

Story of Change: Babeye Bantider, HABP Agribusiness Expert

Tach Gayent woreda, Agriculture Office, Amhara, Ethiopia

Babeye Bantider
Photograph by Moges Tekie

The Climate Smart Initiative (CSI) was launched in July 2013, as an adjunct to the existing Government of Ethiopia's Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP) and Household Asset Building Programme (HABP); two of the key mechanisms of the Government to tackle food security issues and related rural livelihoods strengthening.

CSI was designed to pilot approaches that consider climate change within this larger, established context, working within existing Government approaches and cycles. This Story of Change provides an example of how CSI has affected an individual or a household.

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Who is Babeye Bantider?

He is the agribusiness expert working in the HABP unit of the Tach Gayent woreda Office of Agriculture, working there since July 2011. Babeye has been heavily engaged with CSI: being trained by CSI and intensively involved in the Climate Vulnerability and Capacity Analysis (CVCA)¹ fieldwork both times.

What are the climate and environmental problems that Babeye is facing in his woreda?

Farmers are faced with fluctuating temperatures, shifting timings of rainfall (late and early onset), drought, flood hazards, poor soil fertility, hailstorms, frost, forest degradation and crop pests.

Summary:

Babeye Bantider is a strong advocate for CSI, and talks of the positive changes it has brought to his work. His understanding of how hazards are related to climate change has significantly improved due to his intensive engagement with CSI. This has inspired significant changes in how he goes about CSI-HABP planning of livelihood activities: using new tools learnt through CSI engagement, such as risk profiling and risk-aware business planning, leading to improved business planning for pilot enterprises. He is spreading his new learning through his technical support to Development Agents (DAs), but has further ideas on how to disseminate this learning to non-CSI kebeles.

¹ The Climate Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (CVCA) is a tool developed by CARE to analyse the implications of climate change for lives and livelihoods. CSI has carried out two rounds of CVCA within the programme, adapting and amending from one round to the next, and then extracting learning from these processes to produce suggestions for "climate smarting" the annual PSNP planning process.

CSI has been implemented by a consortium of organisations, led by CARE Ethiopia, and including Cornell University, Dadimos, FARM Africa, IDS, IICD, Itad Ltd, Jimma University, MMA Consulting, Mercy Corps, ORDA, REST, and SNV. In late 2015, CSI is closing down; leaving a legacy of learning and insights about "climate smart" and what it means, from the household reality to the highest level of policy making.



Story of Change: Babeye Bantider

Changing understanding of climate change through intensive CSI engagement

Babeye Bantider credits his improved understanding of climate change with his intensive engagement with CSI: 'Before the CVCA exercise, I had no awareness of the various hazards related to the climate change effect. But now, I understand that, drought, rainfall shortage and frost are a result of climate change.' In addition to acting as a focus group facilitator and as a note taker, he participated in report compilation, the screening of pilot activities, as well as in the community validation workshop for CSI pilot activities.

Changing understanding of vulnerability

Babeye shares that: 'Before CVCA training and fieldwork I believed that all community members will be equally affected by climate change hazards. My understanding about vulnerable groups has changed due to CVCA involvement. Women and elder people are more vulnerable to climate change than other community groups due to resource limitations and mobility problems.'

This enhanced understanding of vulnerability ensured that the women's priority activity (water spring development), which emerged in the focus group he facilitated, was incorporated in the CSI-HABP plan for the kebele. Through his advice to DAs, female host farmers have been included in CSI-HABP pilot activities (shoat-fattening and dairy enterprise).

Approaching planning in new ways that consider climate change issues

Babeye explains his changing approach to planning: 'In past years, I have prepared the HABP plan without considering climate change issues. But currently my understanding about climate change concepts and related issues is improving due to the CVCA exercise. CSI/CVCA helped me to consider climate change issues in HABP livelihood activities. Now, before the host farmers engage with the CSI-HABP plan we tell them about the

climate risks identified in their locality and what will be the consequences of hazards if they do not develop or prepare mitigation options during activity planning.'

Introducing new tools to assist climate-aware planning

Babeye further explains the difference between before and after CSI: 'We only focused on the cost-benefit analysis for HABP livelihood activities. But now, as a result of CSI-HABP training I have learnt about cluster profiling and risk-aware business plan preparation for CSI-HABP pilot clusters. Currently, climate change risk and vulnerability are taken into account in the business plans and the possible solutions to mitigate climate risks are also included in CSI-HABP planned activities.'

'After CSI, men-only and women-only focus group discussion meetings are conducted, climate hazards and vulnerable groups for climate risks are identified through CVCA tools, community validation workshops conducted, cluster profiles and risk profiles are considered in the business plan, as are possible solutions to mitigate climate risks, and finally, cost-benefit analysis is also included in the plan.'

Babeye used what he learnt from CSI to develop risk-aware business plans for shoat- and ox-fattening CSI-HABP pilot enterprises in two kebeles.

Identifying success factors and spreading the learning

Babeye attributes the positive change he has achieved to the training and technical support received from CSI and his intensive involvement at various stages of the CVCA process. In turn, he is spreading his learning through his widespread technical support for DAs in risk-aware business planning in CSI kebeles, with ambitions to spread this learning to the other six non-CSI kebeles through training for woreda experts and DAs.

