain 16) ☒ Production 17) ☒ Harvesting 18) ☐ Storage 19) ☐ Processing 20) ☐ Marketing

	☐ Market access ☐ Nutrition ☒ Finance/credit ☐ Gender/youth ☐ Climate and environment ☒ Institutions and organization ☒ Others (please indicate): promotion of crop insurances
56. Please describe the main services or activities provided by the project/tool/initiative? *	We are providing technical assistance for the government organizations to promote crop insurances for farmer by introducing "REPs Approach" (Resilience Enhancement Packages), which is the combination of index-based crop insurances (for risk finance) and agricultural techniques (for risk control).
57. Does your initiative disseminate knowledge or develop capacities on agricultural risk management?	☒ YES (if yes, go to question n. 13 and 14) ☐ NO
58. If your initiative or project or tool also works on capacity development, which of these channels best describes how you deliver/disseminate the training/knowledge to your target groups? *	☒ Classroom (e.g., lecture, seminar, workshops) ☒ Farm demonstrations ☐ Farm clinics ☒ Village and town meetings ☒ Mobile-based (e.g., calls, text messages, mobile application) ☐ Web-based ☒ Broadcast media (e.g., radio, megaphones) ☒ Social Media (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp) ☒ Print media (e.g., newspapers, notice board) ☐ Others (please indicate)
59. What types of learning materials are available to support the target trainees? *	Please tick more than one if applicable ☒ Pamphlet/Manuals/Flyers ☒ Posters ☒ Videos ☐ Test material ☐ Games ☐ Others (please indicate): Radio Programs, etc.
60. If you are dealing with agricultural risk or risk management areas, what type of knowledge do you disseminate?	Please tick the appropriate area or areas: Weather ☒ Droughts ☒ Floods ☒ Rainfall variability ☐ Other (explain) Biological and environmental risks ☐ Livestock diseases ☒ Plant pest and diseases ☐ Other (explain) Market risks ☒ Access to inputs ☐ Quality of inputs ☐ Output prices ☐ Other (explain) Policy and institutional risks ☐ Uncertain subsidies ☐ Trade policies ☐ Land policies ☐ Exchange rates ☐ Interest rates ☒ Access to finance ☐ Other (explain) Infrastructure risks ☐ Post-harvest losses ☐Transportation ☐ Storage ☐ Other (explain)

Session 4: Discussing the opportunities and challenges of CD and ARM initiatives

The theory of change of the project/facility envisages that the development of an enhanced package of ARM tools and policies will result in an improved understanding of ARM options at all levels, including an advanced toolkit of ARM instruments and better mainstreaming of ARM principles and methods into agricultural and rural sector policies, as well as in related areas of social protection, disaster risk management, food, and nutrition security etc (Component 1/Topic 1). The core CD activities will deliver an improved set of ARM learning tools tailored to the prevailing circumstances and risk profiles of Ethiopia's diverse AEZs and the delivery of CD training through a cascading knowledge transfer model at multiple levels (Component 2/Topic 2). These results will be supported by further development of ARM learning tools, support for establishing knowledge sharing partnerships, resource mobilisation for mainstreaming ARM, and the establishment of a tracking/ feedback mechanism for monitoring and learning about ARM (Component 3/Topic 3).

The theory of change of the facility/project reflects the 3 components:
1. ARM Policy and Tools
2. Capacity Development on ARM
3. Knowledge Management on ARM

Which were chosen as the pillars of this session. The participants were divided into 3 groups and rotated so each group could participate in identifying opportunities and challenges on the 3 topics to come up with key recommendations on improved ARM.

Topic A – ARM Policy & Tools

Challenges	**Opportunities**
Lack of accountability with initiatives (especially with multiple groups/parties) involved)	Innovations in technology and digital
Lack of infrastructure (e.g., Roads, ICT equipment, telecommunication access…	Enhance and strengthen existing platforms (e.g., EDACP and DRM)
Low capacity and knowledge based on risk (risk is dynamic and it is difficult to keep up with mitigation tools)	
Lack of coordination between different risk platform	
Lack of information and lack of access to that information	
Lack of sustainability with an initiative/tool – no proper handover	
People/officials at different levels are not taking proper action when faced with risk (because of lack of awareness)	

Recommendations

Recommendations	N. of votes
Enhance/strengthen existing platforms, building on existing platforms and knowledge centres	0
Invest in technology and innovation	7
Stock-take all platforms relevant to risk management tools	3
Undertake tasks with PPP in mind to enhance quality and foster ownership	0
Mainstream ARM in all activities	8
ARM policies need to be gender sensitive/inclusive of vulnerable people	7
To ensure the professionals responsible for responding to risk have propose skills, education, and experience	0

Topic B – CD on ARM

Challenges	Opportunities
Top-down training and feedback	Many DPs
Lack of access to information and data	The extension systems
Distorted information being passed on	University and research centres
Lack of practical training	Higher use of ICT
Limited collaboration (poor linkage)	Strengthening ARM policy frameworks
Lack of funding	The 3 Das in kebeles
Conceptual misunderstanding	
Inappropriate scale of training	
Poor documentation	
Lack of gender sensitive training and diversity and access of those trainings to different groups	

Recommendations

Recommendations	N. of votes
Digitalization of training and extension service	6
Improve access to ICT tools/hardware/access to internet	2
Strengthen the existing coordination platform/system	6
Adopt and design training based on diversity of groups (by gender, for youth etc.) and local context (access)	4
Integrate ARM into ATVETs and universities and their curricula	3
Integration of top-down and bottom-up approaches (scientific and local knowledge)	2
Development of mainstreaming guidelines on ARM	2
Strengthen capacities of DAs	2

Topic C – KM on ARM

Challenges	Opportunities
Dissemination and reach of information. Challenge in reaching "the last mile", all groups, with relevant information such as weather forecast and on market	Promote collaboration and linkages with the private sector for dissemination and the MOA, research, meteorology, MOA, Extension service etc.
Collection of timely and quality, relevant, appropriate data from all groups and the "last mile" (aka farmers)	Promote integrated data sets to increase data quality and analysis (collection, analysis, dissemination), for example through knowledge centres and continuous learning
Lack of access to digital infrastructure, platforms, equipment, and literacy	Train extension agents to receive, interpret information to reach farmers
Poor capacity to manage of the system to manage knowledge – decentralized efforts and poor linkages between policymakers, research, farmers etc.)	Promote access to digital solutions
Poor M&E practices and data quality	Leverage the potential of KM like digitalizing the extension service. Strengthen KM on ARM in academia and beyond as well
	Integrate indigenous knowledge within mainstream systems

Recommendations

Recommendations	N. of votes
Promote digital solutions	5
Farmer focused approaches to reach all groups and locations (including indigenous knowledge)	7
Knowledge centres to continuously ensure quality, timeliness, relevance data. Integrated data sets	3
Promote collaboration: intra govt.; inter-govt; among actors (research, extension, farmers, civil society)	1
Increase capacity to collect, analyse, disseminate (MoA, DoE, academia and farmers)	1

Session 5: Moving forward: the project design process to Strengthen ARM through Capacity Development and Investment

Main Take Aways

The participants all voted on the main recommendations that came out of the three parallel sessions on the three topics (above), below are the recommendations that were considered the most important and, in the table, the top three with the most votes.

- **To enhance/ Strengthen and empower existing platforms**. Existing risk platforms focus on different aspects of agricultural risk at different MOA Directorates (i.e., Crop and Natural Resource Management) and other related government agencies. It is important to build on, or consolidate existing platforms, rather than create another new platform. The platform to be strengthened must serve as a knowledge centre, empowered with extensive and comprehensive information on all aspects of agricultural risk. The site of this knowledge centre could be situated anywhere at MOA.

- **To Invest in technology & Innovation**: Initiatives supporting ARM policies and tools must focus on investment on technology and innovation. With agricultural risks in Ethiopia becoming complex, widespread, and amplified, any initiative related to agricultural risk must do its share of investing in technology, related for example to gathering of information or disseminating of information. In addition, investments are necessary into appropriate tools to mitigate risks e.g. investments in IT infrastructure (computers, tablets, software for dashboard construction), improved seeds etc.

- **To Stock take data while also cleaning up all platforms related to risk tools**. Given that there are different agricultural risk tools with different directorate at MOA, Ethiopian Institute of Agriculture Research and other agencies, stock taking of all tools available including respective data available with different stakeholders need to be recorded. Concerted effort should be made to possibly try to bring the data to one place that will constitute a knowledge centre on Agricultural Risk Management.

- **To undertake initiatives with Public-Private Partnership (PPP) modality** to enhance quality, ensure sustainability and foster ownership of the ARM tools. It is envisioned that PPP would allow the government to retain ownership while allowing contracting the private sector to perform a specific function e.g., capacity building, bring innovation and technology.

- **To Mainstream ARM in all activities:** ARM should be integrated in all projects – Highland/ Lowland and High potential/Low potential areas.

- **To ensure that ARM policies are sensitive to gender and vulnerable groups.** From the onset, ARM policies must become gender and vulnerable groups' sensitive, which will ensure the process of project design through implementation to likely be inclusive of women and vulnerable groups in all activities.

- **To ensure the professionals responsible for monitoring and reporting risks have proper education, skills and experience.** It is critical for those engaged in identifying, assessing, reporting risks and applying the appropriate risk mitigation tools to have appropriate level of expertise and knowledge on agricultural risk management. Hence, investment in their capacity in ARM is crucial.

- **Farmer focused approaches** to reach all groups (youth, women, indigenous people etc.) and locations (including indigenous knowledge).

By theme it shows that the top 3 recommendation that came out of the discussions were:

TOP Recommendations	N. of votes
To Invest and develop technology & Innovation	20
To ensure that ARM policies are sensitive to gender and vulnerable groups and farmer focused	21
Mainstream ARM in all activities	8

III.   Next steps of the design process and timeline

- The following day the design team met with the key members of the technical committee supporting the design of the project/facility and validated the content of the design for the signature of the Aide Memoire with the MoA.
- The design team will then draft the project design report (PDR), following the results and recommendations collected during the mission
- The review process will start internally and with the MoA in November and December 2021
- Donor engagement and resource mobilisation efforts will continue
- The PDR is expected to be drafted and approved in early 2022

Managing risks
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