Scaling Innovations and Agricultural Best Practices in Ethiopia: The CASCAPE Experience

By

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Presented on “Feed the plant to Feed people” workshop, Hawasa, August 29/2014
Introduction and Rationale

- GoE is committed to scale up best practices for agric. Growth (key component of AGP);

- But scaling requires research support - evidence on what works where, why, etc
CASCAPE Objectives

- To support AGP/MoA in the identification, evaluation and validation of best practices;
- To introduce and test new promising innovations in crop and livestock production and NRM;
- To develop and pilot scaling strategy for use in AGP through identification of drivers and recommendation domains:
  - Capacity building – training extension workers and researchers
Intervention areas and geographical spread

- CASCAPE operates in 30 high potential AGP woredas in 4 main regions
- Network of six Ethiopian Universities (6 clusters)
- Partnership with NARS and extension system
Flow of Activities for Scaling innovations

CASCAPE scaling pathways

- Situation analysis (PRA, Scoping studies)
- Testing options with farmers (PAR)
- Validation of BPs – sustainability & productivity of assessment
- Pre-scaling selected innovations
  - Understanding drivers for adoption
  - Identification of recommendation domains
- Pilot scaling
  - Stakeholder networks
  - Thematic platforms
  - Capacity building

Pilot scaling

Pre-scaling

Validation

Testing

-Scale
-Stakeholder involvement
-Approaches
-Resources
CASCAPE conceptualization of scaling

- Scaling out or Horizontal scaling is geographical spread to cover more people & communities.

- Scaling up or vertical scaling is expanding an innovation beyond the original intervention area or participants & stakeholders.
Scaling out and scaling up are interactive processes
Inter-linkage between domains and analysis to be made

Before scaling

Before designing a scaling pathway for a specific (set of) practice or basket of options

After PRA & scoping when designing demonstration & pre-scaling experiments

At start of activities, which woreda is suitable for which commodity

Drivers for adoption

Recommendation domain

Development domain

Agro-ecological
Defining domains and pathways

- Main criteria to define domains and pathways
  - Agro-ecological potentials based on moisture and thermal regimes and soil quality. Basket of options and pathways!
  - Socio-economic circumstances – Access to market (e.g., malt barley value chain development in Sidama)
  - Population densities – labour supply
Drivers of adoption study

- Conditions that facilitate or hinder the uptake of innovations
  - The pull factors – HH resource characteristics
  - The push factors – technology supply, extension, markets

- CASAPE conducted drivers of adoption with 3,000 households across the country;

- Results will be used for policy advice on attributes that facilitate adoption
Two scaling pathways followed

- Technology or research-driven pathway

- Testing, validating, pre-scaling and pilot scaling with stakeholders.

- Examples, are improved crop varieties (wheat, maize, beans, potato) & agronomic practices (row planting, fertilization)
Institutional innovation pathway

- This is a combination of research and institutional engagement (e.g., malt barley value chain development under CASCAPE south)
The need for accelerating scaling up of improved benefits to more people more quickly cannot be overemphasized;

CASCAPE has tested a basket of options for doubling or tripling agricultural production over the past 3 years;

A best practice document has been submitted to the AGP/MoA for scaling at national level (pre-extension demonstrations to be set up in 2015)

Strategies for horizontal and vertical scaling of innovations have been piloted.

Key challenges:

- Building ownership of the scaling process by stakeholders remains a challenge;
- Input (seed) supply;
- Capacity gaps
Thank You