

# RED&FS NEWS LETTER

Working in partnership to achieve the MDGs in Ethiopia



**DAG**  
Development Assistance Group ETHIOPIA

Rural Economic Development &  
Food Security (RED & FS)

Issue 12 January 2016

## RED&FS SWG

The Rural Economic Development and Food Security Sector Working Group (RED&FS SWG) is a Government-Donor coordination platform for agriculture, natural resource management and food security. Its objective is to jointly review sector level implementation status, coordinate and harmonize efforts of various development partners supporting flagship programmes under RED & FS. The RED&FS SWG was formally established in April 2008, and is composed of an Executive Committee and five Technical Committees namely, Agricultural Growth; Sustainable Land Management; Livestock & Fish Development & Marketing, and Disaster Risk Management and Food Security.

The SWG is currently chaired by [H.E. Ato Tefera Derbew](#), Minister, Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources, and [H.E Ato Sileshi Getahun](#), Minister, Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries Resources and co-chaired by USAID's [Gary Robbins](#) [grobbs@usaid.gov](mailto:grobbs@usaid.gov) and EU's [David Mogollon](#) [David.MOGOLLON@eeas.europa.eu](mailto:David.MOGOLLON@eeas.europa.eu).

The RED&FS SWG is assisted by a Secretariat whose main responsibility is to support the different RED&FS structures in supporting their day-to-day work. Members of the secretariat consist of Ato Dejene Abesha, Gary Wallace, Yeraswork Yilma and Tigist Mesele whose email addresses are [dejeneabesha@yahoo.com](mailto:dejeneabesha@yahoo.com), [garwallace@gmail.com](mailto:garwallace@gmail.com), [yeraset@yahoo.com](mailto:yeraset@yahoo.com) and [tigist\\_mesele@yahoo.com](mailto:tigist_mesele@yahoo.com) respectively.

RED&FS Website and Database [www.moa-redfs.gov.et/](http://www.moa-redfs.gov.et/)

### *Inside Address*

Reorganization of the Former Ministry of Agriculture -----1	Impacts of PSNP Public Work-----4
Mid-Term Review of the Agriculture Sector Policy and Investment Framework (PIF) -----2	Overview of the AIM and APT projects -----5
El Niño and its Implications -----2	Up-coming Events----- 7
Agricultural Growth Program II (AGP II) Launched----- 4	Helpful Websites-----7

## News of RED&FS

### **Reorganization of the Former Ministry of Agriculture into Ministry of Agriculture & Natural Resources and Livestock & Fisheries Resources**

In October and November the Government of Ethiopia instituted several changes in the government structure that better reflect the government priorities. Several of these are of particular interest to those engaged with the agricultural sector.

The major changes are summarized below:

- The Ministry of Agriculture has now been reorganized as the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources (MoA&NR) and it is being led by H.E Ato Tefera Derbew.
- The previous State Ministry for Livestock has now been elevated to a full Federal Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries and it is being led by H.E Ato Sileshi Getahun, former State Minister of Natural Resources Sector. At this stage, the Federal Ministry consists of two State Ministries, **State Ministry for Animal Health and Feed Resources** to be led by Dr Misrak and **State Ministry for Livestock & Fish Development & Marketing** is led by Dr G/Egziabher G/Yohannes. As this is a new Federal Ministry, it is expected to have many Directorates.
- The State Minister for Natural Resources is HE W/Ro Firenesh Mekuriya.
- The former Disaster Risk Management and Food Security Sector State Ministry has now been divided into the DRM (Early Warning) component establishing an independent Commission directly accountable to the PMO. The Food Security component has now been recognized with the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources.
- That new Sector under MoANR, is the Food Security and Rural Job Creation State

Ministry and is being led by H.E W/ro Seada Kedir.

- Unchanged, is the Agricultural Growth State Ministry which is being led by HE Ato Wondirad Mandefro.

### **Mid-Term Review of the Agriculture Sector Policy and Investment Framework (PIF)**

RED&FS recently completed a Mid-Term Review of the Policy and Investment Framework (PIF) (2010-2020). The PIF was launched in 2010 as a ten-year investment strategy, aligning with the CAADP process of creating National Agriculture Investment Plans (NAIPs) across CAADP countries.

Since its inception as a guiding document for investment in the agriculture sector, the PIF has been annually reviewed. However, in 2015 at its mid-point of implementation, a more comprehensive MTR was conducted.

The MTR was conducted by a team of International and National consultants (Dr. Mafa Chapata, Dr. Demesse Chanyalew and Dr. Bezabih Emanu), guided by a joint MTR Task Team, with funding supported by the USAID AKLDP project.



**Lead MTR Consultant Mafa Chipeta addresses the Broad Stakeholders Meeting**

The objectives of the MTR were broadly defined as:

- Assessing the performance of PIF in achieving its objectives
- Informing a re-design of the PIF to guide the sector for the period 2015–2025
- Validating the progress made and further action taken in support to attract increased private sector investment, including through the New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition
- Assessing the incorporation of post-PIF preparation initiatives, including Ethiopia's Climate-Resilient Green Economy, climate-smart agriculture, nutrition and gender, resilience, livestock & Fisheries, and pastoralism into the PIF.

The MTR methodology consisted of a comprehensive review of relevant documents, and extensive interviews with government and Development Partner stakeholders. A broad stakeholder's workshop was conducted on September 27<sup>th</sup>, in order to receive inputs on the mature draft.

Some main findings from the MTR included:

- ❖ Except in a few cases, PIF is known and its potential value is appreciated. However, the PIF document was not well disseminated to all partners, including federal and regional Government institutions as well as DPs.
- ❖ All stakeholders consulted saw the importance of having a supportive framework such as PIF with clear roles and functions, especially one that creates space for both GoE and its DPs as they implement development interventions of shared interest. The majority of the Government sector staff and officials feel that the PIF is a useful framework for the sector.

- ❖ After five years of implementation, Government sector activities are only partly aligned along the priorities set in PIF, and the relative weights of the pillars are not changing rapidly, suggesting force of habit in allocating funds... Some therefore argue that PIF is NOT guiding investment and that DPs exhibit the same pattern as before PIF.
- ❖ PIF has not given specific attention to policy, most likely due to perceptions that policies are already in place and require just implementation, especially through investment
- ❖ PIF has not, in its first five years, succeeded in achieving the GTP ambition and hope that humanitarian/emergency funding needs under SO 4 would decline sooner rather than later, so allowing greater investment into production and commercialisation (SO 1, 2).
- ❖ After five years of PIF, investment is said to be more dispersed than its joint prioritisation and convergence ambitions would allow.

Moving forward, the RED&FS Executive will consider all findings and recommendations and develop strategies and actions to proceed. RED&FS is planning now for a 2<sup>nd</sup> Phase, with the objective to produce a fully revised PIF, with the MTR providing significant input.

For the full MTR report please contact RED&FS Secretariat. [tigist\\_mesele@yahoo.com](mailto:tigist_mesele@yahoo.com)

### *El Niño and its Implications*

Rainfall in Ethiopia, Djibouti and Somalia is influenced by complex weather systems, which evolve thousands of miles away in the Pacific Ocean. El Niño is a complex climate cycle in the Pacific Ocean. The cycle begins when warm water in the western tropical Pacific Ocean shifts eastward along the equator toward the coast of South America. During an El Niño episode the

Pacific's warmest surface waters sit offshore of northwestern South America and initiates a complex interaction between ocean and atmosphere that influence temperature, wind and rainfall patterns across large areas of the tropics and sub-tropics and creates unusual weather patterns, such as drought or excessive rainfall and storms.

Although numerous El Niño events have been recorded, there are no clear trends in El Niño timing or intensity. Computer models have improved our ability to forecast the *onset* of an El Niño episode, but it is still very difficult to predict the *intensity* of an El Niño and its impact on weather patterns. As El Niño episodes cause major global weather and climate fluctuations, they have a significant impact on agriculture and food security, especially in countries such as Ethiopia where most agriculture is rain-fed. For this reason, El Niño conditions are closely monitored by national and international meteorological institutes, including the Ethiopia National Metrological Agency.

Normal rainfall patterns in Ethiopia can be summarized as follows:

- Long summer *kiremt* rains in June to September, throughout highland areas; the longest *kiremt* rains fall in SNNP Region and have a bi-modal pattern whereas in the other regions the rains are mono-modal
- Short spring *belg* rains in March to May, throughout highland areas except the northwest
- In eastern and southeast lowland areas, and shorter rains in September and October.

While forecasting the intensity and exact implications of an El Niño episode is uncertain, it is generally acknowledged in Ethiopia that an El Niño episode has a high probability to cause:

- Above-normal rainfall from October to March in the south; typically associated with supporting of pastoralist areas due to good pasture but can also cause flooding and outbreaks of human and livestock diseases.
- Above-normal *belg* rains with an early onset as early as January or February. At the same time, harvesting the main season cereal crops between October and November may be disrupted due to off-season rains.
- Below-normal *kiremt* rains which are also typically late, erratic and shorter than usual.

The Government of Ethiopia is providing strong leadership to mitigate the drought effects through a range of health, water, food distribution and agriculture-related interventions. On 18th August 2015 the Government & Development Partners launched the Mid-Year Review of the Humanitarian Requirements Document.

Although information is always imperfect, current analysis clearly points to a major El Niño-related crisis in Ethiopia, which in some areas, is worsened by failed *belg* rains. In specific pastoralist areas, humanitarian response is ongoing, but will need to continue into 2016. A coordinated response from the Government of Ethiopia and all of its main international development and humanitarian partners is needed, as is a perspective, which plans for El Niño impacts throughout 2016.

## **Agricultural Growth Program II (AGP II) Launched**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Agricultural Growth Program II (AGP II) was launched in a workshop carried out in November 14, 2015 at Bishoftu. The workshop was opened by H.E. Ato Sileshi, Minister for the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries. In his opening speech H.E. noted the contribution of AGP I in line with the Ethiopian GTP and AGP II is also designed and formulated on the bases of AGP I performance and GTP II targets. A total of 167 participants including, State Ministers of the two Ministers, i.e, Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources and Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries. In the workshop Directors of the different Directorates, Director General of Agencies and Authority under the Ministry, heads of regional Bureaus of Agriculture and Development Partners participated.

Five papers, two from the AGP Program Coordination Unit (PCU) which focused on AGP II Overview, Program Implementation Arrangement and Management and three papers from the World Bank (WB) on (Procurement, Financial Management, and Environmental Safeguard) were presented during the workshop.

In the program overview, it was indicated that the program duration is 5 years to be operational between August 31/2015 and October 2020. AGP II will be implemented in 7 regional states and 1 City Administrative Council covering 157 woredas and 4069 kebeles. About 1.6 million people of which 40 percent women will directly and indirectly benefit from the program. The program includes five major components and 15 sub-components. The total program finance is 581.8 million USD to be covered from various Development Partners and contribution from GoE.

## AGP II Program Components and Sub-components

No.	Components	Sub-components
1	Agricultural public support service	1.1. Institutional strengthening and development
		1.2. Scaling up of best practices
2	Agricultural research	2.1. Technology adaptation and generation
		2.2. Pre-extension demonstration
		2.3. Source technology production
		2.4. Capacity development
3	SSI Development	3.1. SSI Infrastructure development
		3.2. Integrated crop and water management
4	Agricultural marketing and value chain	4.1. Agricultural input supply system
		4.2. Farmer organization
		4.3. Agribusiness development
		4.4. Market Infrastructure development
5	Program management, evaluation and learning	5.1. Program management and institutional arrangements
		5.2. Monitoring and Evaluation
		5.3. Capacity development

## **Impacts of PSNP Public Work**

The Ethiopian government has been providing safety net to chronically food insecure households for decades. In 2005, it introduced a Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP) which is an essential feature of food security investments strategy for chronically food insecure Woredas of Ethiopia. At the beginning it was implemented in six regions of Ethiopia involving 282 Woredas, 5,000 Kebeles and 12,500 communities. Later on, in 2011, it was rolled out to Pastoral Regions of Afar and Somali, and currently the coverage increased to 318 Woredas, 5874 Kebeles, 11,377 watersheds and 756 pastoral Kebeles.

This social protection programme has an important productive element called public works (PW) which are meant to address the underlying causes of food insecurity such as deforestation, lack or absence of water, access roads and

community basic social infrastructures. To help communities withstand these multi problems, the PW implemented various activities such as soil and water conservation measures, gully control, water projects, small scale irrigation, community roads and different social infrastructures.

Each and every year, over 30 to 40 thousands of PW activities have been implemented in chronically food insecure Woredas. To see biophysical, social, economic and the livelihoods impacts of these implemented PW activities, every two and half years the impact studies of the PW component of the PSNP were carried out by independent consultants. These studies were conducted in 2009, 2011 and 2015 with findings indicated that PWs positively impacted the watersheds in which it have been implemented and the households for which it has been provided.

The implementation of soil and water conservation measures such as soil and stone bunds, terraces, area enclosures, etc resulted on average soil erosion reduction by 12.3 to 32.3 tons soil per hectare. Also, increased vegetation cover largely in highland area; the recent study estimated an 80% increase in vegetation cover in the sampled micro watersheds. The moisture content of arid and semi arid areas increased with a bi result of increased soil fertility. There is a modest increase in productivity of crop; a household survey in 2015 showed a 5% increase in yield per hectare of major cereal crops compared to what it had been five years ago. Such investments also contributed to reclamation of additional land from gullies which led to more cultivated area and/ or more area for pasture production.

PSNP PW area enclosures contributed to above and below ground carbon sequestration. As determined by the recent study, the total weight of CO<sub>2</sub> sequestered (tCO<sub>2</sub>) in ten of the micro-watersheds (excluding pastoral programme areas) during phase three of the program is 1,003,439.64 tCO<sub>2</sub>. The total average yearly sequestered CO<sub>2</sub> is 200,687.93 tCO<sub>2</sub>e.

PSNP-PW interventions have contributed to the increase of availability of safe water within 1 hour walking distance for most of the communities in the study watersheds and reduced travel time and drudgery of women to fetch water from far distances. Moreover, the construction of water points has significantly (33-100%) contributed to the reduction of water related diseases. The programme also contributed to availability of feeder roads, schools, farmers training centers and health posts.

It was also learnt that investments in PW activities has led to positive benefit to cost ratios. For instance, a one birr investment in PSNP will yield a minimum of 2 birr to 6.5 in case of soil and water conservation, 1.5 to 2.3 in case of health posts, 1.5 to 5.3 in case of school and 1.2 to 2.2 in case of roads.

Despite these achievements, PW impact assessments have revealed the need to strengthen natural resource management and rehabilitation including creating access to basic social infrastructure in chronically food insecure areas to further build community resilience to shocks.

For the full report please contact PSNP Public work Nesredin Rube [nes\\_wak@yahoo.com](mailto:nes_wak@yahoo.com)

### *Overview of the AIM and APT projects*

The Ethiopian Agricultural Transformation Agency (ATA) and partners are in the process of developing a web-based tool that will help decision and policy makers track and analyze agricultural investments by bilateral and multilateral development institutions, NGOs, the GoE and others in the Ethiopian agricultural sector. The Agricultural Investment Mapping (AIM) is a geo-spatial, web-based application that can help stakeholders map agriculture and

livestock investment activities at a spatially disaggregated level in order to improve investment planning and collaboration.

The objective of AIM is to strengthen strategic decision-making capacity for policy makers and development partners by leveraging the Rural Economic Development & Food Security (RED&FS) and the Ministry of Finance and Economic Cooperation (MoFEC), web-tools and providing visualization and analysis of data. Additionally, the new interactive tool will provide a standardized and regularly updated information platform for a range of users, which contributes to increased transparency and accountability. With cooperation from all its partners, the ATA, RED&FS and MoFED have uploaded quality, formatted, meaningful data into the AIM tool, which we expect to be visualized before the end of 2015.

In addition to the AIM, the ATA and its partners are currently working with Ministry of Agriculture, Regional bureaus of Agriculture and various institutions in the woreda to develop a web-portal, Agricultural Planning Tool (APT), which will visualize the institutional survey results and provide contextual layers of other agricultural data. The Institutional Survey was conducted in 251 priority Woredas across four regions of the country to assess woreda's institutional capacity and resources. The ATA is regularly reviewing data collected from the woredas and collecting feedback from its partners on additional data to be collected and analyzed moving forward.

The APT will allow policy makers, implementers, and various agricultural stakeholders access to information about

Ethiopian agricultural institutions. Ultimately, the tool is intended to visualize agricultural capacity with an emphasis to identifying trends, gaps, and opportunities in order to make evidence based decisions at national, regional, zonal, and woreda levels. Functionality of the tool includes (but not limited to) geo-spatial visualization of data, development of interactive directory of contact information and management of institutional and geographic profiles. Recently, members of this ATA project conducted one-day awareness workshops providing attendees the robustness and versatility of this system.

### Up-coming Events

- Improving Aid Delivery and Development Strategy in East Africa
  - February 2-3
  - Addis Ababa UNCC
  - <http://africa.aidforum.org>
- Agri-Fex Ethiopia
  - May 12-16
  - Addis Ababa
  - <http://www.addischamber.com/index.php?subPageName=tfAG>  
[RIFEX-ETHIOPIA\(2014\)](http://www.addischamber.com/index.php?subPageName=tfAG)
- African Association of Agricultural Economists  
“Transforming Small-Holder Agriculture in Africa. The Role of Policy and Governance”
  - September 23-26 2016
  - Addis Ababa UNCC
  - <http://www.aaae-africa.org/5th-conference.php>

### Helpful Websites

In this section we have links to various websites that may be of interest to our readers. If you know of any such sites please submit them to the Secretariat so that they may be included in our future listings.

#### ➤ Ministry of Agriculture & Natural Resources Website

- <http://www.moa.gov.et>

#### ➤ RED&FS Database

A repository of project data in the AG, SLM and DRMFS sectors with the ability to sort and filter based on queries.

- [www.moa-redfs.gov.et](http://www.moa-redfs.gov.et)

#### ➤ Sustainable Land Management Knowledge Base

- <http://www.slmethiopia.info.et/>

#### ➤ Regional Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support System (ReSAKSS)

- <http://www.resakss.org>

#### ➤ Agriculture Growth Programme

- <http://ethioagp.org/research/links/>

#### ➤ Disaster Risk Management and Food Security

- <http://www.dppc.gov.et/>

#### ➤ Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research

- <http://www.eiar.gov.et/>

➤ **Ethiopian Agriculture Portal**

A gateway to agricultural information relevant to development of Ethiopian agriculture.

- [www.eap.gov.et](http://www.eap.gov.et)

➤ **DAG Website**

- <http://www.dagethiopia.org/>

➤ **SNV Value Chain Website**

To share knowledge and lessons learned on the Value Chain Approach.

- <http://www.sustainable-ethiopia.com/>

➤ **Ethiopia Commodity Exchange**

- [www.ecx.com.et/](http://www.ecx.com.et/)