

Report of partners' planning meeting and village entry – April 2015

Background

A stakeholders' consultation workshop was organised by ILRI in October 2014 to identify key issues and opportunities for irrigated fodder in Northern Ghana. Based on the findings, a work plan was developed for the implementation and assessment of small scale irrigation technologies for irrigated fodder alongside vegetable production led by IWMI. A field visit was undertaken in February 2015 to identify the most promising sites to pilot small scale irrigation technologies with fodder to enhance food security and livelihoods of smallholder farmers.

The aim of the partners' planning workshop was to bring project partners together to gain a common understanding of the project deliverables and to clarify roles and responsibilities of each partner under a joint work plan. Another objective of the workshop was to provide a platform to agree on the stakeholder consultation process and household selection protocol for the next step in the project.

Update

The workshop started with presentations from IWMI, University of Development Studies (UDS) and ILRI. IWMI presented an overview of the proposed specific site interventions. ILRI's presentation centred on the work plans for the irrigated fodder and the report of irrigated fodder in Ethiopia with successes and challenges, in order to understand what is ahead.

Based on consultation with the Municipal Director of Agriculture (MDA) and the District Chief Executive (DCE) for the Savelugu/Nanton Municipality, one of the selected sites was changed. They explained that almost all the area may soon be taken over to be part of the Tamale International Airport. Moreover, no irrigation farming is on-going at Duko at present due to low level of the water-table and unless deep boreholes are sunk in Duko, there cannot be any meaningful irrigation there. Both the MDA and the DCE suggested alternative possible sites. We took a trip to one of the suggested sites and selected Bihinaayili, which was just 7 km from the previous site Duko. The site had all needed potentials (Figure 1 and 2).

As the rainy season is approaching, the fodder production project will be conducted during the cropping season (as rainfed) and in the dry season (as irrigated) in both Bihinaayili and Zanlerigu.

Specific site interventions

The interventions for Bihinaayili and Zanlerigu are as follows:

- Watering can + Irrigation scheduling tool
- Watering can without irrigation scheduling tool (control)
- Overhead irrigation with tank and hose + irrigation scheduling tool
- Overhead irrigation with tank and hose without irrigation scheduling tool (control)

There will be sixteen farmers altogether, 4 farmers for each practice, divided into intervention farmers and control farmers. Farmers in the overhead irrigation group will be provided with 2 pumps on loan, one for each group of 4 farmers. Water tanks will be provided free of charge.

Two (2) watering cans will be provided to each of the farmers free of charge in the control group. Farmers from both Bihinaayili and Zanlerigu were willing to participate in the fodder production. Some requested that they should be allowed to cultivate the fodder and to be assessed even if they were not chosen for the experiment.

Eight (8) farmers will be involved in the rainfed fodder production, two (2) for each intervention group. However, for the irrigated fodder production, four farmers will be involved with two (2) each from the watering can without irrigation scheduling tool and overhead irrigation with tank and hose without irrigation scheduling tool. *Chloris gayana* (forage grass) and *Lablab purpureus* (forage legumes) will be cultivated by the selected farmers and *Cajanus cajan* as hedges around arable crop farms/irrigated plots.

Famers' selection

Farmer Selection - Bihinaayili, Savelugu/Nanton Municipality, Northern Region.

The table below gives the farmers selected for the intervention in Bihinaayili. Forty-three (43) farmers, 23 women and 20 men, attended the meeting. Selection was done by the farmers themselves based on the criteria given by IWMI and ILRI and with emphasis on their willingness to accept technology and the conditions that go with it as well as their ability to take responsibilities.

List of farmers selected for the intervention Bihinaayili (tanks, pumps and hose)

	Name	Sex	Contact	House ID
1	Yakubu Abdulai	Male	0541123810	Tuzeena yili
2	Alhassan Awal	Male	0542998441	Yipelna yili
3	Issah Osofo	Male	0541516833	Guruma yili
4	Abdulai Alhassan	Male	0247697985	Alhassan yili
5	Fati Tuahiru	Female	0543805019	Botingna yili
6	Martha Tuahiru	Female	-	Yipelsina yili
7	Zenabu Seidu	Female	0207470148	Nashina yili
8	Alhassan Zilfawa	Female	0242302861	Alhassan yili

List of farmers selected for the intervention Bihinaayili as control (2 groups)

	Name	Sex	Contact	House ID
1	Yakubu Salifu	Male	0243026729	Gundana yili
2	Nashiru Yakubu	Male	0246872659	Gundana yili
3	Adam Alhassan	Male	0240722828	Yilikpandan yili
4	Abdulai Abdulai	Male	0240472040	Abdulai yili
5	Salima Sofo	Female	0207149028	Guruma yili
6	Barikisu Yakubu	Female	0541123810	Tuzeena yili
7	Abdulai Fatima	Female	0246927017	Abdulai yili
8	Mariama Ibrahim	Female	024583080	Baji yili

Remark: In Bihinaayili, farmers will be selected during the training and plot establishment

Farmer Selection - Zanlerigu, Nabdam District, Upper East Region

Farmers were selected based on the criteria given by IWMI and ILRI with emphasis on their willingness to accept technology and the conditions that go with it as well as their ability to take responsibilities, as indicated earlier. Selection for each of the intervention was done by the farmers themselves. Two areas (within the same watershed) were considered in the Zanlerigu community. The areas hereafter will be called Sub-site 'A' and Sub-site 'B'. About one hundred (100) farmers (54 women and 46 men) were at Sub-site A and 90 farmers (60 women and 30 men) at Sub-site B.

Dry Season Irrigation for Vegetable (Onion) Production					
Sub-Site A			Sub-Site B		
	Name	Sex		Name	Sex
1	Timbil Babon	Male	1	Batogma Gana	Male
2	Kparib Baah	Male	2	Kundoo Bakuna (0242277093)	Male
3	Tiedou Dolinaab	Male	3	Permah Dok	Male
4	Moab Babon	Male	4	Dogroogo Nagbire	Male
5	Lahadi Korug	Female	5	Kologpoka Dok	Female
6	Nahumani Saah	Female	6	Yen Deboot	Female
7	Pogyabil Ndaan	Female	7	Saksinog Bugre	Female
8	Tegpong Baah	Female	8	Nigi Yamga	Female
Rainfed fodder Production (to start during the coming rainy season)					
Sub-Site A			Sub-Site B		
1	Nyaabila Modoug	Male	1	Paul Pusommalug (0247658752)	Male
2	Poati Segbe	Male	2	Tii Bire (0247134698)	Male
3	Andrews Sampana	Male	3	Krubire Nabil	Male
4	Yaagre John	Male	4	Namoah Bolsong	Male
5	Ateni Boubil	Female	5	Bagne Yintoma	Female
6	Bugre Linda	Female	6	Loyaa Kunteng	Female
7	Christy Yen	Female	7	Lahari Devom	Female
8	Pogyabil Baah	Female	8	Beeriko Kologbire	Female
9	Kolgma Yeeb*	Female			
10	Efia Sampana* (Naabani House)	Female			

**Women who expressed great interest to be part of the rain-fed fodder production even after the four women needed for the site had been selected.*

Remark: The people of Zanlerigu understood gender roles and were mainstreaming gender. Women had lands for cultivation and were actually engaged in irrigation farming and were also involved in decision making; a rare case in most parts of Ghana.

Follow-up

- ✓ FEAST in both sites completed.
- ✓ Rainfed fodder production will start in May 2015.
- ✓ Seed procurement is ongoing.
- ✓ Training of farmers on fodder cultivation, plot mapping and planting will commence in May 2015



Figure 1: Irrigation plots at Bihinaayili



Figure 2: Farmer harvest natural fodder in Bihinaayili