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ETHIOPIA

SNAPSHOT

Training Helps Ethiopian Farmer Save Livestock

Agribusiness leader gains skills and connections to succeed



Photo by Fintrac Inc.

USAID-CIAFS training, G/Hiwot Abraha says, has helped him to forge connections he never would have dreamed of.

“The investigation will help not only my business but also smallholder farmers... who are losing considerable pigs every year.”

- G/Hiwot Abraha

Telling Our Story
U.S. Agency for International Development
Washington, DC 20523-1000
<http://stories.usaid.gov>

Geberhiwot Abraha, 26, understands the power of connections. Without them, he could have lost his swine farm and his livelihood. Thanks to the connections he made through the Capacity to Improve Agriculture and Food Security (USAID-CIAFS) program, G/Hiwot is contributing to the well-being of smallholder farmers in his community through improved tracking of veterinary disease.

Although he is upbeat about his business prospects, resources are limited for swine farms. He said, “Once I asked a veterinarian in Bahir Dar, what would I do in case of an outbreak? ‘Pray that there would never be one,’ was his reply.”

In a December 2011 USAID-CIAFS training, G/Hiwot learned how to better take care of his swine farm. The training also helped him forge new connections with the National Animal Health and Diagnostic Center (NAHDIC), the Ministry of Trade, and other businesses that would help him respond to animal health issues. A few days after the training, G/Hiwot bought twenty pigs from a local animal supplier. Within days all twenty pigs died due to a fast spreading disease. However, thanks to information from the training, G/Hiwot knew to keep newly-purchased animals separate from other animals for several days. This information prevented the spread of the infection throughout G/Hiwot’s herd, valued at 3,000,000 Birr (more than \$165,000).

“If it had not been for USAID-CIAFS training, where I learned the need for keeping newly-bought animals in quarantine for some time,” G/Hiwot said, “I would have mixed my newly-bought animals with the rest of the herd, losing my entire livelihood; the idea sends a chill into my spine.” G/Hiwot is both happy to have saved his swine and excited at the prospect of controlling veterinary diseases that affect the incomes of smallholder farmers in and around Humera. He reported the case to NAHDIC professionals, who swiftly collected samples for further investigation.

USAID-CIAFS trainings connect agribusiness professionals, like G/Hiwot, with industry experts to learn about each other’s businesses and services, improve quality of their products and services, and enhance their competitiveness. By connecting private sector agribusiness to public and private sector service providers, USAID-CIAFS is contributing to Feed the Future’s efforts to grow the agriculture sector through enhanced human and institutional capacity development.