



UNIVERSITY OF
HOHENHEIM

Scaling, Adoption and Dissemination of Good Agricultural Practices and Innovations for Food Systems in Africa



Marcus Giese¹, **Maria Oguiche**¹, Katrin Winkler¹, Alejandro Pieters¹, Ferdinand Adu-Baffour¹, Simon Ehjeij¹, Sintayehu Yigrem Mersha², Tesfaye Abebe Amdie³

¹ University of Hohenheim, Institute of Agricultural Sciences in the Tropics (Hans-Ruthenberg-Institute), Germany,

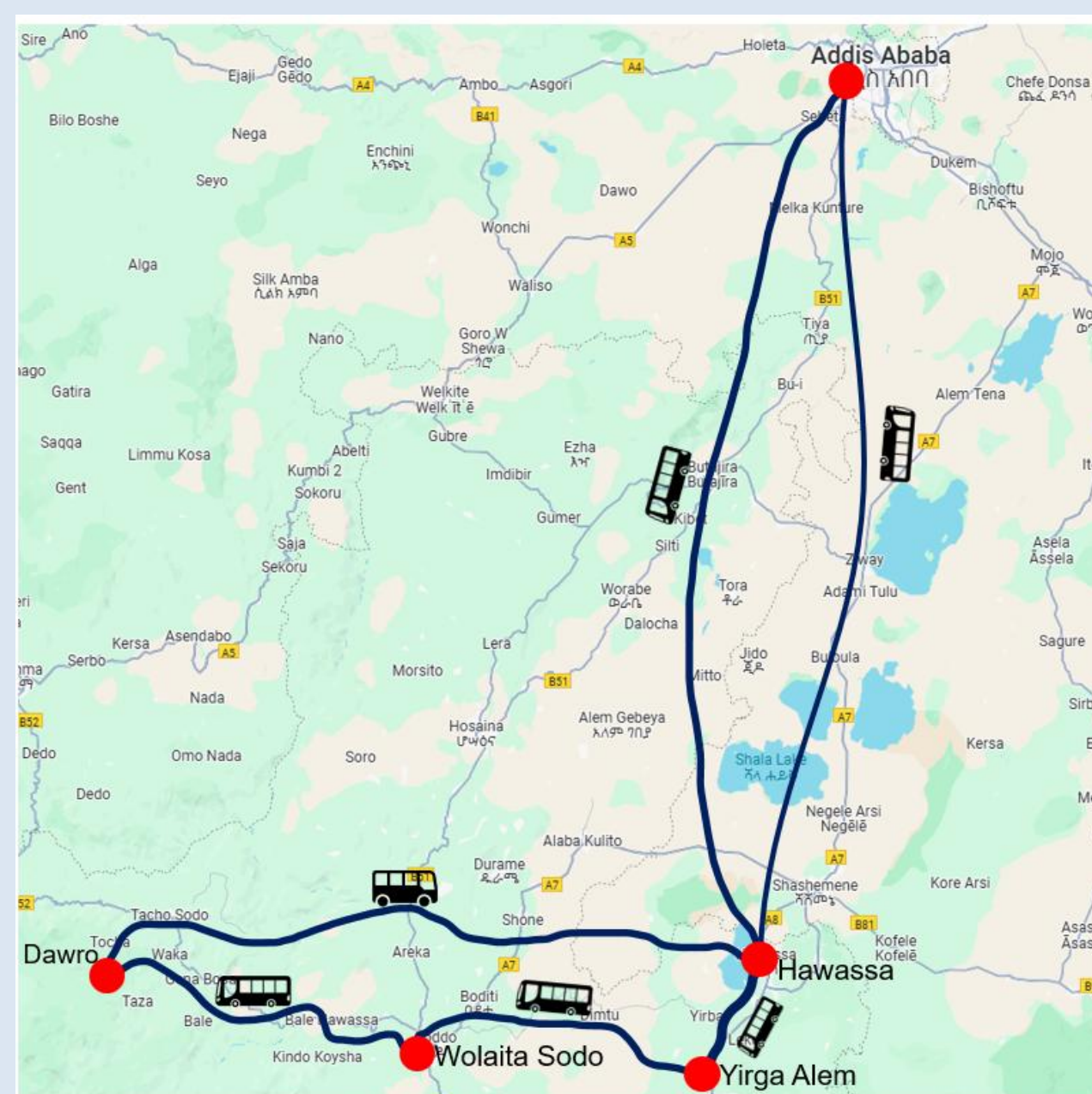
² Hawassa University, School of Animal and Range Sciences, Ethiopia, ³ Hawassa University, School of Plant and Horticultural Sciences, Ethiopia

INTRODUCTION

- One challenge to improve the existing food systems in Africa is acceptance and scaling up **innovation** and **Good Agricultural Practises (GAPs)**.
- The 2025 DAAD Agriculture Alumni Network (AgriAlumni-Net) travelling workshop in Ethiopia focused on **“Scaling, Dissemination and Adoption of Good Agricultural Practices”**.
- The aims were to: (i) identify factors that prevent or promote the spread and acceptance of innovation and GAPs, (ii) explore the current practices in the agricultural sector, and (iii) analyse what this holds for the future of sustainable agricultural transformations in the perspectives of the various stakeholders.

DESIGN AND METHODS

A “travelling workshop” method was applied which included on-site visits of different locations, specialized seminars, and introduction of exchange opportunities and tools for German-African Alumni-Networks.



Workshop activities and field visits highlights

- ❖ **Gullele Botanical Garden / Entoto Park:** Indigenous species restoration, soil fertility, urban greening
- ❖ **Dilla / Wonago:** Agroforestry with fruit, enset, coffee; traditional governance
- ❖ **Yirgalem:** Avocado value chains; traceability & value addition
- ❖ **Wolaita Sodo:** Youth-led poultry enterprises linking to large livestock breeders
- ❖ **Offa District:** Cassava systems for food/feed; processing innovations
- ❖ Engagements with the Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research (EIAR), Areka Research Center, and Hawassa University

Participants



KEY FINDINGS

Local Knowledge as a Foundation

Enhancing the adoption of good conservation practices and improving agricultural performance relies on incorporating local knowledge, empowering traditional governance systems, traditional diversification, and the development of value-added processes.



Conservation–Production Synergies

Integrating biodiversity protection with farming systems enhances sustainability while supporting rural livelihoods.



Key skills & youth empowerment

Transformation requires leading individuals who can develop a business plan and become entrepreneurs, initiating start-ups and followed by enterprises. Key skills are related to entrepreneurship and marketing not so much in farming.



Conditions for Transformation

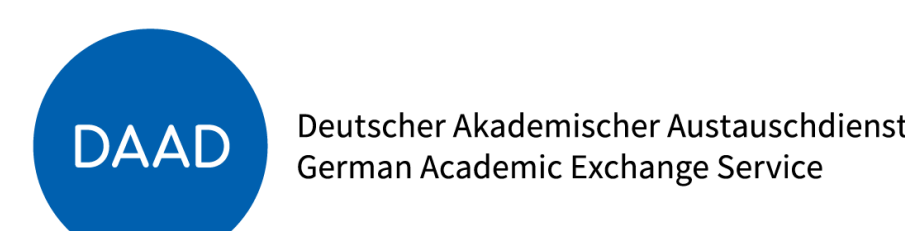
Transforming smallholder farming requires strong market access, improved infrastructure & access to institutional support for individuals. Institutions should support the transformation and ensure sustainability.



SUMMARY AND FUTURE OUTLOOK

- The Ethiopia travelling workshop demonstrated that **scaling Good Agricultural Practices** is most successful when technical innovations are combined with social and institutional engagement.
- Community-led governance** and indigenous knowledge systems are powerful enablers for adoption and long-term sustainability of agricultural practices.
- Youth-driven agribusiness models** can catalyse rural economic growth, especially when linked to established value chain actors and market opportunities.
- Market access and infrastructure remain **critical bottlenecks**; targeted investments in these areas can significantly accelerate uptake of GAPs.
- Alumni networks** offer a unique platform for cross-country exchange, capacity building, and co-development of context-specific solutions in sub-Saharan Africa.
- The workshop outcomes highlight the need for **integrated approaches** that align farmers, communities, research institutions, private enterprises, and policy frameworks in pursuit of sustainable food systems transformation.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



Contact:
agrialumni@uni-hohenheim.de

Hohenheim Tropics
tropen.uni-hohenheim.de

