

**BEST PRACTICES BY
SMALLHOLDER FARMERS IN
ETHIOPIA**

BOOK TWO

DEVELOPED BY

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FOREWORD

This publication is the second edition on the “stories of change at the grass-root” brought about through the contribution of different actors, mostly farmers. These stories are about unique grass-roots experiences, which could be construed as “best practices”. These beyond any reasonable doubt demonstrate the innovative capacity of Ethiopian farmers and should be widely shared to inspire other men, women and youth farmers. Research and Development (R & D) organizations can also make use of the information in formulating agricultural development strategies and policies required to ensure sustainable development.

Proponents of environmentally and socially sustainable agricultural development recognize the indispensable role and contribution of the smallholder farmers and their time-tested and extremely rich indigenous farm practices. As supporter and promoter of sustainable agricultural development, the Best Practice Association is of firm belief that if properly synthesized, packaged and disseminated such knowledge could go a long way to spur the country’s economic development even in this modern and globalized world. Among the wide array of existing best practices that can be cited, this publication has covered some of the integrated farming farmers are implementing to escape out of poverty and their daring move towards investment, the awe inspiring sustainable land management practices of the Konso people, the efforts farmers make to engage in research in their own way individually and/or in collaboration with scientists e.g. chick sex identification, biogas and bio-fertilizers.

The new and complex challenges presented by climate change require wide-scale dissemination of technologies and mitigation/coping methods that work best for the farming community, which suffers the brunt of the negative impacts of this phenomenon. Such measures need to be brought to the attention of agricultural specialists, researchers, academicians, policymakers and

other stakeholders in and outside the country to help them develop a very good understanding of issues involved and be in a better position to support promotion of effective interventions including farmers' innovations. Hence, this publication can be considered timely and fitting as it highlights the second batch of locally available and successful practices in the smallholder farming system with the aim of sharing more broadly with the wider public and motivate stakeholders to support the noble cause of bringing to light indigenous knowledge and innovation. The compilation, synthesis and printing of this publication was made possible with the generous support of the Church of Sweden.

Fassil Reda

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ABBREVIATIONS

BPA	Best Practice Association
DA	Development Agent
DASSC	Development and Social Services Commission
EECMY	Ethiopian Evangelical Church of Mekane Yesus
EIAR	Ethiopian Institute of Agriculture Research
FTC	Farmer Training Center
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GFAR	Global Forum on Agricultural Research
GTP	Growth and Transformation Plan
ISD	Institute for Sustainable Development
ISWC	Indigenous Soil and Water Conservation
NBPE	National Biogas Program Ethiopia
PE	Prolinnova-Ethiopia
PID	Participatory Innovation Development
Prolinnova	Promoting Local Innovation
SCI/SRI	System of Crop/Rice Intensification
SNNP	Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples
SSNC	Swedish Society for Nature Conservation
TPLF	Tigray Peoples' Liberation Front