

Collaboration on Science for Impact

Newsletter of the Ethiopia-Wageningen UR Collaboration Programme

Issue 2; May 2010

THIS ISSUE

Please find herewith Issue Nr 2 of the Ethiopia-Wageningen UR Newsletter 'Collaboration on Science for Impact'. Most of you will recall that, in the framework of the multi-year collaboration programme on research and capacity development between the Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research, the Universities of Addis Ababa, Jimma, Haramaya, Hawassa and Mekelle and Wageningen University and Research Centre, we issued our first newsletter in November 2009. In the present edition you will find brief paragraphs that bring you up-to-date with developments in the various collaboration activities, including those on oilseeds, climate change, natural resources management and soil fertility, pesticide management, etc.

We like to start, however, with introducing Dr Eyasu Elias (see photo) who, since December 2009 is our Wageningen UR Liaison Officer in Addis Ababa. In this liaison role Dr Eyasu Elias will coordinate and facilitate the project activities that are being implemented under the MoU between the Ethiopian partners of Wageningen UR.

In order to re-acquaint himself with developments in Wageningen, Dr Eyasu, a Wageningen University alumnus, visited the Netherlands from March 8 through 15, 2010. You will find his report of that working visit below.

As this newsletter intends to share news on research collaboration between Wageningen and Ethiopia as widely as possible, readers are encouraged to submit relevant contributions. Readers are encouraged as well to share this newsletter with colleagues in their respective organisations or with partners in other institutes.

For more information, or for contributions, please contact Dr. Eyasu Elias (eyasu.elias@wur.nl or eyuelias@yahoo.com) in Addis Ababa or Wim Andriesse (wim.andriesse@wur.nl) and Lonneke Budel (lonneke.budel@wur.nl) in Wageningen.

INTRODUCTION EYASU ELIAS

In June 2009, a MoU was signed between Wageningen UR, five Ethiopian Universities (Addis Ababa, Hawassa, Haramaya, Jimma and Mekelle) and the Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research (EIAR). In the framework of this MoU, six thematic research-cum-capacity strengthening programmes are being implemented jointly by the Ethiopian partners and Wageningen UR. In December 2009, Wageningen UR assigned Dr Eyasu Elias as the programme coordinator/liaison officer in Ethiopia to link the various project activities within and between the six thematic programmes and the Ethiopian partners involved with the respective counterpart teams at Wageningen UR.

Click [here](#) to read Eyasu's visit report.



Photo: Eyasu Elias

STRATEGIC AND OPERATIONAL PLANNING FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ETHIOPIAN FRUIT AND VEGETABLE SECTORS



Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands (EKN) in Addis Ababa supports public and private stakeholders in their endeavours aimed at the diversification and expansion of the Ethiopian export-oriented horticulture. Over the past years particularly the floricultural sector has grown significantly and Ethiopia is now the second largest exporter of cut flowers in Africa. Production circumstances in Ethiopia also favour the cultivation of a broad range of other high value horticultural products, most notably tropical, semi-tropical and temperate fruits and vegetables. However, production and exports of vegetables and fruits have not followed the trend of the cut flowers.

After consultation with the Ethiopian Horticultural Development Authority and others, the EKN and EHPEA decided to fund a technical support mission through the Ethiopian-Dutch Horticultural Partnership Programme. The mission will assist Ethiopian stakeholders in the fruit and vegetable

sub-sectors in the formulation of a strategy and an operational plan. This strategic and operational planning process is in line with the Ethiopian Government's policy to further expand the production levels and trade volumes in the export-oriented horticultural sector and to become a leading African exporter in the fruit and vegetable sub-sectors, as well. This will contribute to the improvement of the country's trade balance and will create economic growth and employment in the rural areas of Ethiopia.

Objective and outputs of the technical support assignment:

At the end of the assignment a clear strategic and operational plan for the further development of the Ethiopian fruit and vegetable sub-sectors will have produced on the basis of an assessment of the market opportunities, agronomic possibilities, economic and operational feasibility and supply chain and institutional support requirements.

Specific outputs of the assignment comprise the following:

- An analysis of the current performance in the fruit and vegetable sub-sectors in terms of production, markets and supply chain performance
- A market assessment for the growth and development of existing and new product-market combinations in the fruit and vegetable sub-sectors
- Feasibility assessments of the various growth scenarios (with due attention to agronomic, economic, marketing , logistical and financial aspects) overview of the necessary business support services and institutional reforms to facilitate the implementation of sub-sector growth scenario

The first technical support mission, by Dave Boselie of Wag UR/SSG/LEI and Frank Joosten of Advance Consult, took place in March 2020 and strategic scenario's are presently being elaborated.

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TRANSACTION RISKS IN SESAME VALUE CHAINS AND MARKETS IN ETHIOPIA

Since 2006, the Netherlands' Directorate-General for International Cooperation (DGIS) and Wageningen UR are implementing the Partnership Programme 'Globalisation and Sustainable Rural Development'. One of the lead themes within this program is 'Value Chains for Pro-Poor Development' which is implementing pilot action researches on selected commodity chains in Uganda, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Mozambique, Burkina Faso and Niger. In Ethiopia, the pilot study focuses on sesame chains. The sesame project activities are embedded in the Ethiopian Public Private Partnership for Oilseeds and the Support to Business Organisations and their Access to Markets (BOAM) programme of SNV-Ethiopia. Wageningen UR collaborates with the Ethiopian Pulse, Oilseed and Spice Processing Exporters Association (EPOSPEA) and its members, and with the Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research (EIAR), the AMBO Farmers cooperative union, SNV-Ethiopia and FFARM, a private business-services provider.

The sesame action research in Ethiopia, which will finalise in 2010, has been informing supply chain partners on concrete interventions to reduce transaction risks aiming to include smallholders and to build competitive supply chains. Two broad types of interventions have been identified: the Ethiopian Commodity Exchange (ECX) and contract farming.

The ECX has opened for sesame in 2010 and the project is analysing its impact on farmers and traders with respect to transaction risks and costs. The results of a survey among traders is expected in 2010.

Contract farming in sesame is not practiced widely yet, and the project has been analysing modalities for contract farming (including learning from Kenya where a Code of Conduct of contract farming exists), discussing the effect of the ECX on the possibilities of contract farming, and analysing to what extent contract farming reduces (transaction) risks of farmers.

For more information, please visit the website of the DGIS-Wageningen UR Partnership Programme: <http://www.dgis.wur.nl/UK/VC4PD/>

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NEWS ON PROJECT WORKSHOPS HELD IN ETHIOPIA

National oilseeds workshop

A three-day 2nd National Workshop on Oilseeds was conducted from 24-26 March 2010 at EIAR in Addis Ababa. The main objective of the workshop was to review and assess the past and current research and development activities on the main oilseeds in Ethiopia: sesame, linseed and noug (*Guizotia abyssinica*, an indigenous oilseed crop). The workshop was also set-out to consult with stakeholders on the publishing of the outcomes in useful communication products (proceedings, production guides, leaflets, etc.).

The Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands (EKN) sponsored the workshop. Some 200 participants representing different public and private players in the oilseeds sector were in attendance, including the Netherlands' agricultural counselor, Mr Geert Westenbrink. Wageningen UR was represented by Dr. Robert van Loo (PSG/PRI) and Mr. Jo Wijnands and Mrs. Gerdien Meijerink (SSG/LEI). Over 60 scientific papers were presented, covering all aspects of the oilseed sector from production to marketing and utilization. Mr. Jaap Biersteker (Management Unit PPP-Oilseeds) presented a paper on business opportunities in oil seeds in Ethiopia, that stimulated discussion and debate in the workshop. Workshop proceedings will be prepared by EIAR. Papers can already be obtained from Dr. Aduugna Wakjira of EIAR (adugnawg@yahoo.com) or from Dr. Mesfin Haile of the PPP-Oilseeds (masfinmail@yahoo.com).

The National Seed Systems Project conducted a national seminar from March 31-April 1, 2010. The seminar was organized by Ms Eva Smulders (PLC), Mr. Mohammed Hassena (LSB project) and Mr. Joep van den Broek (UKN). The aim of the workshop was to bring together different stakeholders working on the issue of local seed businesses in Ethiopia under the theme of National Local Seed Business and Partnership Development. The meeting brought together the major regional actors active in the seed sector, from research and universities to NGOs and from government to private sector. Wageningen UR was represented by Mrs Dr Marja Thijssen (SSG/CDI). During the seminar, stakeholders shared experiences on on-going projects and develop further collaboration activities and partnerships. The major themes of the meeting included:

- The concept of integrated seed sector development and local seed business;
- An inventory and analysis of the main organizations involved in supporting community and farmers' seed production;
- Discussing the results of the organizational review led by Agri-ProFocus, the Dutch network organization aiming at enhancing the capacity of producers' organizations.

The workshop concluded that most organizations and seed projects focus on technical and organizational aspects of seed businesses whereas much less attention is being paid to financial management, marketing and entrepreneurship. The main recommendation was to establish regional platforms on technical, financial, marketing and entrepreneurship issues. Based on the regional prioritization four topics were selected for further investigation and discussion, namely, entrepreneurship, marketing, basic seed and seed certification. Areas selected for concrete action include: (i) the establishment of a new partnership, linking partners of Agri-ProFocus members in local seed business activities in new sites. In addition, private seed producers such as Pioneer, Anno and Solagro have indicated to be interested to create business partnerships with LSB project, (ii) the establishment of a digital network to encourage interaction and information exchange among stakeholders engaged in seed business development, and (iii) the organization of a workshop on 'value chains and finance management' targeted at LSB staff.

For further details on the seminar please contact Joep van den Broek (joep.vandenbroek@gmail.com) or Marja Thijssen (marja.thijssen@wur.nl).

SEED PROCLAMATION

Jointly with the International Development Law Organisation (IDLO) in Rome, Wageningen UR has contributed to the drafting of a new Seed Proclamation for Ethiopia. Feedback on a first draft of this Seed proclamation was initially obtained from a group of 10 specialists during meetings at the Regulatory Department of the Ethiopian Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. These meetings were followed by a two-day multi-stakeholder meeting in March of this year, which paved the way for the presentation of the Bill to the Ethiopian Parliament.

The collaboration between a lawyer (IDLO), a seed systems specialist (Wageningen UR) and a broad range of Ethiopian experts proved very productive. The 'concept note on integrated seed system development' informed the drafting process in several important fields such as variety release and seed quality control.

The cooperation with IDLO is expected to continue with the drafting of the Implementation Guidelines to the Seed Proclamation and in the process to effectively implement plant breeder's rights and farmers' rights in the country.

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CLIMATE CHANGE

From 1-12 March 2010 the second regional training course on 'Climate change adaptation in agriculture and natural resources management' was held in Addis Ababa. It was attended by 19 participants from Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Burundi and Nigeria. Participants were drawn from universities, agricultural research institutes, non-governmental organizations and governmental departments. The course was coordinated and facilitated by a team from the Horn of Africa-Regional Environmental Centre (HoA-REC) and Wageningen UR, complemented by presenters and lecturers from various universities and institutes in Ethiopia and from Wageningen.

The course covered a variety of topics related to climate change adaptation, vulnerability, stakeholder analysis and the science-policy interface. Interactive training methods were used in which experiences of the course participants formed the entry point. Also, the participants brought in their own examples of climate change hotspots that were used for joint analysis. The course included field work to practice vulnerability assessment and an interactive seminar with policy makers to discuss and refine strategies for policy development and programming.



The course, which was held first in 2009 and now in 2010, will again be conducted in 2011. It is financially supported by the Netherlands' NUFFIC Fellowship Programme: <http://www.cdi.wur.nl/UK/services/Courses/>

This regional course is part of a larger support programme for climate change adaptation in Eastern Africa that started in 2008 with support from the Netherlands' Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality (LNV). This support programme is being implemented in partnership with ASARECA, IUCN and RUFORUM.



The focus is on building the capacities needed to better integrate climate change adaptation responses into agricultural, rural development and natural resources policy processes. Other components of the programme include action research on climate change hot spots in Ethiopia, and policy support. More information on this programme is available on our [climate change portal](#). A Trainer's Manual on climate change adaptation and development can be found [here](#).

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SOIL FERTILITY

ENSET project: Efficient Nutrient Supply in East Africa

In January 2010, the ENSET project was launched (Efficient Nutrient Supply in East Africa), which aims at improving the recovery of nutrients applied to crops in Ethiopia and Kenya. The ENSET project will apply on-site research on nutrient management, socio-economic conditions and fertilizer supply chains. Nutrient uptake efficiency in Ethiopia and Kenya is generally low, for multiple reasons:

1. Poor soil quality (low organic matter contents, soil acidity and susceptibility to erosion) impedes efficient uptake of nutrients. Moreover, nutrients may be lost to the wider environment or are 'fixed' (temporally unavailable) in the soil.
2. Poor fertilizer management practices like inappropriate timing, type and method of placement. Also, the prevailing crop varieties are less responsive to nutrient applications than improved varieties. The combination of adequate fertilizer recommendations and improved seeds is generally not practiced.
3. Late delivery of fertilizers due to problems in the input supply chain that hamper timely delivery of the right type of fertilizers. In addition, the poor access to credit hampers farmers in purchasing sufficient amounts of fertilizers.
4. The vagaries of climate including low and erratic rainfall, and droughts.

In the ENSET project the first three tracks above are explored through stock-taking, on-field monitoring, farm interviews and supply chain assessments and through field tests on promising practices for five sites in different agro-ecologies in Ethiopia. With these activities the gaps between the current practices of nutrient management at farm level and the target situation of integrated nutrient management and improved yields will be identified. Subsequently, ways and means to close these gaps will be explored.

The ENSET project is financed by the Netherlands' Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality (LNV/OS Programme).

Meanwhile, ENSET has issued its first e-newsletter, which can be downloaded [here](#).

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NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AND LAND USE PLANNING IN THE CENTRAL RIFT VALLEY

As reported in the previous issue of this newsletter, the Natural Resource Management component of the Ethiopia-Wageningen UR collaboration is progressing well. It is being implemented jointly between University of Addis Ababa/Horn of Africa Regional Environmental Centre, EIAR and Wageningen UR. Project activities within this component are being financed from different sources, including the Netherlands Ministry of Agriculture (LNV/OS as well as LNV-BOCI funding) and the DGLS-Wageningen UR Partnership Programme 'Globalization and Sustainable Development'.

A project plan for the land use planning programme in the Central Rift Valley in Ethiopia now has been developed, based on the outcomes of several participatory stakeholder workshops. These workshops have contributed to the on-going policy debate on the sustainable future of the Lake Ziway area and resulted in the identification of four priority activities. The latter are being addressed in four components of the project plan: (i) support to the smallholder horticulture sector, (ii) water quality monitoring, (iii) tourism development and (iv) the development of buffer zones along water bodies. So far several of these activities have been implemented out as part of the land use planning programme.

For the water quality component a first sampling of Lake Ziway has been done, and historical water quality data of the public water supply company at Ziway have been digitalized. As to the horticulture component, a study was conducted on two smallholder irrigation schemes and an identification mission was carried out to further develop work plans for implementation of sub-activities in 2010. Based on the mission's findings, focus in the first phase will be on unlocking the soil properties to improve fertilizer recommendations for vegetable production.

For the development of the tourism component collaboration has been established with the Ethiopian Sustainable Tourism Alliance. In addition, an Ethiopian student has developed a PhD research proposal 'Adapting to the impacts of climate variability and change on agriculture: A model-based exploration across different scales in Ethiopia', which will be carried out in the Central Rift Valley and North Wollo during the coming three years.

For more information on research in the Central Rift Valley see the website: www.crv.wur.nl

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PESTICIDE RISK REDUCTION PROGRAMME

One of the basic problems in the management of pesticides is the lack of a proper registration system in Ethiopia. Pesticide registration is still in the development stage and lacks expertise in implementing internationally-agreed pesticide registration procedures and guidelines. Also, current capacity in conducting the required laboratory analyses is insufficient. This may lead to a situation of registering pesticides that are harmful for public health and for the environment in general. Moreover, the awareness on safe and judicious use of pesticides is limited. At the same time, Ethiopia is in the process of intensifying its agriculture in order to meet (growing) national demands for food and to increase agricultural exports. This implies that for sustainable growth of the agriculture sector there is an immediate need for proper regulation and management of pesticides. Pesticide management therefore receives much attention from the Ethiopian Government.

In September 2009 a joint Programme, initiated by the Ethiopian Animal and Plant Health Regulatory Department, Alterra-Wageningen UR and FAO was presented and discussed on a well-attended stakeholder meeting in Addis Ababa. It was acknowledged by all stakeholders that the programme is comprehensive and concrete and it is seen as an important pilot project for other African countries or regions. Subsequently, the programme started in February 2010.



The Programme, which is being financed by the Netherlands Directorate General for International Cooperation (DGIS) and by FAO, covers all aspects of pesticide legislation, setting up a sustainable system and capacity building for pesticide registration and a concrete and holistic plan for post registration aspects (monitoring, inspection, quality control, storage, capacity building) for both agriculture and public health sectors.

Expected benefits of the project include:

- A stronger economy, by contributing to enhancement of food security and better livelihood among smallholder farmers and exporting high quality agricultural products
- Better public health by preventing hazards associated with pesticides
- A cleaner environment



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FCPF READINESS PREPARATION PROPOSAL ETHIOPIA

Together with Ecofys-Germany and a local consultant in Ethiopia (GOPA-Ethiopia), Alterra recently has won the 'FCPF Readiness Preparation Proposal Ethiopia' tender, which is being financed by the World Bank.

The goal of the project is to support the Government of Ethiopia in preparing the Policy and Methodological Components of the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) 'Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP)'. This R-PP is a document designed to assist Ethiopia in preparing itself to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation ('REDD') in order to become "ready for REDD". The R-PP provides a framework for taking stock of the national situation.

R-PP project activities, which started as per April 1, 2010, include the coordination of the overall preparation activities of the R-PP, the provision of technical inputs and the review of the final report. The Ethiopian R-PP proposal will be prepared based on the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility Template R-PP v.3.

In Ethiopia our main partner in this project is the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. Two missions to Ethiopia are planned this year (in April and June respectively) and the draft R-PP report needs to be ready before the summer holidays. Official termination date of the project is September 30, 2010.

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ASSESSING SOYBEAN AND SUNFLOWER SEEDS OPPORTUNITIES FOR ETHIOPIA

Why is Ethiopia exporting oilseeds and not supplying the domestic market? Ethiopian oil processors are utilizing 25 per cent only of their capacity and oilseed exports are a foreign currency earner, but half of these earnings are needed to pay for the import of edible oils. In the Ethiopian Oilseeds Business Opportunities Reports of 2007 (focus on sesame seed) and 2009 (focus on linseed), as prepared by researchers of Wageningen UR and others¹ it was concluded that Ethiopia has many

opportunities to export oilseeds, sesame seeds, “noug” (niger seed) and linseed in particular. The focus of the analysis in 2010, by Dr Jo Wijnands and Dr Robert van Loo of Wageningen UR will be on the opportunities on the domestic market: substituting imports by domestically produced oil, especially from soybean and sunflower.

In this respect existing weaknesses have to be transformed into strengths in order to achieve a relevant level of competitiveness at the domestic market and to neutralize several threats. Current knowledge gaps include the lacking evidence on the economic benefits for each chain actor. Most farmers, for example, are not even close to achieving the high yields that are being attained in field trials which, for many crops, are two or threefold higher. We are presently aiming to develop optimization models to analyse the possibilities, to perform sensitivity and risk analyses and to perform ‘What-If’ scenario’s. In such models, economic, agronomic, social, and institutional possibilities and constraints will be recognized. A first assessment of the knowledge gaps was presented on the National Oilseed Conference in Addis Ababa 24-26 March 2010.

For further details on the project, contact Jo Wijnands (jo.wijnands@wur.nl) or Robert van Loo (robert.vanloo@wur.nl).

¹ Wijnands, J.H.M.; Biersteker, J.; Hiel, R. (2007) [Oilseeds business opportunities in Ethiopia 2007](#), Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, The Hague, The Netherlands.
Wijnands, J.H.M.; Biersteker, J.; Loo, E.N. van (2009) [Oilseeds business opportunities in Ethiopia 2009](#), Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, The Hague, The Netherlands.