

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

**Country(s) Visited:** Ethiopia

**Dates of Travel:** 2-7 November 2016

**Travelers' Names and Affiliations:** Dr. Paddy Likhayo

Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization(KALRO)

**Purpose of Trip:** Annual review and planning meeting for second year activities

**Sites Visited:** Dore Bafeno & Jara Gelelicha villages

## Description of Activities/Observations:



A progress presentation was given on promotion of push-pull technology for the control of stem borers in Nakuru region in Kenya and chaired the afternoon session of the first day of the review meeting.

Among the challenges encountered in Kenya was poor establishment of the demos occasioned by drought due to late planting. The project coordinator organized for a field visit on Saturday 5th November 2016 to familiarize with establishment of *Bracharia*.

Two demo fields in Hawassa for the control of stem borers in maize crop were visited. The host farmers were Paulose Ledamo (Dore Bafeno) and Shakure Kitesse (Jara Gelelicha village). The demos were well established with distinct differences in expected yield. The farmers said milk production had increased when the animals were fed on demo fodder.

## Suggestions, Recommendations, and/or Follow-up Items:

The project focus is well planned for pest control and animal fodder. It also recognizes the important role of farmers' cultural practices play in agriculture. However, there was no

presentation on maximum residue levels and/or food safety. For ease of understanding the presentations, it was recommended that a map of country indicating project working areas and number of groups participating in the demos be included in future presentations.

Whereas the push crop (*Desmodium* - green leaf) was used in both Ethiopia and Kenya, the pull grass was different. *Bracharia* grass was used in Ethiopia and napier in Kenya which, depending on establishment, might affect the effectiveness of the demos. It is suggested that one pull crop be selected for use in the three countries in the future seasons. The envisaged challenge is the cost and availability of both *Bracharia* and *Desmodium*. The two seeds are expensive (costs USD 51/kg) and not readily available. Moving forward, a follow up on ICIPE partnership with two seed companies (SeedCo and Kenya Seed) to produce these seeds is required. Further, it was recommended that each country conduct stem borer damage assessment to update the information already available for the wider audience.

Whereas USAid focuses on gender equity, all the five PhD students were male. It was suggested that this be corrected in future student engagement. The students' projects had different sections of which the most important is the materials and methods. This did not come out clearly during the presentations and pegs attention in future. It was recommended that students use data generated from their projects to produce fact sheets for farmers' use.

It was clarified that farmers hosting the demos were not adopters but once they expand the area of demonstration then they become adopters. Further, the push-pull technology is multi-purpose, however, the layout of the field deviates from common farmer practices. Consequently, the cost of the technology is high because weed control is very intensive. While this may be perceived as a disincentive, it was suggested that control of the stem borers without use of insecticide; contribution of *Desmodium* to soil fertility and; use of both *Desmodium* and *Bracharia* as quality fodder would motivate the adoption of the technology by farmers.

To standardize data collection, it was suggested that Prof. Tadele share a template for pest recording and data analysis procedures. All project partners were in agreement that the performance indicator targets were achievable but be broken down per participating country.

### List of Contacts Made:

Name	Title/Organization	Contact Info (address, phone, email)
Dr. Eshet Derso	Director, Crops Research/EIAR	
Mr. Ibrahim Hasim	PhD Scholar/Tanzania	
Mr. Bonventure January	PhD Scholar/Tanzania	
Mr. Terekegn Fite	PhD Scholar/Ethiopia	
Mr. Gezeahegn Getaneh	PhD Scholar/Ethiopia	