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Engaging Government to Improve Agriculture



Photo: Ginjo Giya

Ethiopian Ginjo Giya celebrates a good idea during a USAID-sponsored training by adding some maize to a pot symbolizing Africa.

After attending a USAID-financed training, Ethiopian Ginjo Giya was determined to spread the word about value chain development and CAADP – the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program – which is a continental initiative to increase agricultural productivity by at least 6% a year. Following through on the Action Plan he developed during training, the manager from the private sector met with 54 local officials in his home district of Woreda to share his newly-acquired knowledge and provide ongoing technical support. Ginjo expects these officials to pass on their learning to the hundreds of local farmers whom they support, and he hopes to develop a closer relationship with local government to facilitate more cross-sectoral collaborations in the future.

“I don’t see CAADP merely as the governments’ agenda, but rather a shared vision. African and Ethiopian non-state actors – civil society and the private sector – should stand together with government, join hands and bring together their hearts and minds for the realization of CAADP!”

Mr. Giya attended leadership training given by the Africa Leadership Training and Capacity Building Program (Africa Lead), which is part of the Feed the Future global food security initiative. Participants learned about strategic planning and advocacy, discussed local challenges to increasing production, and brainstormed on implementable solutions to improve food security for their communities.