



Progress Report of the REDFS SWG for 2016 EFY

**REDFS Secretariat
July, 2024**

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1. Background

The Ministry of Agriculture is committed to continue strengthening its partnership with our Development Partners, CSOS and Private Sector to address sustainable agriculture development challenges taking advantage of existing opportunities and emerging initiatives to support the national development plans in the context of the agric food system transformation. Hence, the major engagements during the reporting period, among others, include the following.

2. Major achievements

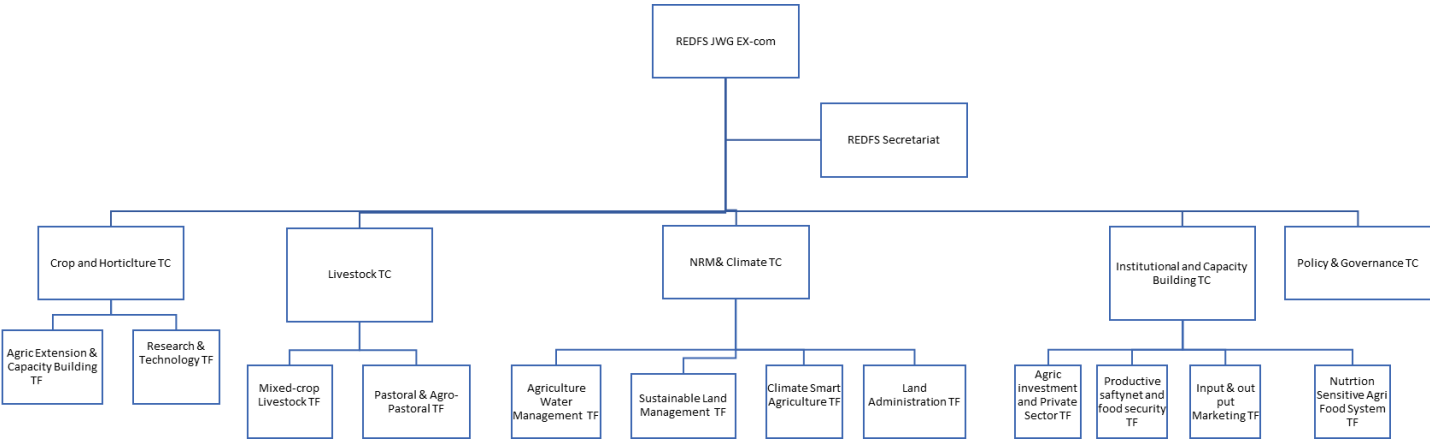
2.1. Sector working Group’s engagement on responding to DPG’s 100 Day Joint plan of Action

- ToR of the REDFS SWG updated
- Annual Work plan for 2016 EFY developed and put forward for action

Accordingly, the SWGs have managed to conduct 6 TCs’ and 10 TFs’ meetings during the 2016EFY. Similarly, we did convene 2 Ex-com meetings. The 1st meetings for all TCs and TFs were devoted to endorse the plans for 2016 EFY while the remaining ones were devoted to reporting on achievements made challenges faced and remedial actions for improvements.

- Organo-gram of the REDFS SWG restructured

The New Organo-gram of the TEDFS JWG



2.2. Production of REDFS Newsletters

The REDFS Secretariat, whose mandate is communication, networking, knowledge management and programme support for the REDFS SWG, has been tasked to produce Newsletters since its establishment. Accordingly, four Newsletters produced and circulated to readers during 2016 EFY.

Salient features of the 2016 EFY's newsletter, among others, include

➤ **Livestock and Fisheries sector Development programme/LFDP, July 2023 edition**

The 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 with a duration of six years, and a closing date of July 7, 2024.

➤ **Enacted law for contract farming, Nov, 2023 edition**

In accordance with Article 55(1) of the Constitution of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, this law is hereby proclaimed as “Agricultural Production Contract Proclamation No. 1289/2015”. It includes eight major and twenty-six sub articles whereby each article comprises all the necessary parts to make the proclamation complete. Accordingly, all the provisions of this Proclamation shall be applicable to contracts that are formed, signed, and registered in accordance with the provisions of this Proclamation and right of parties to a contract to bargain and create terms of their agreement as their desire shall be respected.

➤ **An overview of the Ethiopian cotton sector, March 2024 Edition**

Ethiopia has the largest untapped potential for cotton production in the world. The estimated land area suitable for cotton cultivation is 3 million hectares. Less than 3% of the 3 million hectares are presently under cotton cultivation.

➤ **Agriculture Development programme of the German Development Cooperation, June 2024 Edition**

Through its comprehensive "Promotion of Agricultural Productivity" (PAP) program, GIZ is working on various projects aiming to enhance productivity, increase income, and foster job creation across different agricultural value chains and related innovations.

2.3. Reflections made at the REDFS EX-com meeting held on 22nd April 2024 and issues future intervention.

- As there are positive measures in increasing production and productivity, the need to address issues of post harvest loss and associated risks such as aflatoxin be given emphasis.
- As the Government has proactively engaged in allocating USD 31 million for private sector to import day old chicks, the need for strengthening partnership and collaboration in supporting Government's initiatives be appreciated.
- The importance of maintaining data quality, accessibility and reliability be looked at seriously in tandem with the development of MIS Data Lake for NRM Sector.
- Strengthening the REDFS Platform be seen as important milestone for cooperation and partnership engagement
- The need to work together for addressing common goals is to be seen as an opportunity for all Development Partners to increase their feasibility towards contributing to Ethiopia's agric transformation agendas
- The need to get feedback for ESIF II document from Ministerial management team before putting forward for validation. In this regard, it is to be noted that the Ethiopian strategic Investment Framework for Sustainable Land Management I /ESIF I was adopted in 2010 and served as the GOE/MoA key policy document for Natural Resources Management in the Ethiopian highlands. After 15 years of implementation, the need for revision was initiated. Accordingly, ESIF II doc preparatory process started at the

beginning of the Ethiopian Fiscal Year. It is now in the final stage of completion.

2.4. Online Collaborative platform

In collaboration with DPG REDFS Secretariat, the REDFS secretariat of MoA has managed to create REDFS online channel in order to enable REDFS SWG's members to have access to an online channel to share files and engage in discussions online. Members of the REDFS SWG have been added to the DPG Ethiopian team and REDFS channel in order to have access to the platform using find <https://www.dpgethiopia.org/what-we-do/thematic-area-working-groups/economic-development/> then clicking on Rural Economic Development and Food Security (REDF) SWG. There is also possibility to interact with other sector working groups in the DPG dialogue structure by visit Microsoft team collaboration channel to start conversation.

3. Challenges Faced and measures for improvement

3.1. Irregularities in maintaining meeting frequencies

Based on the modes operandi of the REDFs platform, Ex-com meeting is being held every four months period, while TCs and TFs meetings are being held every quarter and couple of months period respectively. However, TCs and TFs have not been able to abide by modes operandi during the reporting period due to various reasons. As measure to overcome such challenge would be to send reminder every now and then by the secretariat for chairs and co-chairs.

3.2. Difficulty in bringing together Chairs and Co-chairs of Ex-com, TCs and TFs for agenda setting

In accordance with our working procedure, Chairs of Ex-com, TCs and TFs are being assigned from Government while Co-Chairs are represented from DPS and DP affiliated NGOs. As we are now embarking on the 2017 EFY, it has become important to point out some challenges faced in convening meetings. Accordingly, chairs and co-chairs did not manage to come together to set agenda items and dates for their respective meetings which resulted in affecting the convening of meetings as scheduled. The measure that we should consider for improvement would be to let the meeting continue in the presence of either chairs or co-chairs without waiting for one another. But this option

should not be taken for granted at all times. It can be done at times when chairs can't manage to chair the meeting beyond their control.

4. Opportunities

4.1. GOE's engagement with DPs

The Government of Ethiopia's primary engagement with Development Partners/DPs takes place through the Development Partners Group/DPG. The DPG is a multi-stakeholder platform, bringing together up to 30 bilateral and multilateral Development Partners to support the GOE in the implementation of its Ten Year Development Plan/TYDP through enhanced development cooperation and constructive policy dialogue.

The TYDP which is aligned to the SDGs forms the basis for the DPG's engagement, effectiveness of development cooperation by aligning development to government sectoral strategies and priorities. This is believed to provide foundation for wider DPG effectiveness.

4.2. Ethiopia's commitment to align with the UN food systems summit.

- It is to be noted that Ethiopia is one of the few countries which has developed a framework to transform its Food Systems in line with the request of the UN Food Systems Summit held in New York in 2021, with the purpose of, transforming the way the world produces, consumes and thinks about foods within the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to meet the challenges of poverty, food security, malnutrition, population growth, climate change, and natural resource degradation. The framework aims at contributing to ending poverty and hunger and reducing inequalities, as well as to the five dimensions of the 2030 Agenda: People, Prosperity, Peace, Planet and Partnerships.

Hence, the Ethiopian Food Systems & Nutrition Transformation agenda is fully integrated in the Ten Year Development Plan (TYDP) and the Medium-Term Development & Investment Plan (MTDIP) and aligned to the Homegrown Economic Reform (HGER). These plans address a number of political and economic bottlenecks that affect

food systems and more widely human development - such as population pressure, unemployment, high prevalence of malnutrition, inflation, food deficits, political tensions, or limited adoption of new technologies-by promoting knowledge-based economic transformation and stability, inclusive economic growth, social development, democratic governance, environmental sustainability, institutional strengthening and civil society and private sector engagement in development.

5. Key messages from the REDFS Secretariat

5.1. Building Partnership for the better

REDFS SWG is more about partnership. For successful partnership, one should as much as possible be able to take note of the following:

- Alignment of vision and objective
- Collaborative leadership
- Joint planning
- Trust and commitment to mutual gains

This requires an understanding on how to lead through influence, consensus building and appealing to your partner's self-interest. This also seeks a mentality of "when you win, I win".

Hence, adopting the aforementioned principles of partnership is a step-forward action in moving towards a successful partnership.

5.2. Engagement in documentation on lessons learned

The experiences we have gained in the course of implementation demonstrated to us that if we document lessons learnt while indulging in the implementation of plans, we would be able to share good lessons to others in order to use them in their own setting. Hence documentation of good lessons be seriously considered in the course of implementing our respective plans.