# Feed the Future: Innovation Lab for Integrated Pest Management Trip Report

**Country Visited:** Ethiopia

**Dates of Travel:** 14-21 April 2017

**Travelers' Names and Affiliations:** Menale Kassie, icipe

**Purpose of Trip:** To visit the five Integrated Pest Management demonstration sites

**Sites Visited:** Ada'a, Menjar, Shenkora, Hawassa

I visited six push pull farmers in the two villages (Jara Gelelecha and Dorebafano). After visiting the individual plots, I had FDG with 13 farmers (11 women + 2 women). My overall impression was that the demos are established well and farmers show an interest to expanding beyond the demos, which is a good sign of sustainability and ownership. One thing that caught my eye is fencing of PPT demos at their own cost. Fencing cost them in the range of ETB 400-500. This shows how much they are interested in the technology. Right now, the cereal green plot is the only one in the village where they can see push pull demos.

**Framers perception/witness on technology**

- Increase milk production (4-6 liter from 2 liter per day)
- Increase maize grain weight
- Minimize stemborer damage
- Reduce their livestock production cost by reducing their purchase of oil cakes (ETB 250-320 per 100kg) as livestock feed
- Increase livestock weight. One farmer mentioned to me, he bought a bull with ETB 3000 and sold it with ETB 8000 after feeding desmodium.
- Change in livestock color (in a positive way). I heard same story in Tolay areas

**Opportunities for PPT**

- Farmers do not practice rotation
- Farmers give more weight to livestock than haricot beans being intercropped with maize
- Severe shortage of fodder sources
- Have more livestock (for instance, 3 cow and 2 oxen per household)
- No private grazing land and limited communal grazing land which is available after crop harvest
- Stemborer mentioned as one of important problem for maize production

- Farm land shortage (0.5-1 ha per household), a need to produce more on small piece of land
- Demand outside demo farmers

**Challenges**

- Free grazing system. This is a potential problem that could impede the expansion of PPT
    - Strategy to minimize this problem:
        - Promote PPT at community level (watershed approach)
        - Encourage neighbors to come together and use the technology
- Management of plots: though many of the PPT plots are good, I observed variation on management of plots. Framers are also in agreement that some plots were not managed well. More training and follow up is needed.
    - Strategy to improve this
        - ToT/extension farmers (both theoretical and practical training): we need to quickly train champion farmers to assist on this as Bayu alone cannot manage, supervise and follow up with all farmers. For instance, one of the farmers, Yohannis, can be a good candidate for this. His PPT plot is excellent! If we engage farmers I am 100% sure we can reach more than a thousand people in a short period.
        - Government extension workers: assign them to manage and follow up with some farmers. However, they need some incentive. I am sure this is doable. We can discuss how to implement this.
        - Bring neighbors, those who have adjusted plots. This will create peer pressure and also they can help each other at the beginning. If one manages his plot well, others will also do it same way because of peer pressure.

**Women**: In the two villages, female headed households constitute make up 10% of households. During the meeting, I only met two women. I am also told by farmers that new women will participate in the upcoming cropping season. This is good, but to increase women's participation, we should also try to engage women within male headed households. This is VERY important as women participate in the weeding. If they do not take training along with their husband, there is a possibility to weed out desmodium, especially in the first year. In addition, we need this to meet donor requirement.

**Other observation:**

- It seems demsoium performs well in a plot with good moisture. Two farmers' plots (Yohannis and Matthews) perform well and they are green. Yohannis's plot is close to the lake and Matthews's plot is flat). There are other green plots here and there, but they suffered from heat.
- Plot size is great (25X25)-it increases feasibility as well as allowing farmers to realize the benefit
- **Location of demos**: all of them are accessible **BUT** whenever possible, let's have more demos around schoosl, churches, and roadsides like Amos's plot.