

REDFS EFY 2015 Report

The Rural Economic Development & Food Security (REDFS) Sector Working Group is a platform of Government and Development Partners established for the purpose of facilitation of dialogue, alignment, coordination, harmonization, and resource mobilization for the enhancement of agricultural transformation agendas pursued by the Ministry of Agriculture. The platform has been in operation since 2008 and governed by the Paris Declaration principles on Aid Effectiveness. As a matter of alignment, the REDFS platform has been following planning cycle of the Government of Ethiopia since its existence. By the same token, the annual reporting period of the working group is aligned to the Government Fiscal year.

The REDFS Sector Working Group is chaired by the Minister of Agriculture and cochaired by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and IFAD.

Key achievements observed during the period July 2022-June 2023 are the following:

Ex-com's engagement on the DPG 100 Day Joint Plan of Action. Based on a joint agreement reached between DPG and the Ministry of Finance, the REDFS platform has drafted revised TOR and its action plan for EFY 2016 in accordance with the blueprint model provided by the Ministry of Finance.

Projects' Performance Dashboard on Power BI Software. The sectoral plan developed by the Ministry of Agriculture involved an economic approach of production forecasting where production factors are decomposed and each growth is projected based on commodity productivity potential and new sources of agricultural growth. The Ministry is now transiting towards a delivery culture and strengthening the performance management system to track performance delivery and foster a culture of accountability. within this background, the performance dashboard has been designed to support monitoring, reporting, and information sharing on the periodic implementation status of the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) as well as outputs and outcomes of the sector's achievements in relation to the Ten-Year Agriculture Sector Development Plan. To this end, in collaboration with the Strategy Affairs Office of the Ministry, the working group organized the Power BI training to project M&E specialists to enhance their capacity to create their own performance tracking dashboard. Thus, M&E experts of flagship programmes and projects under the Ministry have now managed to use Power Bi tool for reporting.

Conducting Broader Platform Meeting. In view of engaging Non state actors in the REDFS platform a broader platform meeting to be organized to facilitate dialogue between the Government and Non-state actors and, to share experiences, coordinate and harmonize efforts to enhance Aid Effectiveness Principles of Paris Declaration. To this end, we organized the broader platform meeting with the objective of discussing and sharing information on Government policies, strategies and programmes pursued by the Ministry of Agriculture as well as ongoing initiatives proactively engaged by DP affiliated projects. The results so far achieved in terms getting feedback from Non-state actors are encouraging and more request is coming for their engagement in the platform.

National Wheat Flagship Programme (NWFP). The wheat flagship programme is one of the strategic priorities pursued by the Government in addressing wheat availability through increased local production with the aim of promoting national wheat self-sufficiency (for consumption) as well as exports. To further broaden development partners' support, awareness creation meetings organized to enable partners to know more about the programme and contribute towards continued support for the

programme were organized. Positive results were achieved in terms of bringing additional resources for the programme from our partners by council of Ministers.

Drafting of Proclamation and Regulation for the National Pluralistic Extension. Ethiopia's Agriculture Extension System has been dominantly publicly-led since decades. Hence, the Ministry of Agriculture, in its policy reform agenda, has taken break through action to open up opportunities to other Non-state actors to play their respective roles and contribute their level best for the Ethiopian Extension System. To this end, meetings were organized at different levels to get inputs to enrich the Proclamation and Regulation. Such undertakings will continue in EFY 2016 till the endorsement and ratification of the proclamation and regulation.

Ethiopia's Strategic Investment Framework for Sustainable Land Management/ESIF-II Document. The Ethiopian Strategic Investment Framework for Sustainable Land Management (ESIF) was adopted in 2010 and served as MoA's key policy document for Natural Resource Management in the Ethiopian highlands. Despite the progress in restoring degraded watersheds in the highlands, land degradation continues to be a major challenge to agricultural production and ecosystem functions. Hence, the redesigning of ESIF I kick-started with the objective of providing a comprehensive policy framework for landscape and natural resources management that guides the broad spectrum of Government, Civil Society, and Development Partners towards a common set of economic, social, and environmental considerations for public and private investments towards the sustainable management of landscapes and agrarian ecosystems

The main challenges observed in the functioning of the Working Group in the reported period are the following:

- *Irregularities in maintaining the frequency of meetings.* Based on the modus operandi of the REDFs platform, Ex-com meeting is being held every four months, while Technical Committees (TCs) and Task Forces' (TFs) meetings are held every quarter and two months respectively. However, it was not possible to fully abide by the agreed modus operandi during the reporting period due to reasons beyond control.
- *Lengthy time taken to bring together Chairs and Cochairs of Ex-com, TCs and TFs for agenda setting.* In accordance with REDFS SWG's working procedure, Chairs of Ex-com, TCs and TFs are assigned from Government while Co-Chairs are represented from DPs or DP-supported NGOs. This has been adopted from the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness Principles. In this regard, there have been challenges in bringing together both Chairs and Co-chairs to set agenda items and dates for their respective meetings, which resulted in delay in maintaining meeting frequencies.

The initiative pursued by both DPG and Ministry of Finance through designed model and operational plan for strengthening dialogue effectiveness between the GOE and DPG is a step forward in revitalizing the already existing platform. We therefore need to tap on this opportunity to open up communications with all relevant partners to increase the level of engagement for the attainment of agriculture transformation agendas pursued by the Ministry of Agriculture.