

Exchange visit: an effective way to learn from practical experiences of organic farmers



When properly managed and wisely used; exchange visits are key for sharing knowledge, experience and good practices. Ecological Organic Agriculture is a knowledge intensive agricultural process in which farmers, extension officers, students and other practitioners can learn from each other as the process is going. Farmer to farmer, farmers to extension agents, farmers to students and vice versa exchanges can help improve the technical and organizational capacities of small producers. It provides opportunities for learning from each other, customise and adopt successful farming practices and techniques.

In November 2020, the Institute for Sustainable Development, Green Flower Foundation and Pesticide Action Nexus-Ethiopia brought together organic vegetable grower farmers, extension agents, organic horticulture students and instructors in a learning exchange to share experiences and practices that can help each parties learn from each other and amplify organic farming. The exchange visit was held in Holeta, Oromia region of Ethiopia.

Trainings on plant protection techniques, pest and disease scouting techniques, and preparation of botanicals and other recipes from locally available materials was given before the field visits – where students are believed to have learned a lot from smallholder organic farmers.

During the field visits, the visitors have got the opportunity to have a one to one discussion with the farmers which was a chance for them to ask detailed questions and learn from them.