ABSTRACT #5

A "mother-baby" Participatory Technology Selection Approach: Push-Pull Technology's Impact on Cash Crops and Food Security

In Ethiopia's Amhara region, Push-Pull Technology (PPT) successfully combats Striga weed and stemborer pests in farming. PPT employs trap crops around sorghum and maize fields to capture pests, preventing their reproduction. Sorghum yields have surged by up to 60%, showcasing PPT's potential to enhance production, address food security and offer an alternative to conventional pesticides. Adopting PPT is important for cash crops, demonstrating its effectiveness against various pests and its role in diversifying crops for smallholder farmers, reducing the risk of failures, and enhancing food security.

Three trial sites in Shewarobit, Qewot, and Dawachefa weredas follow a "mother-baby" Participatory Technology Selection (PTS) approach. Objectives include identifying best practices for PPT in legume intercropping, determining effective push-pull compositions for diverse crops, developing accessible PPT systems for smallholder farmers, assessing economic and environmental benefits, and promoting PPT through extension and training programs.

ISD, the UPSCALE project partner, conducts research in all areas, and it is currently in the flowering stage. "Mother" trials are at Farmers' Training Centers (FTC), with participating farmers visiting twice to give feedback on implemented technologies. The UPSCALE project is progressing in evaluating and promoting PPT for vegetable and legume production in Ethiopia.

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Flowering stage of Mother research plot in Bedeno Kebele CC UPSCALE project 2023