

Minutes of the Launching Workshop and the 1st Joint Coordinating Committee (JCC) Meeting for the Project for Enhancing Development and Dissemination of Agricultural Innovation through Farmer Research Group (FRG II Project)

Date: December 25, 2010

Venue: EIAR Hiruy Hall

The workshop/meeting was opened by Dr Dawit at 10:10.

1. Attendance

Participants: As attached list of participants (Annex 1).

2. Opening remarks

Dr. Dawit, AEREFL Coordinator, welcomed the participants and reconfirmed the purpose and agenda of the meeting.

Dr. Solomon, Director General of EIAR, made opening remarks, in which he emphasized the importance of the "demand-driven research" and "attitude changes of researchers." He confirmed that the first phase of FRG Project proved to be instrumental to link research, extension and farmers, which was shown by the confidence of the representative farmers who were attending the meeting.

Mr. Shinkawa, Deputy Resident Representative of JICA Ethiopia Office, in his part, stressed that JICA expected to have tangible contribution to Ethiopia's Growth Transformation Policy, for which FRG II was expected to play an important role as a catalyst for collaboration among JICA's ongoing projects in the agricultural and rural development sector. He emphasized the importance of ownership by Ethiopian stakeholders. He expected that the meeting would enhance the mutual understanding and coherence among the stakeholders.

3. Introduction to FRG II Project

Dr Dawit presented the background, the objectives, the activities and the administration of the project (See Annex 2).

Following discussions were made after the presentation.

It was explained that the extension materials to be shared using website (project Home Page etc.) was appraisable. It was agreed that the materials to be developed included audio-visual materials and translated into local languages. It was introduced that in the Somali Region the FRG guideline developed by FRG I had already been translated into Somali language. It was agreed that many other translations of the guideline into different languages need to be made.

It was commented that the FRG guideline should be contextualized according to agro-ecosystems, social compositions, different commodities, etc. along with the documentation of the progress of the FRG activities in different cases.

It was introduced that Haramaya University's Mid-carrier Rural Development and Agricultural Extension programme included participatory research in its curriculum and similar programme was starting in other universities as well. It was recommended that the FRG guideline be used in such programmes.

It was suggested that what was learned in the previous phase of the project need to be shared among the JCC members. It was explained that the FRG guideline incorporated the outputs of the previous phase. The project was requested to send the guideline to all the JCC members.

One of the representatives from regional bureaus of agriculture questioned what benefit the extension could get from the project. It was explained that the primal benefit the extension received from the project was appropriate technical information which made much easier for DAs to conduct their extension activities. Additionally, the extension personnel and institutions who are involved in FRG activities would get support in respective FRG research subject.

Another representative of the extension raised the issue of FRG and FREG. It was explained that FRG is an approach for researchers to make their outputs more appropriate while FREG is an approach for the extension to include an aspect of technology generation in their extension activities.

4. Establishment of Joint Coordination Committee

Dr Dawit then introduced the participants the proposed list of members of JCC, Steering Committee (SC) and core team.

Comments were raised and discussions were made on the agenda as follows.

It was suggested that representatives of Bureau of Agriculture from Afar, Somali, Gambera and Benishangulu Gumuz to be also the JCC members. It was also agreed that Deputy Head of the Bureaus of Agriculture to be represented in the JCC instead of the heads of these Bureaus.

There was a comment for the number of the JCC member list to be reduced but it was agreed that all the important stakeholders from all the regions to be included in the JCC members. Therefore no reduction of the JCC members would be made.

Country Coordinators of Rural Capacity Building Project (RCBP) and SG2000 were also agreed to remain in the JCC for creating synergy of collaboration with other donors and public sectors.

The representative from JICA Ethiopia office suggested that an official from Japanese Embassy to be a member of the JCC and, members of missions from Japan to be observers, and it was agreed in the meeting.

It was raised among the participants that gender-related personnel to be a member of JCC. The SC included the Gender Coordinator of EIAR as a member, it was agreed that farmer members of the JCC to be gender balanced.

Regarding the SC, it was suggested to have an Executive Committee instead of SC.

Members for the Executive Committee are selected mainly from the JCC so that the committee could monitor what was decided at the JCC and guide the project effectively.

The modified JCC members and propose Executive Committee members are in Annex 4 and 5.

Proposed Core Team members were accepted by the meeting.

5. Plan of operation and progress in 2010

Mr Shiratori presented the Plan of Operation and the progress made so far in 2010 (See Annex 3).

After the presentation, few comments were raised and discussed.

It was mentioned that the financial management procedure was complicated. It was, then, replied that what the project asked was not complicated but necessary procedure for all the JICA funded activities. It was further suggested that proper fund management should be a benefit to the centre and regional research managements too.

Collaborations with other projects such as other JICA projects, JIRCAS and other donor projects was necessary to avoid overlap and maximize impact on farmers. The members of the JCC were requested to connect the FRG II to possible partner projects/programme.

6. AOB

It was proposed to hold the second JCC meeting in April 2011 to discuss about detailed annual plan of operation for 2011.

7. Closing Remarks

Mr. Shinkawa and Dr. Solomon made brief remarks with appreciation to the participants for their active contributions to the discussions and showing commitment to make the project successful.

The meeting was closed at 13:30.

The Launching Workshop
 Joint Coordinating Committee Meeting of FRG II Project
EIAR Headquarters, Addis Ababa – December 25/2010

No	Name	Organization	Responsibility (Position)	Mobile Telephone	E-mail Address	Fax No.	Attendance
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4	Mr. Meseret Abebe	MoFED	Representative, Bilateral Cooperation Department Director	0910 03 32 57	messiabebe@yahoo.com	011-155-66-99	✓
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11	Mr. Awet Estifanos	Tigray Agricultural Research Institute	Representative, DG	0910 43 90 99	aweyetir@yahoo.com	034 440 80 28	✓
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13	Mr. Tsegaye Tadesse	Bureau of Agriculture, Amhara Region	Representative, Agricultural Extension Service Process Owner	0918 78 25 30	ethiocountryland@yahoo.com	058 220 10 15	✓
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19	Ms. Ehete Gizaw	"	FRG farmer	0913 26 65 07	-	-	✓
20	Ms. Fantu Bekele	"	FRG farmer	0921 68 28 64	-	-	✓
21	Mr. Tesfaye Gemechu	ATARC	Researcher	0911 48 19 91	Tehamume2005yahoo.com	046 441 91 08	✓
22	Mr. Ginjo Bone	"	FRG farmer	0913 11 75 86	-	-	✓
23	Mr. Buda Muda	"	FRG farmer	-	-	-	✓
24	Mr. Makoto Shinkawa	JICA Ethiopia Office	Chief Representative	0911 228 729	Shinkawa.Makotyo@jica.go.jp	011-550 44 65	✓
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Annex 2

Enhancing Development and Dissemination of Agricultural Innovations through Farmer Research Groups (FRGs) in Ethiopia

By Dr Dawit

FRG II Project Framework
1st JCC Meeting, Addis Ababa

Background

- Ethiopia is expected to double agricultural production in the coming five years (GTP, 2010)
- One of the reasons for poor performance of agricultural sector is the poor linkage between research and extension
- Different approaches underway to strengthen the linkage including institutional arrangement (ARDPLCs)
- FRG is another approach to strengthen the linkage at grass root level
- The first phase of JICA supported FRG project (FRG I) has documented its importance

Objective of FRG II

Project Purpose

- To enhance participatory technology generation and dissemination in the national research system through FRG approach

Outputs

- FRG approach scaled out and institutionalized in the national agricultural research system
- Appropriate technologies developed on focused priority research topics
- Collaboration with on going development projects strengthened
- Extension materials developed and utilized

FRG II Project Activities

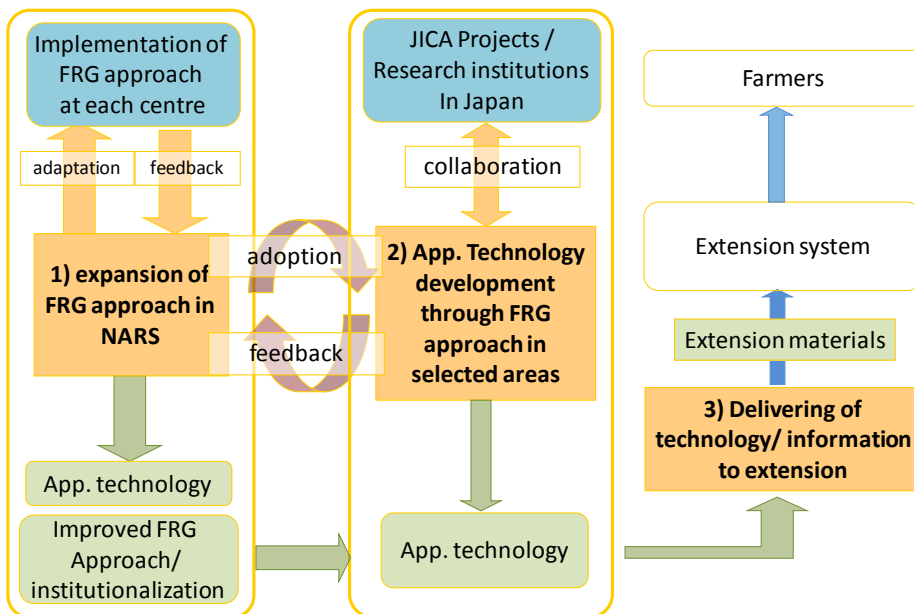
FRG Approach Scaled Out and Institutionalized in the Research System

- Conduct workshops, training, seminars and experience sharing for researchers (including research managers); and around the research centers extension workers, farmers, local government administrators, etc.
- Establish and develop coordination capacity of FRG activities at research center and Institute levels
- Refine FRG Guideline through collecting case studies, developing models, etc
- Develop researchers resGuideline through collecting case studies, developing models, Appropriate technologies developed on focused priority research topics
- Refine the specific priority research topics for implementing FRG research activity at different areas –(Implement research agenda identified by Research Extension Farmer Linkage Councils, discussion with target community, and GTP etc),
- Conduct participatory research on selected topics with relevant stakeholders (e.g., Farmer training centers (FTCs), Non-Government Organizations (NGO) and other on going development projects
- Packaging technologies developed through FRG research
- Establish technology multiplication and dissemination mechanism

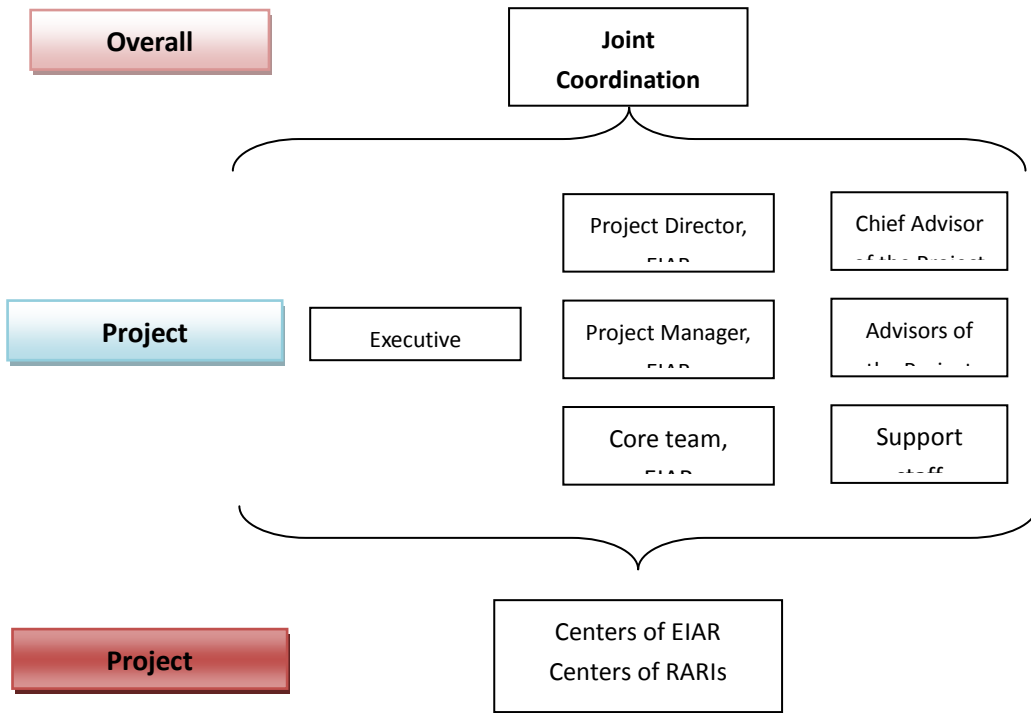
- Develop the research capacity in selected priority areas
- Collaboration with ongoing development projects strengthened
- Identify the existing development projects in the mandate area of the selected research centers. This is done in discussion with research directors at EIAR headquarters before launching of the project
- Establish formal linkage with the ongoing development projects (Seed, IFI, Wabub, Water shed management, rice, other regional and local development projects, IPMS, ESGPIP, Nutrition Improvement Project)

Extension materials developed

- Develop capacity of researchers in extension material preparation
- Develop extension materials for each research topic conducted.
- Test the extension materials with farmers and feed results back to the capacity development of researchers.



Administration



Annex 3

Plan of Operation and Progress for 2010

By Mr. Shiratori

General

- Establish the project office
- Set up the project's webpage

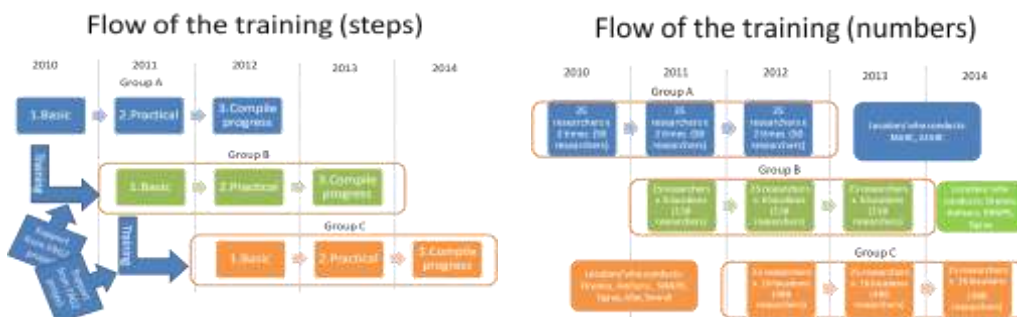


- Publish the project's newsletter



Activity 1: Scaling out the FRG approach

- Developed a three-years three-step training program on the FRG approach



- Conducted training of for first two groups



- Monitoring the approach implementation
- Facilitate experience sharing
- Revise training curriculum

Activity 2: Development of appropriate technologies

- Started FRG based research on rice and quality seed technologies
- Currently 6 rice projects & 1 tef seed project by 3 ARCs & 2 universities are under implementation
- 5 seed projects by 3 ARCs & 2 universities are in pipeline
- Research priority areas
 - Rice & quality seed in collaboration with other ongoing projects such as QSPP, JIRCAS, SG2000, CIDA, etc.
 - Other areas where the role of research to be beyond the conventional settings
 - Continue explore possible research areas which is suitable with the FRG approach

Activity 3: Capacity development for delivering technical information

- Planned a survey on available technical information at DAs and farmers levels.
- Conduct the technical information survey
- Conduct followup survey on extension materials developed and distributed in East Shewa by the FRG 1st phase

Capacity building

Human capacity

- Formal long term training x2 (PhD x 1, MSc x 1)
- Short term training x2
- Study visit x3
- Scientific interaction
- Local training opportunity



Equipment

- Rice laboratory equipment
- Office equipment

Annex 4. FRG II JCC Members

1. Director General, Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research (EIAR): chairperson
2. AEREFL Coordinator, EIAR: secretary
3. Crop Director, EIAR
4. Gender Coordinator, EIAR
5. Representative of FRG farmers (1) selected by MARC
6. Representative of FRG farmers (2) selected by MARC
7. Representative of FRG farmers (3) selected by ATARC
8. Representative of FRG farmers (4) selected by ATARC
9. Head of Agricultural Extension, Haramaya University
10. Deputy Director, Extension Directorate, Ministry of Agriculture
11. FARPLAC Case Worker, Extension Directorate, Ministry of Agriculture
12. Head of Bilateral Cooperation, Ministry of Finance and Economic Development
13. Director General, Afar Pastoral and Agropastoral Research Institute
14. Director General, Amhara Agricultural Research Institute
15. Director General, Gambera Agricultural Research Institute
16. Director General, Oromia Agricultural Research Institute
17. Director General, SNNPR Agricultural Research Institute
18. Director General, Somali Pastoral and Agropastoral Research Institute
19. Director General, Tigray Agricultural Research Institute
20. Deputy Head, Bureau of Pastoralist and Agro-pastoralist, Afar
21. Deputy Head, Bureau of Agriculture, Amhara Region
22. Deputy Head, Bureau of Agriculture, Benishangulu Gumuzu
23. Deputy Head, Bureau of Agriculture, Gambera
24. Deputy Head, Bureau of Agriculture, Oromia Region
25. Deputy Head, Bureau of Agriculture, SNNPR
26. Deputy Head, Bureau of Pastoralist and Agro-pastoralist, Somali
27. Deputy Head, Bureau of Agriculture, Tigray
28. Country Coordinator, Rural Capacity Building Programme
29. Country Director, SG2000
30. Secretary, Embassy of Japan
31. Chief Representative, JICA Ethiopia
32. JICA Advisor to MoA
33. JICA Chief Advisor to FRG II

Annex 5. Executive Committee members

1. Dr. Adefris T/weld, Crop Director, EIAR
2. Dr. Edmealem Shetaye, Deputy Director, Extension Directorate, Ministry of Agriculture
3. Mr. Fiseha Teshome, FARPLAC Case Worker, Extension Directorate, Ministry of Agriculture
4. Mrs. Yeshi Chichie, Gender Coordinator, EIAR
5. Dr Dawit Alemu, AEREFL Coordinator, EIAR
6. Mr. Kiyoshi Shiratori, Chief Advisor, FRG II