



Ethiopia Soil Health Consortium Chapter

Launching Workshop September 4, 2013

Addis Ababa

Project Title

Operationalization of The Ethiopia Soil Health Consortium for Effective Management and Dissemination of Integrated Soil Fertility Management Technologies

Background

Agriculture in Ethiopia is the core driver for economic growth and long-term food security

Cognizant to this fact it has long been a priority and focus of national policy (ADLI, PASDEP)

15 to 17 percent of the Government of Ethiopia's (GOE) expenditures are committed to the agricultural sector

Over 8,500 FTC have established

63,000 trained DAs have (2002-2008)

Inputs (Seed & fertilizer) have significantly increased

Ethiopia's agricultural sector has witnessed consistent growth since 2003:

Eminent Livelihood improvements

However, the sector continues to face a set of constraints that restrict further and accelerated growth

Population growth and agricultural production are not growing at *par*, thus placing the country among the food insecure countries in Africa

Background ... cont'd

It is believed by many researchers that the Ethiopian soil resources are inherently fertile

However, through inappropriate agricultural practices and natural Processes Ethiopian soils like in other SSA countries:

Are constrained by a range of factors such as waterlogging, acidity and alkalinity, poor soil fertility

The arable soils are amongst the oldest in Africa and are highly degraded and eroded by a combination of water and wind erosion of the topsoil, as well as by nutrient depletion occurring through entire crop removals.

It is estimated that over 70% of the highland agricultural soils of Ethiopia are deficient in nitrogen, phosphorus and other key nutrients.

The national study for macro-nutrient levels showed balance of -41 kg N, -6 kg P and -26 kg K ha⁻¹ in cultivated highland areas (Stoorvogel and Smaling, 1990).

Despite the escalating costs, the country has been using **DAP and Urea** on the basis of blanket rates 100 kg/ha each of DAP and urea. Current fertilizer use is less than 10 kg/ha


Integrated Soil Fertility Management

‘A set of soil fertility management practices that necessarily include the use of fertilizer, organic inputs, and improved germplasm combined with the knowledge on how to adapt these practices to local conditions, aiming at optimizing agronomic use efficiency of the applied nutrients and improving crop productivity.

All inputs need to be managed following sound agronomic and economic principles.’

Challenges, which have limited the impacts of the past efforts to promote ISFM technologies are:

- ISFM technologies generation and/or adaptation in Ethiopia were not done in a centrally coordinated and prioritized. Results were not also properly communicated;
- Duplication of efforts in technology generation/adaptation, (development of rhizobium inocula)
- Quite a lot of relevant ISFM technologies have remained undocumented for several years;
- Few ISFM technologies that have reached the farmers often lack clear information on how farmers can adapt them to their local conditions;
- Poor linkages and communication between different stakeholders in ISFM technology dissemination leading to conflicting messages;
- Limited dissemination of available proven ISFM technologies



**The need for
joint and
collaborative
efforts**

- Advocacy for holistic approaches
- The current definition of ISFM
- Input delivery and access for output markets
- The need to avoid duplicated efforts
- The need to network at global, regional and country level

All these calls for strong joint and collaborative efforts to avert the soil fertility declining processes while increasing yields



**Expected
Impacts**

Establish a National Soil Health Consortium where various stakeholders beyond the Ministry of Agriculture can harmonize ISFM approaches, create information that is accessible and build communication products.

The implementation of this project will facilitate efficient and harmonized soil fertility technologies dissemination and hence enable raising production and productivity of smallholder farmers in Ethiopia

Strategy Proposed to Solve the Problem

Promising opportunities to address the challenges on ISFM technologies accessibility

- ❑ The Ethiopian Government is highly committed:
 - ✓ Enabling agricultural policies and strategies in general and soil fertility management in particular
 - ✓ Increase agricultural inputs at all level
 - ✓ Soil fertility steering committee (the only) tasked with monitoring relevant soil fertility issues
- ❑ The presence of supportive initiatives (ATA, AGP, AGRA, SG2000, CASCAPE)
- ❑ Increased awareness of farmers through FTCs, DAs
- ❑ Increased partnership of the private sector
- ❑ Increased capacity of the extension system at federal and regional level

Strategic Partnerships

National partners

- MoA (Soil fertility case team, SLM program, NSTC, AGRA-supported MoA project and SLMP II)
- EIAR and RARIs
- CASCAPE
- N2 Africa
- Private sectors (for e.g. Mengesha PLC)
- Land and Water Resource Institute
- Higher Learning Institutes (Haramaya, Addis Ababa and Hawassa University)
- TECHNO SERVE
- ISD (Inst. for Sustainable Development, Ethiopia)
- SG 2000

International partners

- AGRA
- IPNI
- ICRAF
- CIMMYT
- ASHC (Africa Soil Health Consortium)
- CIAT-TSBP

Source: ATA Soil Fertility Team

Goals and objectives

The over all
Goal of the
project:

To enhance the accessibility and dissemination of ISFM technologies for soil health management in Ethiopia

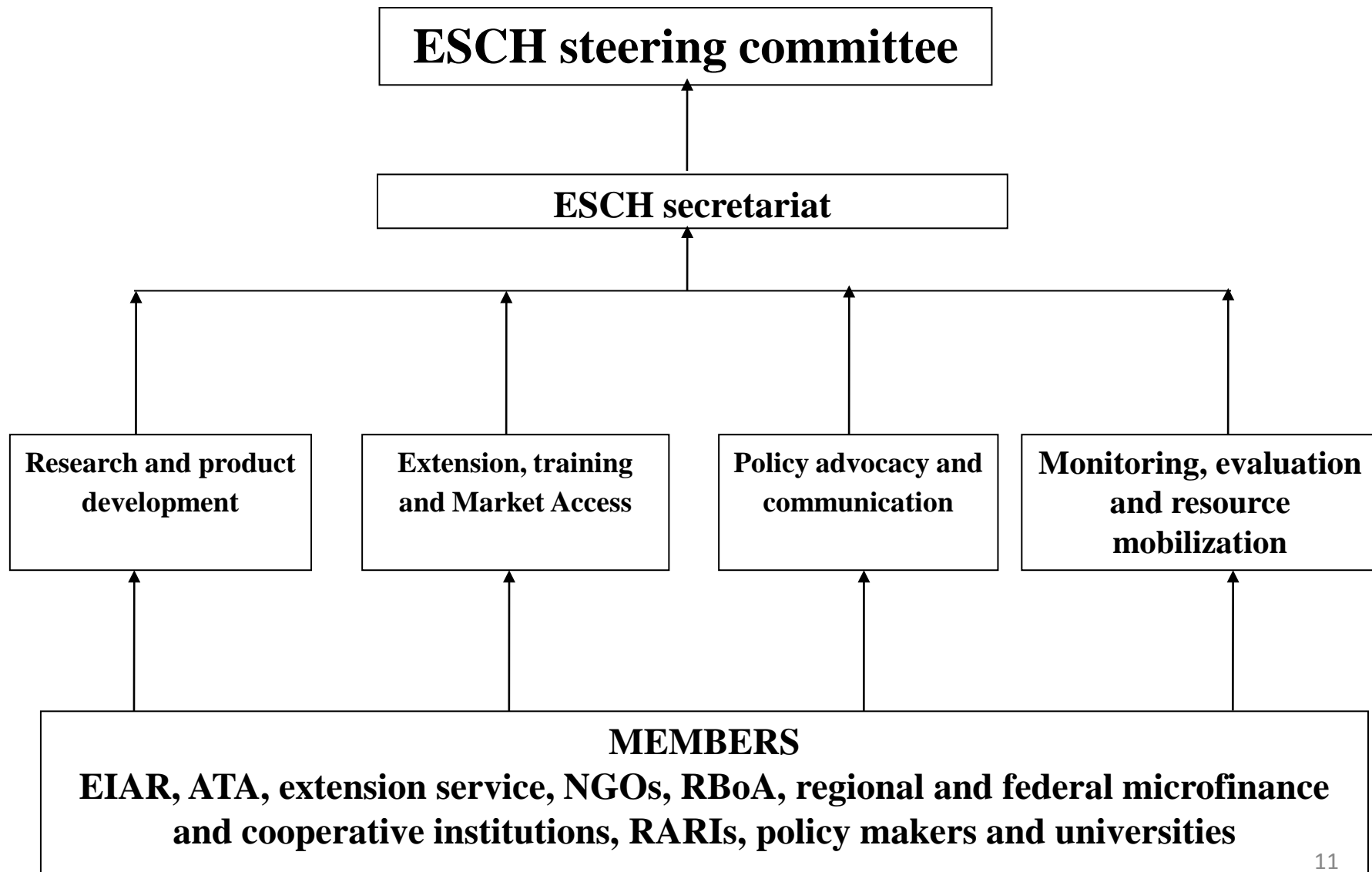
The overall
Objective of
the project:

To collect soil health **K**nowledge, **I**nformation, **T**echnology and **I**nnovative (KITI) and establish one stop repository of soil health KITI

Specific objectives and activities

Specific Objective	Activities
1). Improved access to ISFM information to key stakeholders in Ethiopia Activities	Organization of workshops for consortium stakeholders to discuss, share and synthesize ISFM information in Ethiopia.
	Collection ,evaluation and organization of available information on ISFM technologies
2) Enhanced capacity in harmonizing and consolidating ISFM innovations in Ethiopia	Training of key stakeholders on ISFM technology analysis and sharing
	Development of national ISFM technologies data-base
	Arrangement of ISFM technology write-shop platform
3) Enhanced dissemination of ISFM innovations by developing knowledge products in Ethiopia	Develop ISFM knowledge products (manuals, posters, leaflets etc.)
	Prepared radio programs on ISFM
	Website development and release of updated information on ISFM technologies
	Publish and distribute ISFM technologies through periodicals and newsletters.
	Publishing of best bet ISFM technologies under local and international journals and/or proceedings.

Operationalization of a Soil Health Consortium and Working Groups



Result Framework Diagram

Beneficiary Analysis Including Gender and Poverty Analysis

The main target beneficiaries are smallholder farmers who will have improved access to consolidated ISFM information, leading to improved crop productivity.

The project will develop products that address ISFM information needs of male and female farmers, which will ensure that at least 40% of the beneficiaries are women farmers

The direct beneficiaries from the project will be various actors along the agricultural value chain who will better access to information to enhance their capacity to disseminate ISFM activities, and leverage with related initiatives

Risks and Assumptions

Poor project coordination
Delay in release of financial resources

Linkages
(integration,
synergies, etc.) to
Closely Related
Programs

Partners: MoA, NSTC, EIAR, HLI, AGRA, IPNI,
Coordinator – 35% of his time
Office manager – 35% of his/her time
M and E expert - 35 % of her/his time

Others Contributing
to the Project

The government and institution supports the
project (infrastructure, salaries of experts)

Exit Strategy

- ❑ Create a sense of ownership during the implementation Process
- ❑ Stakeholders are public institution (EIAR/RARIs, MoA/RBoAs, NSTC/RSTLs, HLI)
- ❑ It is expected that by the end of the project the ESHC will be well established with a functional team to write proposals to various donors for the continuity of the consortium