



**Terms of Reference for Rural Economic Development,
Food Security Joint Working Group/REDF JWG**

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Addis Ababa

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1. Background

The Government of Ethiopia has made significant progress in charting Ethiopia's food system transformation pathway and achieved it through a systematic consultative national process. In this regard, Ethiopia is committed to the sustainable Development Goals and to implementing the Ethiopia's Food Systems vision to enhance agricultural production and productivity, ensure food security, healthy and equitable incomes and prosperity for all Ethiopians.

The vision is therefore a holistic transformation of Ethiopia's food systems from production food to safety, nutrition and diets, improved livelihoods, greater land preservation and restoration and greater resilience to shocks and stress.

Although Ethiopia has made great stride in ensuring food security for all its citizens, there are still persistent challenges that remain across the Ethiopian food system, from production to distribution and consumption.

Ethiopia thus recognizes the need to do more and collaborate with all particularly with our DPs to ensure positive food systems transformation.

Hence, implementing the EFS's vision will require a call to action for all Ethiopians and will necessitate close coordination and cooperation amongst Gov, DPs, private sector, CSO and above all the Ethiopian public. Such coordination effort has been in existence since the establishment of the REDFS platform which is governed by Paris Declaration on Aid effectiveness principles

2. The REDFS SWG: Historical Perspective

The Rural Economic Development and Food Security Sector Working Group abbreviated as REDFS SWG is a joint Government and DPs platform organized for aligning, harmonizing and coordinating efforts of DPs supporting the Ministry in their areas of engagement as related to the Agric Sector and its complementary initiatives.

The REDFS SWG was established in 2008 in accordance with Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness principles based on the joint agreement reached b/n the then Ministry of Finance and Economic Development (MoFED) and Development Assistance Group (DAG) operating in Ethiopia. The underlying vision of the REDFS SWG is harmonization and alignment of

donor support to rural economic development and food security in line with the country's strategic development plans.

The REDFS SWG has been under operation having a three layered structure namely an Executive Committee at the apex and Technical Committees and Task Forces. The full oversight to the RED&FS is provided by an Executive Committee, Chaired by the Federal Minister of the Ministry of Agriculture and Co-Chaired by two Development Partners.

Accordingly, the Technical Committees are Chaired by the respective State Ministers and Co-Chaired by Development Partners. Membership consists of higher Officials from key Directorates and Institute of the Ministry and DP stakeholders and representatives from international and bilateral organizations.

To facilitate the work of the SWG, strengthen linkages amongst Technical Committees (TCs) and meet the day-to-day information and communication needs of REDFS, the Executive committee/Ex-Com established the REDFS Secretariat, housed within the Ministry of Agriculture while the Donor REDFS Secretariat coordinator is based at the WB office here in Addis Ababa.

3. Overview of the Current REDFS JWG

The primary functions of the JWG on REDFS is to **improve alignment between ODA and the Ten Year Agriculture Sector Plan (TYASP)**, laying foundations for a progressive shift towards a programmatic approach.

The REDFS JWG is re-established as a core mechanism for the harmonization and alignment within the sector, with the aim of moving towards a more programmatic approach. It will therefore serve as a main forum for sector level planning and budgeting. The REDFS JWG is guided by and promotes the Bussan Commitments on aid effectiveness which the GoE and members of DPG committed to in 2011.

4. The REDFS JWG Guiding Principles

The guiding principles around which the REDFS JWGs should conduct include:

- Government leadership through participation in the JWG;
- Alignment with Government policies as set out in the TYDP;
- Commitment to joint analysis as the foundation for programmatic harmonisation;
- Predictability, over both the short- and medium-term;
- Commitment to coordination through the JWG sector mechanisms as a first resort;

- Mutual accountability;
- Communication with other JWGs to avoid duplication while enhancing complementarity;
- Commitment to managing results through an annual work plan.
- Commitment to supporting the triple-nexus i.e, humanitarian development and peace nexus (where applicable).

5. Scope of the REDFS JWG Engagement

The Scope of REDFS JWG engagement covers agricultural(both crop & livestock sectors), Natural Resource Management and climate, Food Security & Nutrition, Forestry, Fisheries & aqua culture, rural finance and agric markets and agric investment.

6. Objectives

6.1. General Objectives

The general objective of the JWG is to create a platform for the Government and donors to engage and enable dialogue for ensuring effective coordination and cooperation in the sector. This is achieved through:

- **Enhanced Development Cooperation at the Sector Level:** By promoting the exchange of information within donors working in the sector, and committing to regular engagements to conduct joint analysis, JWG facilitates the harmonization of donors and government programmes and strategies in a particular area. This would include reporting major donor investments (as a sector mapping) for substantial flows, to aid coordination.
- **Alignment with the TYASP:** The promotion of GoE policies, strategies and programs at the sector level, on the basis of the TYADP, through the leadership of MoA.
- **Enhance ODA Effectiveness Through Dialogue and Joint Analysis & Planning:** Ensure regular dialogue and the establishment of a joint analysis document allows to overcome ODA resource fragmentation and maximize investment returns and multipliers through collaborative approaches. This should include joint planning to reach consensus on how the Government and DPs can jointly deliver finance to best meet the needs of the sector;
- **Monitoring and Evaluation:** Provide a forum for GoE and DPs to mutually review the implementation of sector development on the basis of the JWG Results Framework, as informed by the TYADP's objectives and targets. The JWG Results Framework can also act as a basis for donor mapping of key flows.

- **Communication and Coordination of Sector Updates with the Wider DPG Structure:** The outcome of joint analysis under a JWG has significant value to wider development efforts in Ethiopia. The JWG should ensure that sector updates and outcomes of their engagement (e.g., identification of gaps and recommendation of interventions) are disseminated both vertically (contribute to higher level dialogue at the Head of Agency (HoA) and High Level Donor Forum (HLDF) and horizontally (contribute to outcome of other JWGs) across the DPG to support broader strategic outcomes.
- **Expansion of Sector Engagement Beyond DPG Representations:** In line with the Busan Principles, the JWG will actively seek out and encourage the participation of experts from non-traditional donors, private sector and civil society representatives, as well as sub-national government, in sector discussions, where possible.

6.2. Specific Objective

To Ensure that Agriculture Sector Policies, strategies and programmes are effectively led by Government and supported by Development partners in line with Paris Declaration principles as well as Bussan Commitments of alignment, harmonization and coordination.

7. Membership & Governance of the REDFS JWG

The JWG's members generally compose of Government higher officials, members of international community particularly Development Partners as well as potential non-traditional donors, CSOs, NGOs, and private sector representatives.

It is important at this juncture to note that any interested bi-lateral or multilateral donor organization supporting or planning to support interventions in the relevant sector area can become a member of the JWG, if they are able to make the case for their involvement in the sector, and subject to the approval of the leadership of the JWG, particularly Chairs and Co-Chairs of the JWG as well as their sub groups.

Membership

Membership is grouped into permanent and non-permanent

Permanent Membership of a JWG will represent the primary advocates of sector development (please see annex 3 for the details). Members will be represented at the highest level including at the level of the Minister and State Minister or a Director from the Government and a Director/senior expert from DPG and UN Agencies. Permanent Membership of a given JWG will be selected on the following basis:

- **Selection:** Permanent Membership of the JWG will be decided by the DPG in consultation with Donor REDFS secretariat. Whereas membership from GoE is self-explanatory and will be realized upon decision at the highest level. Criteria for selecting permanent membership of DPs will depend on a DPs ability to prove their involvement or interest of involvement in the sector through i) commitment of significant financial resources to the sector, as well as ii) technical expertise in the sector, iii) availability of time for participation, and iv) commitment of human resources to the JWG.
- **Duration:** Duration of the **three years** duration. Co-Chair tenure is on the basis of triennial rotation. Where one of them will remain for an additional one year to make sure of institution memory.
- **Limits:** There are no strict limits in terms of total JWG membership, however it is suggested that JWG membership is limited to below 30 for operational efficiency.

Non- Permanent Membership of the REDFS JWG:

Alongside Permanent Membership, the JWG is able to invite ad-hoc participation of non-permanent members based on value addition to a given discussion or series of discussion. Ad-hoc members will be selected by the REDFS permanent members and invitations be communicated by the secretariat. Participations may involve presentation or simply participation in the discussion. Ad-hoc Participants can come from a broad set of actors, including CSOs, non-traditional donors, private sector, academia, Professional association and may also include GoE, DPs, or UNCT Members not permanently represented in the JWG.

REDFS JWG's Chair and Co-Chairs

The REDFS JWG will have three layered structure, namely an Executive committee/ EX-com (an oversight body) with two sub groups the Technical committees /TCs and Task Forces/ TFs. The Ex-com, TCs and TFs are permanent ones. However, some TFs may cease to exist based on justification emanated from Ex-com members.

JWG will be chaired by the Federal Minister of MoA and TCs are being chaired by State Ministers and the ad-hock TFs are being chaired either by National Agency Heads or Senior Directorates within the Organization with a mandate over the JWG's scope of engagement. Co-chairing for each structure is being done by two members of the DPG that are most active in that particular sector. Alongside the Ministry, the lead donor will have responsibilities for overseeing the role of wider DPG partner coordination for that sector. In addition, for overseeing JWG secretariat funding, either individually or in kind, or taking responsibility to secure funding from other sources. In this regard, the DPG

partners will secure funding for the Secretariat while the Ministry will provide in kind support which among others include office space and vehicle for mobility.

A dedicated ToR will be developed to guide JWG Chair's in the execution of their responsibilities, which mainly include:

- Chairing the JWG meetings.
- Provide strategic leadership & direction of the work of the JWG, including expansion or revision of JWG scope of engagement,
- Be in charge of the annual development of the JWG's work plan and results framework as well as ensuring effective monitoring and implementation of both.
- Outline key policy issues of priority for discussion with JWG members;
- Set/approve the JWG meeting agenda at least 1 week in advance of any meeting, regular or extra-ordinary.
- Ensure effective consultation and decisive decision-making during JWG meetings to come to decisions which achieve the JWG's intended outcomes;
- Oversight of the management and establishment of internal structures of the JWG (e.g. establishment of sub-groups or technical committees and/or ad-hoc/temporary bodies such as task forces on specific thematic areas);
- Work closely with the secretariat to ensure effective dissemination of information and exchange of experiences between JWGs as well as provide feedback to senior DPG bodies;
- Inform ExCom/HoA on emerging policy issues and challenges & delegates one of his State Ministers at DPG HoA's meetings upon request.
- Facilitate donor harmonization and alignment by sharing key programming and investment priorities;
- Leading dialogue with additional government interlocutors on technical and programmatic issues.

7.1. The REDFS JWG's Secretariat

To improve JWG effectiveness the REDFS JWG has both Government Secretariat and Donor Secretariat Coordinator. The Government secretariat is housed within the premise of MoA while one Donor secretariat coordinator is based at the WB Office in Addis Ababa. A secretariat function is mandatory and the Government Secretariat should be staffed with full time dedicated national staffs.

A JWG Secretariat will be necessary to adequately manage the JWGs administration, strengthen linkages between subgroups coordinate and share information with other DPG structures (including other JWGs), meet the

information and communication needs of the JWG, and track performance as well as report results.

The secretariat is directly accountable to the Ex-com Chair and Co-Chairs, to ensure effective delivery of the JWG mandate and the major responsibilities of the will include:

- Provide the administrative support necessary to Ex-com chairs, TCs &TFs co-chairs and members
- Organize regular meetings and prepare (and monitor) annual work plans.
- Facilitate meetings of the JWG in a timely basis and ensure that priorities and concerns of all JWG members are engaged in advance of and during the JWG meetings;
- Facilitate and coordinate analytical work and inputs into JWG meetings on key sector-wide strategy and planning issues;
- Record minutes and decisions undertaken in JWG meetings and disseminate these across JWG participants, to HoA/ExCom as well as publish these on the website (<http://www.moa-redfs.gov.et/>);
- Support JWG co-chairs to regularly review JWG members and ensure that all relevant and active stakeholders are represented in the membership;
- Act as point of contact for all external communication including other DPG structures, Government Bodies and private sector & civil society representatives;
- Pro-actively lead engagement with other JWGs through information sharing and joint analysis by arranging knowledge sharing events and actively selecting and showcasing best practices and lessons learned;
- Facilitate and coordinate necessary information gathering for reporting on the implementation of JWG annual work plan and results framework;
- Establish a repository of GOE policies, strategies, guidelines, laws and regulations, and lessons from past and on-going programming relevant to the JWG sector area;
- Actively take triple-nexus arrangements i.e Humanitarian Dev't- Peace nexus into consideration as deemed necessary.
- Establish and maintain a database of DPG Members, non-traditional donors, donors', Implementing Partners (IPs), NGOs and private sector stakeholders engaged in the relevant JWG sector area;
- Prepare and submit quarterly reports on the operations and the activities of the JWG secretariat to Co-chairs.

7.2. Structure of the REDFS JWG

The REDFS JW is basically a three layered structure compose of Ex-com, TCs & TFs or Task Teams (Please see the annex 2 for details)

8. The REDFS JWG's Modes Operandi

8.1. Meeting frequency

Ex-com meeting is to be conducted every four months and TC meetings are being done every three months while ad-hock task teams meet every two months period

8.2. Reporting

As part of the REDFS structure , there will be reporting responsibilities at various levels of the structure. The JWG through its secretariat provide quarterly progress reports to HoA on the execution of activities. In addition, annual reports will be produced with the inclusion of the following

- A concise summary of the state of the sector a review of key sectoral challenges and priorities for the period 2022-2025
- Sector resourcing needs and
- A summary of achievements observed in a year

8.3. Communication

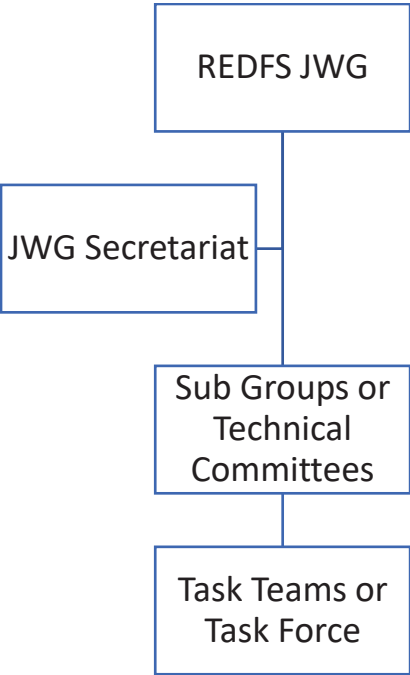
The JWG would develop its own short and concise communication strategy both for internal (JWG, DPG, HLPF) needs but also for wider out reach e.g. CSOs

9. Work plan, Results Framework and KPIS

The JWG maintains a standard work plan and results framework linked to the TYAP to be reviewed every six months. Accordingly, based on the JWG's Result Framework template, the annual work for the REDFS JWG is attached herewith. Some of the salient features of the work plan & results framework include- JWG's outcome statement with its different outputs, core activities, indicators, baseline, targets, responsible body timeline and reporting frequency.

Annex 1

Three-tier Organizational Structure of REDFS JWG



NB. The Sub Groups in the case of REDFS JWG include Technical Committees and ad-hock Task Teams, the ad-hock TFS are decided upon consultations at different tiers

Organizational Structure of REDFS JWG

