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MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

NEWSLETTER



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REDFS News and Current Events

1

The Livestock and Fisheries Sector Development Programme/LFSDP focuses on the development of four selected livestock value chains (dairy, poultry, red meat and fishery).-----

2

Health of Ethiopian Animals for Rural Development/HEARD is an EU funded project aimed at improving quality and reliability of integrated public and private veterinary service delivery-----

3

Participatory Agriculture and Climate Transformation Programme/PACT is an IFAD Supported Program aimed at sustaining improved incomes, food and nutrition security and building resilience to climate shocks -----

Together we can make a difference !

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About the RED&FS

REDFS SWG is an acronym for the Rural Economic Development and Food Security Sector Working Group. It is primarily a Government and Development Partners' coordination platform for the broader agriculture sector which includes crops and horticulture development, natural resource management, food and nutrition security, livestock development, agric. investment and market. The REDFS's primary objective is to jointly review sector level implementation status and coordinate efforts of various Development Partners supporting the sector

Since its establishment in 2008, the REDFS has maintained a three-layered structure composed of an Executive Committee (an oversight body), Technical Committees and Task Forces. The SWG is currently Chaired by H.E. Dr. Girma Amente, Minister for the Ministry of Agriculture and Co-Chaired by two DP representatives, notably Mr. Mawira Chitima from IFAD, and Mr. Erik Slingerland from the Netherlands Embassy.

The RED&FS SWG is assisted by the Secretariat whose main responsibility is to provide overall program support for the different RED&FS's structures with major roles in communication, networking, knowledge management and coordination.

This Newsletter, as part and parcel of the secretariat's responsibility, is prepared through a series of consultations with all providers of information. We hope such information will enable you to know and get insights on the overall flagship programs and projects of MoA and that of DPs' affiliated NGOs in order to open up opportunities to interact for further collaboration works.

LIVESTOCK AND FISHERIES SECTOR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME/LFSDP

1. Introduction

LFSDP is a multi-level investment project that focuses on the development of four selected livestock value chains (dairy, poultry, red meat and fishery). The LFSDP is financed through a credit from the International Development Association (World Bank) with contributions from GoE and beneficiaries having a total budget of US\$176.2 million equivalent with a duration of six years, and a closing date of July 7, 2024.

Project development Objective (PDO): is to increase productivity and commercialization of producers and processors in selected value chains, strengthen service delivery systems in the livestock and fisheries sectors, and respond promptly and effectively to an eligible crisis or emergency.

The project has three interdependent components: Component 1: Linking more productive farmers to market; Component 2: Strengthen National Institution and Programs; and Component 3: Project Monitoring and Evaluation, and knowledge management.

Geographically, the project focuses mainly on the rural and peri urban areas of the high potential highland regions for the four livestock value chains. The project has therefore been under implementation in seven regions, and the selected woredas within these regions. Since its start the project has been under implementation in 23 woredas of Oromia, 15 woredas of Amhara, 11 woredas of SNNPR, 4 woredas of Tigray, 2woredas of Sidama, 2 woredas of Benshangul-Gumuz and 1 woreda of Gambella.

2. Key Results

2.1. An Enabling Environment

The project has Created a collaborative Institutional Environment through:

- A. Establishing inclusive and collaborative multi-stakeholder institutional arrangement at all levels.
- B. Establishing multi-stakeholder commodity platforms in four targeted livestock value chains such as dairy read meat poultry and fishery.
- C. Improving knowledge infrastructure, policy gap and human resource capacity through providing training materials, trainings, inputs, technology for staffs of MoA and cooperatives offices at all levels.

2.2. Impact on production, productivity, commercialization, income and nutrition

The project has generally shown positive effects on improving smallholders' productivity, production, commercialization, income, and nutrition (see table below).

A. Effects on Productivity

Commodity	Unit	Baseline	Achievement	Change in productivity in %
Milk	Litter/cross breed cow/day	5.2	6.2	16.2%
	Litter/cow/year	219.6	257.6	14.75%
Egg	(egg/100hens/day)	63	75	16%
Dual purpose pullet for meat	Mortality in percent	20	13	35%
Fish	Cage: Kg/Cubic Meters	-	35	88%
	Pond	-	1.32	44%

B. Effects on Nutrition

The mean women of reproductive age who achieved minimum dietary diversity (MDD-W) in midterm was higher than that of the baseline. The percentage of intervention households that met the minimum dietary diversity requirement for women (35.6%) was greater than the percentage of control that households met the MDD-W (23.7%). On the other hand, as part of the

food and nutrition security initiatives of the project, beneficiary CIGs and primary cooperatives consumed 27.4 million of liters of milk, 17.5 million eggs, 27,762 small ruminants and 306,770 kg of fish. Therefore, the project created opportunity for beneficiaries and their family to diversity their food consumption, improve their micronutrient intake sourced from ASF, and promote healthier lifestyles.

3 . Challenges

- Security problems in the project regions significantly affected implementation progress.
- Delay in the delivery of project activities due to COVID-19 pandemic.
- Increased price for the production of inputs, equipment and construction materials due to high inflation rate

4. Lessons learned:

- Through creating partnership business model, the LFSDP helped smallholder producers to overcome their major constraints to enter into the livestock value chains market. As a result, smallholders have become better in bargaining position in the value chains through improving their capacity to supply in large volume with better quality.
- Good Husbandry and Fishery Practices (GHFPs) as a transformational tool, is found to be an important pathway for transforming smallholders into market-oriented production and then to more commercialized farmers through

improving production and productivity, and product quality.

- The project confirms that the unfavourable institutional environment that constrains smallholders' integration into the agri-food value market could be addressed through creating a collaborative institutional environment and strong coordination among stakeholders.
- Integrated smallholder upgrading interventions that are context-specific to farmers' needs and local conditions, have positive impacts on improving smallholder productivity, commercialization, gender balance in value chain participation, income, and hence enhanced dietary diversity and consumption of animal sources of food in rural households.

HEALTH OF ETHIOPIAN ANIMALS FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM/HEARD

The EU 10th EDF funded project "Improving and Integrating Animal Health Services in the Livestock Value Chain through Public Private Dialogue in Ethiopia (LVC-PPD)" was implemented by MoA b/n 2010 and 2015. The 11th EDF funded HEARD project has been designed based on the experiences and lessons gained from the implementation of the completed 10th EDF LVC-PPD project. It is meant to contribute to the on-going effort for addressing the critical gaps, and also meet the set targets of GTP-2 in the area of animal health sector.

Objectives:

The overall objective of the project is to "Increase sustainable livestock productivity and improve the marketing of livestock products", while the specific objectives is to improve quality and reliability of integrated public and private veterinary service delivery.

Project Beneficiaries

Beneficiaries are Livestock producers in pastoral, Agro pastoral and mixed farming system and animal health service providers with a focus on 70 weredas of three project regions (Oromia, Amhara and Somali)

Expected Deliverables

The program has been in operation since 2019 to achieve the following three results.

Results/ Intermediate outcomes	Main activities
Result 1 The quality of public and private veterinary services strengthened and delivery optimized (through the creation of an enabled and rationalized environment) (Grant to 3 regional states).	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1. Raise the quality of veterinary service performance 1.2. Enhance laboratory human and material diagnostic capacity 1.3. Reduce impact of animal diseases through improved disease surveillance, disease control and risk-based vaccination. 1.4. Pilot innovative and gender sensitive animal health 1.5. Create enabling environment for the development and rationalization of animal health service 1.6. Improve the quality of sheep and goat skin production by enhancing animal health service
Result 2 Technical competences (knowledge, skills and attitude) and incentives for veterinary service providers improved to deliver better and rationalized services. (Grant to ILIRI/EVA)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2.1. Pilot the veterinary service rationalization roadmap activities 2.2. Develop training materials and implement innovative delivery methods for skill development in veterinary professionals, para-professionals and livestock producers 2.3. Make available and disseminate resources for animal health knowledge, best practices and research findings, including measures to mitigate against the impact of climate change

Results/ Intermediate outcomes	Main activities
<p>Result 3. Food safety of primary products of animal origin improved and better control of zoonotic diseases achieved. (Grant to MoA)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3.1. Improve inspection and certification of animal and animal products to ensure food safety through capacity building 3.2. Standardize and certify export abattoirs through implementation of abattoir auditing compliance 3.3. Support Animal quarantine to strengthen inspection and certification process 3.4. Strengthen Livestock Identification and Traceability System (LITS) 3.5. promote and implement standardized animal welfare 3.6. Improve testing of primary animal products by capacitating Quality control lab of VDFACA, export abattoir and quarantine laboratories 3.7. Develop University/College based meat inspection course to produce certified meat inspectors 3.8. Enhance zoonotic disease surveillance and control

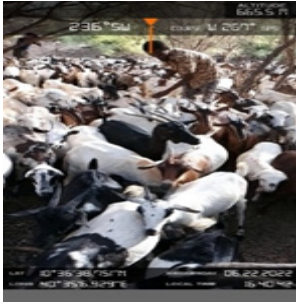
Budget details and project duration

The total budget is EUR 15 million with a budget source from European Development Fund. The project duration was 48 months initially and later on addition 1 year no cost extension approved.

Major activities achieved so far under MoA HEARD project

- Through international procurement processes: Technical Assistant Team (TAT) has been recruited and started functioning since August 2020, and 13 vehicles, 40 motor cycles, 7 generators and different cold chain equipment were procured and distributed to the beneficiary regions namely, Oromia, Amhara and Somali regions.
- Self-assessment of Veterinary Services has been conducted following the WOAHP procedures in all regions except Tigray.
- Risk-based disease surveillance has been done in 3 rounds:
- The status of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) was assessed to determine the likelihood of contamination of small ruminant meat sourced from Borena, Guji, and Liben zones with FMD along the export value chain;
- Carried out Investigation on unknown camel disease outbreak, which caused high mortality in camels in the Somali region;
- Carried out investigation and control of unknown poultry disease outbreak in Addis Ababa and the surrounding Oromia special zone;
- Surveillance of bee diseases in the potential regions of the country namely Oromia, Sidama, Amhara and South-west regions of selected localities.
- Following the outbreak investigations and PDS in 21 Weredas of Afar, risk-based vaccinations against PPR disease support provided for a total of 1,846,940 goats, and 1,454,074 sheep in 23 districts of Afar region.
- In addition, intensive field monitoring and follow-up of PPR activities in the country have been conducted by a team of experts from MoA.
- Sero-monitoring, which monitors and evaluates the post vaccination herd immunity was conducted in Afar and Amhara region by Animal Health Institute (AHI).





Following the Government restructuring the animal health and welfare proclamation was updated

- and reviewed through a stakeholder's workshop.
- Guideline for local abattoir governance, management and sanitation prepared and validated to improve the status of local/municipal abattoirs in producing hygienic and safe meat and other slaughtering products, The draft strategy and SOP for the aflatoxin control and

prevention prepared.

- The preparation of minimum standard guideline and communication strategy for animal health and welfare document is near to its completion
- A "Training manual on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods of Animal Origin", prepared by Animal Products and inputs Quality Testing Centre (APIQTC), and validated through stakeholder workshop to improve testing of primary animal products.



PARTICIPATORY AGRICULTURE AND CLIMATE TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME/PACT

Smallholder farmers and pastoralists face challenges that limit their production, dietary diversity and market access: a) land degradation; b) limited access to water and inefficient water management; c) extension services focused on mainly staple crops; d) vulnerability to climate change and limited access to improved climate smart technologies (inputs, mechanisation, climate and weather information); e) inadequate access to finance; f) limited social inclusion and malnutrition; g) limited access to remunerative markets and market infrastructure; h) Limited business capacities and inclusivity of Farmers' Organizations; and i) Weak policy and institutional framework.

The Program's Theory of Change (ToC) is based on the assumptions that commercialization of small holder farmers and pastoralists in drought prone areas with a depleted natural resource base, begins with inclusive community

empowerment. The Programme will develop and facilitate the household and community capacities in the targeted landscapes to develop inclusive, nutrition sensitive, community-led, and climate-smart landscape development and investments plans. Beneficiaries will be supported to access climate smart, inclusive technologies and infrastructure, improve nutrition and natural resource management and to develop businesses for improved production and incomes for men women, youth in the targeted areas. The investments are expected to contribute to: a) Improved resilience to market and environmental shocks, b) create green jobs and entrepreneurship for rural youths and women enhanced, including for those living with a disability; e) economic empowerment, increased voice and participation in decision-making bodies and more equitable workload for women; f) increased access to improved dietary choices and nutritious foods.

Project Goal and Objective

The Program's goal is 'to contribute to poverty reduction and improved resilience in selected landscapes/woredas.' The Programme Development Objective (PDO) is to 'enable 150,000 rural households (men, women, youth and people with disability (PWDs)) in selected kebeles to sustainably improve incomes, food and nutrition security and build resilience to climate shocks. The Programme will be implemented over a seven-year period.

Geographic Area of Intervention

The Programme will be implemented in 6 regional states of Amhara, Oromia, Southern Nations, Nationalities Peoples Region (SNNPR), Sidama, South West Ethiopia and Somali. The regions have been selected, in consultation with the Government of Ethiopia, based on the following criteria: a) high rural population; b) high poverty prevalence; c) high rate of food and nutrition insecurity; d) presence of economic opportunities relevant to the project; e) impacts of climate change; and f) natural resources degradation.



In the selected regions, a total of 90 food insecure woredas have been prioritized based on: a) high poverty prevalence based on inclusion in the Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP) and no overlap with LLRP supported woredas in Somali, SNNPR and Oromia; b) highly vulnerable (hotspot) based on composite indicators (Food security, poverty, gender inequality, water, education, agriculture); c) the level of degradation of the productive NR base (particularly soil, water and trees); d) avoid overlap with kebeles under PASDIP II; and e) Synergies with AGP, WFP Fresh Food Voucher Programme in Amhara.

Target Group – The Programme will benefit approximately 150,000 household, with the targeted participation of women, youth, and PWD. The primary target group will include: a) the poor households (with land holding less than 2ha of cultivable land

with limited livestock); b) pastoralists and agropastoral engaged in less diversified traditional livelihood system and; c) persons living with a disability in the rural area; d) rural underemployed and unemployed youths owning no or small land; and e) female headed households.

Targeting Strategy– In line with IFAD’s targeting guidelines and GoE’s ambitions, the targeting strategy will comprise: i) geographic targeting, based on the identification of priority districts; ii) self-targeting, of poor households; iii) direct targeting of very poor and/or marginalized households, including youth and female headed households; The targeting strategy will pay attention to drivers of conflict at the local level in order to do-no harm. The primary safeguards against elite capture will be the self-targeting plus the participatory identification of the poor and priority households.

The targeting strategy will include these three aspects: a) enterprise selection: selection of commodities that have potential for inclusion of poor households, women and youth and b) potential positive impacts on nutrition and climate change adaptation; and c) availability of markets.

The Programme’s Development Objective will be achieved through the effective implementation of two technical components and a third component that will focus on augmenting the capacity of communities, institutions, and contributing to a conducive policy environment towards Programme implementation. Job creation for young women and men, including persons with disabilities, will be a main focus of all investments in the Programme. Following is a summary of the expected focus of the different components and subcomponents

Component 1:

Community-Led Climate-Smart Productive Landscapes–

The Component will support: a) community-led equitable access and sustainable use of natural resources; b) market-led and climate adapted smallholder and pastoral production and productivity enhancement of target crop and livestock commodities; c) development of inclusive and equitable water and local market related infrastructure; and d) improved dietary diversity. The outcome of this component will be sustainable access and utilization of natural resources and increased agricultural productivity.

Component 2:

Agribusiness Development–

The Component will support: a) Market Access Linkage; b) Support to Young Women and Men Agripreneurs. The outcome of this component will be strengthened capacities of farmer and pastoralist organizations to improve access to finance and remunerative markets for small-scale women, men and young farmers and pastoralists, including those living with a disability in the Programme areas.

Component 3:

Institutional and Policy Strengthening and Implementation Support Services–

This will be a cross-cutting component servicing the technical components and facilitating pathways for the effective and inclusive functioning of the target value chains, from production to consumption. The Component will support: a) Institutional Strengthening; b) Policy support; and c) implementation support services.

Programme Costs and Financing – Total Programme costs are set at US\$ 185.559 million over the seven-year implementation period. The PACT programme will be financed by the following financiers: a) IFAD, grant of US\$77.997 million (44,8% of this is climate finance) and additional grants US\$11.553 million through the Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme (ASAP+); b) the Gender Transformative Mechanism/Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (GTM/BMGF), grant of US\$4.990 million; c) the European Commission (EC), grant of US\$19.953 million; d) contribution of US\$2.011 million from a yet to be identified financier; e) the IGREENFIN, subject to the approval from the Green Climate Fund (GCF), with a loan of US\$35.013 million; f) the Government of Ethiopia, contribution of about US\$24.309 million (including waived duties and taxes and a direct contribution); g) private sector (enterprises, associations, unions, cooperatives), with a contribution of US\$3.657 million ; and h) beneficiaries, with about US\$6.076 million (in-kind and cash contributions).

BIO-SLURRY MAINSTREAMING ACTIVITIES: EXPERIENCE FROM SNV NGO

In its role as National Biogas programme of Ethiopia SNV began raising partners' and users' knowledge of bio-slurry. Starting with phase II of the initiative, mainstreaming of bio-slurry into MoA, SNV Agricultural Programmes, and Research Institutions is under implementation.

By using bio-slurry as an organic fertiliser, seeds dresser, and pesticide, farmers claim more benefits compared to their traditional and chemical fertiliser utilisation practices. Increased quality of produce, healthier plants, and increased productivity are all results observed by using bio-slurry in addition to improved soil fertility and health. There are also proofs that show production is acquired from areas where none was collected without the use of bio-slurry in crops like garlic (Were Ilu).

Tapping the Potential of Bio-



Facts in bio-digester and bio-slurry in 2022

- 39,741 HH digesters installed
- Average functionality rate 79%
- From the digesters 1,031,338,560 litres of bio-slurry produced per year
- It covers an average area of 34,378 when used as organic fertilizer
- Based on regional reports, in 2022, the available digesters produced 842,436 quintals of bio-slurry compost and 25,750,527 litres of bio-slurry.
- 15,080 hectares of land is cultivated using bio-slurry.
- 10,751 hectares in composted form
- 221 hectares by seeds dressing and
- 4,120 hectares in liquid application
- Estimated amount of saved fertiliser is 11,310 quintals (7,540 quintals of urea and 3,770 quintals of NPSB)
- Its value at 2022 price at Adama culated to be ETB 55,818,620.

"We had stopped producing garlic due to root rot disease. After dressed the seed with bio-slurry and planting, I have harvested garlic from my plot." Woizero Serkie Ali, bio-digester owner in Were Ilu Woreda

A co-product of bio-digester, bio-slurry is a liquid discharged from the bio-digester after gas has been tapped for energy. Bio-slurry contains 93% water and 7% dry matter. The dry matter contains Nitrogen (N), Phosphorus (P) and Potassium (K) which are crucial for the healthy growing of plants. It is important to fertilise crops, improve soil quality, or even increase revenue by selling it as fertiliser.

Ministry of Agriculture Soil Resource Development Lead Executive mainstreamed bio-slurry into the agriculture sector. To complement the effort, stakeholders are intensively promoting the multiple uses of bio-slurry to bio-digester owners and potential users.

An anaerobic bio-digester is ideal for the agricultural sector - Africa Biogas Partnership Programme (ABPP)

SNV Ethiopia conducted a laboratory investigation on 25 samples of liquid bio-slurry to determine its nutrient makeup. According to the results of the laboratory analysis, bio-slurry contains other macro and micronutrients besides NPK (Table 1).

Table 1: Laboratory result of bio-slurry from selected 25 sites.

No	Parameters	Unit	Average of	Average of Large
1.	pH	%	7.33	7.15
2.	Total Nitrogen (TN)	Mg/l	2.94	3.58
3.	Phosphorus (P)	Mg/l	395.04	459.54
4.	Potassium (K)	Mg/l	788.86	1066.34
5.	Calcium (Ca)	Mg/l	1064.17	484.09
6.	Magnesium (Mg)	Mg/l	281.31	219.50
7.	Sodium (Na)	Mg/l	157.34	447.50
8.	Sulphur (S)	Mg/l	204.15	162.84
9.	Iron (Fe)	Mg/l	349.43	127.98
10.	Manganese (Mn)	Mg/l	44.74	21.84
11.	Copper (Cu)	Mg/l	0.96	0.69
12.	Zinc (Zn)	Mg/l	1.56	1.11
13.	Boron (B)	Mg/l	1.91	1.36
14.	Organic Carbon (OC)	%	39.45	45.15
15.	Dry Matter (DM)	%	6.78	4.92

By engaging in onion seeds multiplication using liquid bio-slurry, we expect to harvest 50 kgs of seed from 210 m² of small plot. In our traditional practice (without the application of bio-slurry), we used to harvest 30 kgs only. This means we will get an additional production of 20 kgs which is ETB 50,000 at a price of 2500/kg. Gebre Giorgis Dori, Oromia Region, Lode Hitosa Woreda, Gardabusa Model Village.



Gebre Giorgis Dori and his wife in their onion field

**RED&FS Secretariat
Ministry of Agriculture**

**Building B, 1st Floor
Gurd Sholla, Area Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
www.moa-redfs.gov.et
P.o.Box 62347**

