

Efficient, Sustainable and Inclusive Agriculture

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RAISE-FS demonstrated practices that improve local availability of improved seeds, increase productivity and land use efficiency, and optimize the utilization of fertilizers, both from locally available organic sources and synthetic fertilizer, and incorporating Integrated Pest Management (IPM). This briefs highlights RAISE-FS's efforts in supporting efficient, sustainable and inclusive agriculture in Ethiopia.

Introduction

Ethiopia relies strongly on the agricultural sector to generate income and livelihoods, to contribute to GDP and to generate export generated revenues. It has a rich experience with agricultural development, research, innovation and extension. This accumulated knowledge can be mobilized to deliver efficient and sustainable agriculture that supports inclusive and healthy local food systems. Efficient, sustainable and resilient agriculture is at the heart of RAISE-FS's approach on food systems transformation. Together with partners from four

regions in Ethiopia, RAISE-FS worked with innovation bundles that focused on approaches and practices that transform food systems, enhance productivity and spur sustainable local economic development while increasing the food systems' resilience to cope with climate variability and socioeconomic shocks.

RAISE-FS' approach towards efficient, sustainable and resilient agriculture encompasses five components:

Inclusive development and agency

Inclusivity is a fundamental principle guiding RAISE-FS work. True transformation in agricultural systems can only occur when all stakeholders, especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds, have a voice in the decision-making processes. This participatory approach fosters a sense of ownership among community members and leads to more effective and sustainable solutions.

RAISE-FS works in close collaboration with farming households, researchers, and policymakers. By creating spaces for inclusive interactions, the gap between scientific knowledge and local practices is bridged, ensuring that interventions are relevant, and culturally appropriate.



Increased productivity and production



RAISE-FS demonstrated practices that improve local availability of improved seeds, increase productivity and land use efficiency, and optimize the utilization of fertilizers, both from locally available organic sources and synthetic fertilizer, and incorporating Integrated Pest Management (IPM). In food insecure areas the increase in production and improved diversity of productions (e.g. intercropping) contribute to improved and diversified food availability during food gap months, and provide opportunities for value-addition and market linkage in high potential areas.

Climate resilience

In the face of increasing climate variability, RAISE-FS strengthens resilience to climate variability by promoting drought-resistant crops, water-efficient techniques, crop rotation, intercropping, organic soil amendments, and diversified production. Local food system assessments guide tailored interventions across regions. Its climate-smart agriculture approach boosts productivity, food security, and sustainability while reducing risks like fertilizer emissions. RAISE-FS also supports resource generation, business opportunities, and resilience through capacity building and multi-stakeholder collaboration, enabling communities to better manage risks and adapt to challenges.



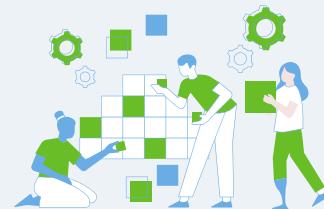
Opportunities for businesses and local economic development



RAISE-FS emphasizes inclusive development by promoting innovations that foster business opportunities, green jobs in rural areas, diversified livelihoods, and poverty reduction. The initiative supports local food systems and economic development through value chains like soybean, carrot and onion seed production, vermicompost, and decentralized seed production for crops like potato and faba bean, benefiting farming households economically and environmentally. Recognizing the lack of resources and representation for women and youth in agricultural transformation, RAISE-FS actively involves these groups by providing training, resources, and platforms to create small businesses and enhance livelihoods, contributing to inclusive agricultural growth.

Strategic evidence-based planning support

RAISE-FS co-developed and applied bottom-up planning tools and GIS supported decision-support tools for evidence-based agricultural development planning such as suitability analysis for exploring growth potential of Ethiopian spices, the use of Innovation Recommendation Mapping for Woreda planning. The practical and proven approach towards efficient, sustainable, resilient and inclusive agricultural development supported by evidence-based planning approaches and decision support tools holds strong potential to spur food systems transformation throughout Ethiopia.



Key publications

Using a food systems approach in practice: The case of lentil innovation in the Oromia Region of Ethiopia



The ABCD[E] of Food Systems Resilience: Framework Testing and Co-creation



Breaking new ground: Testing the ABCD[E] framework for food systems resilience in Ethiopia



Transforming vulnerability into resilience: The role of poultry production in Atsbi and Enderta woredas



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