

ECHO East Africa Highlands Symposium:  
at ILRI - Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
November 1 – 3, 2016.

Presentation by  
Aklilu Dogisso Abbu,  
Country Director,  
Send a Cow Ethiopia.

# Theme

The contribution of ***Backyard Farming*** and ***Improved Family Relationship*** in increasing productivity of the smallholder highland farming system to reduce poverty, hunger and physical hardship : the case of DeFAR (Developing Farmers Toward Food and Income Security) project; Send a Cow Ethiopia.

# I. Improved backyard farming

## 1.1. New ideas introduced through

- Resource inventory
- Trainings
- Experience sharing
- New technologies
- Family dialogues

## 1.2. Crop diversification

- New crop varieties
- Intercropping
- agroforestry

# I. Improved backyard farming (cont.)

## 1.3. Soil fertility improvement

- Composting
- Crop rotations
- Erosion controlling
- Mulching
- Forage growing

## 1.4. Water for small irrigation

- Run-off collection
- Roof top collection
- Shallow wells digging

# I. Improved backyard farming (cont.)

## 1.5. Fruits and vegetables gardening

- Apple, avocados, mangoes
- Cabbages, carrots, beet roots, tomatoes, swisschard
- Spices
- Medicinal plants











## Women practice backyard farming and benefit from saving and credit





## II. Improved family relationship (gender equality)

### 2.1. Caring and sharing

- Equally valuing each member of the family
- Supporting each other
- Sharing work loads (including household chores)
- Sharing meals

### 2.2. Family decision making on

- Land management
- Sales of farm produce and animals
- Children education
- Financial controls

## II. Improved family relationship (cont.)

### 2.3. Women confidence and self-esteem improvement

- Speaking in public
- Chairing meeting
- Generating ideas
- Challenging male dominance
- Defending their rights

### 2.4. Women become leaders

- Husbands' support to wives
- Group leadership
- Community leadership





## II. Improved family relationship (cont.)

### 2.5. Food diversification

- Farm produces
- Market purchases

### 2.6. Nutrition improvements

- Carbohydrates
- Proteins
- Vitamins
- Minerals



## II. Improved family relationship (cont.)

### 2.7. family health improvement

- Personal hygiene
- Environmental hygiene
- Medical treatments

### 2.8. Children education

- Boys and girls equal opportunity
- Support for good education

## II. Improved family relationship (cont.)





## III. Reduced poverty, hunger and physical hardship

### 3.1. Improved income

- Farm activities income
- Non-farm activities income

### 3.2. Saving and credits

- Individual savings
- Group savings
- Group loans

## III. Reduced poverty, hunger and physical hardship (cont.)

### 3.3. Asset creation

- Livestock
- Housing
- Household items
- Mobility facilities

### 3.4. Investments

- Land leasing
- Water pumps
- Improved seeds





# III. Reduced poverty, hunger and physical hardship (cont.)

## 3.5. Resilience to climate change shocks

- Improved saving
- Stored food
- Assets
- Purchasing power

## 3.6. Community actions

- Soil & water conservation works
- Tree planting
- Road building
- Bridge building
- Improved social activities (housing, sharing food, ....)

## IV. Facts and figures

### 4.1. Baseline vs achievements

S/N	Indicators	Baseline July 2012	Achievements June 2015
1	No of hunger months per year	6	1.8
2	% of target HHs regularly adopting at least 5 SOA practices to SAC standard	0% (0/1,600)	80.3% (1,220/1,519)
3	% of target HHs producing vegetables for consumption	17% (272/1,600)	97% (1,473/1,519)
4	No of a) farm b) non-farm income generating activities per HH	a) 1.58 b) 0.57	a) 6.8 b) 1.8
5	% of target HHs with income from diversified sources	15% (240/1,600)	86.4% (1,312/1,519)

## IV. Facts and figures (cont.)

### 4.1. Baseline vs achievements (cont.)

S/N	Indicators	Baseline July 2012	Achievements June 2015
6	% of target HHs with access to saving & credit	5% (80/1,600)	79.3% (1,204/1,519)
7	Average annual HH income	ETB 1,434	ETB 11,477
8	% of target women involved in decision making over selling of livestock	20% (320/1,600)	91.4% (1,388/1,519)
9	No of target women elected a) as group chairperson b) group and community leaders	a) 0 b) 14	a) 54 b) 291
Source : SAC baseline and impact survey (July 2012/June 2015)			



## IV. Facts and figures (cont.)

### 4.2. Case studies and stories

- “Do not call me the poorest of the poor any more, I now know how to take myself out of poverty” – Smallholder farmer Kindo Chinasho, in Damot Sore district, Wolayta Zone, SNNPR.



- “It is not the size of your land that matters, rather it is how you manage your land that matters” – Smallholder farmer Amsalu Haile, in Bonke district, Gamo Goffa Zone, SNNPR.



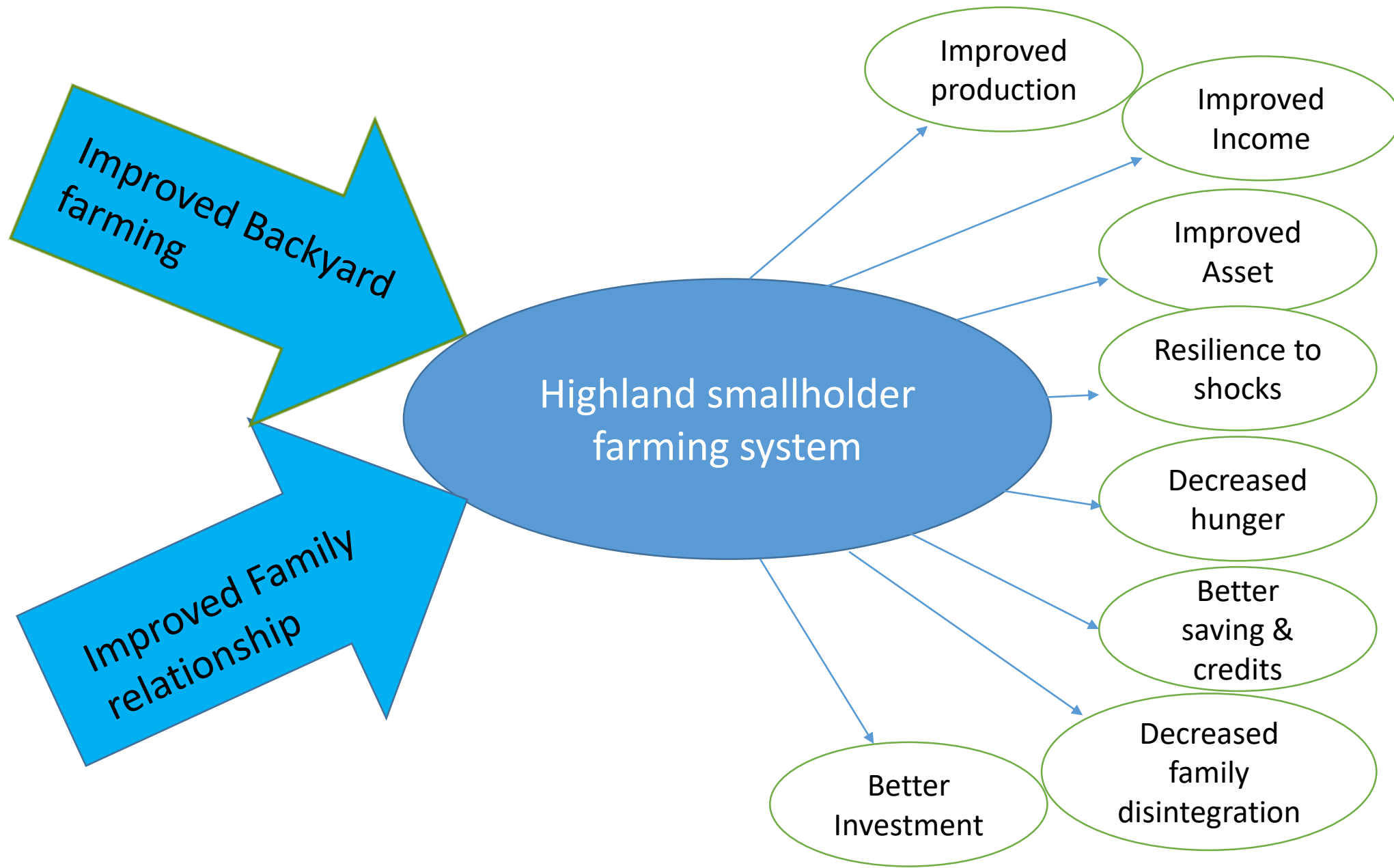
## V. Lessons learned

### 5.1. Mind-set change is crucial to change lives of smallholder farmers

- Value own resources
- Fight dependency syndromes
- Hard work is indispensable
- Little savings make huge differences

### 5.2. It is not “Either Or”, it is “Both” to increase productivity of smallholder highland farming system:

- Backyard farming
- Good family relationship





THANK YOU !