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ETHIOPIA

SNAPSHOT

Training Inspires Policymakers and Private Sector



Photo: Fintrac Inc.

CIAFS-LEAD training participants engaged in leadership and strategic planning activities.

Ethiopia's diverse agriculture sector has enormous potential with its agronomic and climatic conditions that allow for year round production of a wide range of subsistence and cash crops including cereals, fruit, vegetables and coffee. Despite these advantages, the sector is constrained by limited management capacity in government, the private sector and civil society. USAID's Capacity to Improve Agriculture and Food Security (CIAFS) project is addressing these constraints and strengthening agricultural leadership, giving policymakers, entrepreneurs and managers the tools to transform the sector.

In May 2011, the project brought together 90 Ethiopian agents of change from federal and regional bureaus of the Ministry of Agriculture, sector associations, the Ethiopian Chamber of Commerce, and universities to participate in USAID-Africa's LEAD leadership training in Adama, Ethiopia. USAID-Africa LEAD is a continent-wide program that trains agriculture leaders who design and implement food security strategies and investment plans to reduce hunger and poverty. The CIAFS project adapted Africa-LEAD training modules to the unique agriculture and food security context of Ethiopia and co-facilitated the training. The training in Ethiopia was unique, featuring presentations by Ethiopian "model change agents" identified by the Ethiopia Ministry of Agriculture and the private sector who have overcome challenges in horticulture, poultry and apiculture.

Participants left the training inspired to implement individual and regional action plans to address chronic food insecurity and make agricultural policies more farmer-focused. They also left with new friendships and business relationships. By the end of the second session, a participant from St. Mary University, a private research and teaching institution, forged an agreement with the representative from the MoA's Addis Ababa Poultry Multiplication Centre to establish a demonstration site at the university. The collaboration leverages the technical skills of the MoA and the private resources of the university. The site will be used to teach university students best poultry practices and technologies and encourage them to become agribusiness entrepreneurs.

The training is having a ripple effect in the Regional Bureaus of Agriculture. In June, Tigray BoA Input and Credit Division Director Ato Tadesse Aregawi integrated selected modules from the training into a Ministry-sponsored training program for BoA input officials. Aregawi customized the training modules on input delivery and supply, teamwork and demand-driven budgeting for the BoA trainees in Tigray. Plans for additional training of BoA officials include rolling out adapted modules on leadership to scale up activities for agricultural transformation and food security.

Telling Our Story

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