



FSS Update



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An email newsletter to facilitate networking and information exchange among CSOs and researchers

In this issue:

- FSS Seeks Stakeholders' Feedback on Draft Strategic Plan, p.1
- EC-Civil Society Fund Launched, p.1
- General Assembly of Non-State Actors on the Cotonou Agreement, p.2
- General Assembly of Union of Ethiopian Civil Society Associations Meets, p.2
- EEA/EEPRI Launches Fourth Annual Report on the Ethiopian Economy, p.2
- AFRODAD and NCA Research Validation Workshop, p.4
- New Acquisitions of the FSS Documentation Center, p.5

Spotlight

FSS Update

Your medium for civil society networking



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FSS Seeks Stakeholders' Feedback on Draft Strategic Plan

The Forum for Social Studies is in the process of developing its first ever strategic plan (SP) since last January. Through a review of FSS' current strengths and limitations and identification of the opportunities and challenges lying ahead, the Strategic Plan is aimed at redefining FSS' vision and mission, setting the strategic objectives and the modalities for achieving them during the next five years, and thus reorienting the overall focus and critical direction of its program interventions.

A SWOT analysis was carried out with inputs from FSS staff and members, and based on this the FSS Management Committee prepared the initial draft and presented it for discussion at the retreat of the FSS Board held on 18th February in Butajera. The Board thoroughly reviewed the draft and made recommendations for improvement. The Board also directed the FSS Secretariat to seek further feedback on the draft from FSS members and partners.

The draft will be circulated to FSS members and partners. Copies of the draft SP will be made available to other interested stakeholders who would like to make an input to enrich the SP before end of March.

For further details, contact FSS at, Email: fss@ethionet.et

EC-Civil Society Fund Launched

A 10-million Euro Civil Society Fund was launched in Addis Ababa last January. The Fund is launched within the framework of the Cotonou Agreement and aimed at contributing towards the achievement of its objectives. The initiative is based on a 5-year civil society program of the European Commission, developed in cooperation with the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia. The Program, which is financed by the European Union through the [European Development Fund](#), will be implemented in two phases, roughly 2006-2008 (Phase I) and 2008-2010 (Phase II). It is managed by the EC Delegation in Ethiopia.

The purpose of the program is to enhance NSA dialogue with various stakeholders, including Government, and raise their capacity to actively participate in national development processes.

Target beneficiaries of the Fund include civil societies engaged in conflict prevention, governance, democratization, human rights, rule of law and women's empowerment.

Interested CSOs can contact the EC-CSF/Technical Assistance Unit at: eucsf@ethionet.et for further details.

(Source: [Information Leaflet](#))

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General Assembly of Non-State Actors on the Cotonou Agreement

The General Assembly of Non-State Actors (NSA) on the Cotonou Agreement was held at the Hilton Hotel on 21 February 2006. The meeting was convened by the Inter-Africa Group representing the 15-member Task Force that had been set up earlier to co-ordinate NSA engagement with the Cotonou Agreement. In addition to invited members of the CSO community, government and EC representatives also attended the meeting. FSS was represented at the meeting by Prof. Bahru Zewde, Executive Director.

Presentations were made on the background to the Cotonou Agreement, the status of the Ethiopian NSA Task Force that had been set up in August 2004 at the first meeting of CSO representatives, the challenges and opportunities for civil society engagement in Ethiopia and the EC Civil Society Fund that has just been launched.

The Cotonou Agreement, which was signed in 2000 and came into force in 2003, replaced the series of Lome Conventions that had regulated the relations of Africa and other developing regions with Europe. Its distinctive mark was the recognition of the role on NSAs in the formulation of country strategy papers (CSP) and national indicative programmes (NIP) as well as review of their performance known as the Joint Annual Review (JAR).

The presentations were followed by lively discussions on the modalities of strengthening the NSA role as envisaged in the Cotonou Agreement and on the administration of the Civil Society Fund that was being launched.

In the afternoon session, the participants divided themselves into two groups to conduct focussed discussion on institutional issues and capacity building. The meeting was concluded with the reorganization of the Task Force and the recommendation of the appointment of a Coordinator for NSA activities.



General Assembly of Union of Ethiopian Civil Society Associations Meets

The General Assembly of the Union of Ethiopian Civil Society Associations (UECSA) met on February 17, 2006. During the meeting, representatives of member organizations were briefed about the activities carried out so far, including the development of project proposals for donor funding. The activities planned for 2006 were also presented and discussed by participants.

The major activities planned by the UECSA for 2006 are:

- CSO Dialogue with different Actors;
- Establishment of focal points in different regions;
- CSO Impact Market Place workshop;
- Development of Union's Strategic Plan;
- Expanding membership and developing information tools.

Election of the UECSA's new Board members to replace the outgoing Board was postponed as only 15 out of the 32 members were present.

UECSA was formed in 2003 but was registered in May 2005. FSS is a founding member and was represented at this meeting by Ms Aynalem Asheber, Program and Administration Director.

EAA/EEPRI Launches Fourth Annual Report on the Ethiopian Economy

The Ethiopian Economic Association/Ethiopian Economic Policy Research Institute (EAA/EEPRI) launched the publication of its 4th Annual Report on 'Transformation of Ethiopian Agriculture: Potentials, Constraints and Suggested Intervention Measures' at a press conference and workshop held at the Imperial Hotel on February 21, 2006. The meeting was attended by members of the EAA/EEPRI and invited guests, including Ms Senait Seyoum, Poverty Researcher of FSS.

The workshop started with a press release issued by Dr. Assefa Admassie, Director of EEPRI, on the major findings of the [Fourth Report on the Ethiopian Economy](#) (Vol. IV 2004/5). The Report picks up from the year that the previous report left off and comes in two parts. The first part covers macro-economic, trade and industry (especially small-scale manufacturing), urbanization and urban poverty aspects. The second part focuses on the agricultural sector.

The Report finds that the overall macro-economic performance of the Ethiopian economy in 2003/4, as measured by GDP growth, was better than in previous years, mainly due to favorable weather conditions. Sectoral growth rates in agriculture, industry, distributive and other services showed favorable trends in 2003/4. General inflation in 2003/4 was 9%, almost 6% lower than in 2002/3, largely reflecting the influence of increased agricultural output and favorable weather than demand pressure. Overall, prices went down and planned investment activities showed significant improvements in 2003/4, compared to 2002/3. In terms of external trade, both the value of coffee and non-coffee exports grew by 36% and 22% respectively in 2003/4.

In spite of these positive developments in 2003/4, instability and vulnerability to the vagaries of nature remain a major feature of the Ethiopian economy. The dominance of agriculture in total output and employment has been maintained, and the contribution of the industrial sector to total output has not changed much. High population growth continues to exert a serious pressure on improvements in standard of living. The economy has also been faced with resource imbalances, ranging from saving-investment to external gaps. For example, the growth in exports in 2003/4 was offset by even larger growth in imports, increasing the trade deficit to 25% of GDP. The savings rate has also remained low and declined in recent years. As a result, external debt as a ratio of GDP has remained high.

After summarizing the major findings and policy implications of the report, Dr. Assefa Admassie gave the floor to Dr. Berhanu Adenew, Head of the Agriculture and Rural Development Division at EEPRI to present the main issues in Part Two of the Report. Part Two reviews the agricultural resource base and major constraints to the full utilization of the potential, showing that Ethiopian agriculture is characterized by declining productivity due to low technological inputs, natural resource degradation, diminishing farm size and vulnerability to the vagaries of nature. It then

looks at the development policy and institutional frameworks put in place by different regimes and goes on to reflect on technological developments and dissemination strategies adopted in the agricultural sector. Issues related to input and output markets, rural infrastructure, agricultural credit and finance are also discussed. On the basis of this analysis of underlying problems of the sector, the Report establishes the need for its transformation and suggests several interventions to help promote a dynamic and modern agricultural sector in Ethiopia.

After coffee break, clarifications on the Report were sought and a number of issues raised, particularly the inadequate treatment of agricultural marketing in the Report and the potential clash between the recommended agricultural transformation/commercialization and natural resource/biodiversity preservation.

OFF the Press

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አሳታሚ - ማህበራዊ ጥናት መድረክ - 1998



Annet Tendo (edited by Dereje Balcha). [Dealing with Policy Advocacy: Practical Guideline](#). Addis Ababa: CRDA, August 2005. (Available in Amharic and English)

AFRODAD and NCA Research Validation Workshop

The African Forum and Network on Debt and Development (AFRODAD) based in Zimbabwe, in cooperation with the Norwegian Church (NCA) Ethiopia Office, organized a research validation workshop, which was held at the Addis Ababa Sheraton on February 23, 2006. Attending the workshop representing the FSS was Ms Senait Seyoum.

In the course of last year, AFRODAD and NCA commissioned studies that examined the extent to which the PRGF and conditionalities it contains have impacted on social service delivery and achievement of MDGs in selected African countries, including Malawi, Tanzania, Zambia and Ethiopia. This particular workshop was organized to discuss the research findings for Ethiopia produced by Ms. Jalele Erega from the Department of Political Science and International Relations of Addis Ababa University (AAU).

The workshop was opened by Mr. Hans Birkeland, NCA Country Representative in Ethiopia, who made introductory remarks about the study. He was followed by Mr. Charles Mutasa, Director of AFRODAD, who gave a background to the PRGF Project and its objectives. Ms. Jalele Erega was then invited to make her presentation.

In her paper, titled 'The Poverty Reduction Growth Facility (PRGF) and Its Social Impacts in Ethiopia', Ms Jalele examined the nature of poverty reduction programs under the IMF-supported three-year PRGF arrangement approved in March 2001. She looked at the process involved in the formulation and implementation of the PRGF, considering program conditionalities and requirements, and the impacts of the PRGF on the provision of social services in

the education and health sectors. She ended her presentation by summarizing her recommendations to donors and government for more effective and poverty reducing programs.

Ms Jalele's paper was thoroughly commented upon by Ato Getahun Tafesse of the EEPRI and subsequently by participants of the workshop. Ms Jalele found the suggestions made by the discussant and participants useful for improving her paper. Mr. Charles Mutasa then summed up the discussions and drew some broad outlines for the way forward. The workshop was closed by Hans Birkeland.

Publishing Opportunities Offered by FSS

Since its establishment in 1998, FSS has been producing a variety of good quality publications on different development issues. While a lot of these publications are products of its research and public debate programmes, a number of them are also the outputs of independent research carried out by individuals outside FSS and selected for publication by FSS on the bases of the originality of their research and the social significance of their subject matter.

FSS would like to encourage authors of such good quality works to submit their manuscripts for publication in its book and monograph series.

FSS also invites authors to submit contributions for publication in the quarterly *FSS Bulletin*, which carries short articles on current development and policy issues, book reviews, communications and short notes on ongoing research.

FSS provides a modest honorarium for approved manuscripts that can be published as books, monographs or Bulletin articles and book reviews.

For more details, contact:

Research and Publications Department,
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New Acquisitions of the FSS Documentation Center

Publications on Ethiopia

Alemayehu Mengistu. 2004. *Range Lands Biodiversity: Concepts, Approaches and the Way Forward*. Addis Ababa : Addis Ababa University Printing Press.

Assefa Admassie, Gebrehiwot Ageba, and Mulat Demeke. 2005. *Rural Finance in Ethiopia: Assessment of the Financial Production of Microfinance Institutions*. Addis Ababa: Association of Ethiopian Microfinance Institutions.

Balsvik, Randi Ronning. 2005. *Haile Sellassie's Students: The Intellectual and Social Background to Revolution, 1952-1974*. Addis Ababa: Addis Ababa University Press.

Degefa Tolossa. 2005. *Rural Livelihoods, Poverty and Food Insecurity in Ethiopia : A Case Study at Erenssa and Garbi Communities in Oromiya Zone, Amhara National Regional State*. Ph.D. Dissertation. Trondheim: Norwegian University of Science and Technology.

Gebrehiwot Ageba, ed. 2005. *Microfinance Development in Ethiopia: Impact and Sustainability of MFIs*. Proceedings. Addis Ababa: Association of Ethiopian Microfinance.

Graham, John. 2001. *Ethiopia: Off the Beaten Trail*. Addis Ababa: Shama Books.

IIRR. 2003. *Culture and Change: Ethiopian Women Challenging the Future*. Nairobi: International Institute of Rural Reconstruction.

Keflu Tadesse. 1993. *The Generation: The History of the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Party, Part I from the Early Beginnings to 1975*. Trenton: Independent Publishers.

Tesfahun Fenta and Osman Ali, ed. 2004. *Proceedings of the Food Security Conference 2003: Challenges and Prospects of Food Security Conference 2003*. Addis Ababa: Professional Associations' Joint Secretariat.

Tirussew Teferra. 2005. *Disability in Ethiopia: Issues, Insights and Implications*. Addis Ababa: Addis Ababa: University Printing Press.

Workneh Negatu and Yigremew Adal, eds. 2004. *Pro-*

ceedings of the Workshop of Some Aspects of Rural Land Tenure in Ethiopia: Access, Use and Transfer. Addis Ababa: Institute of Development Research.

Ethiopian Journal of Social Science and Humanities. Vol. II, No 2. (December 2004). Addis Ababa : The College of Social Sciences. Addis Ababa University.

Other Publications

Bruce, John W.1998. *Country Profiles of Land Tenure: Africa, 1996*. Madison: Land Tenure Center.

Jean-Pierre, Lavie, and Mitsuko Horiuchi. 2004. *Work in the Global Economy: Papers and Proceedings of an International Symposium*. Geneva: International Labour Organization.

Kurimoto, Eisei, and Simon Simonse. 2002. *Conflict, Age and Power in North East Africa*. Oxford: James Curry.

Madeley, John. *Food for All: The Need for a New Agriculture*. 1998. London: Zed Books.

Medhane Tadesse. 2002. *Al-Ittihad: Political Islam and Black Economy in Somalia*.

Roberson, B.A. 2002. *International Society and the Development of International Relations*. London: Continuum.

Scholz, Wolfgang, and Michael Cichon.2000. *Social Budgeting*. Geneva: International Labour Office.

Stein, Jane. 1997. *Empowerment and Women's Health: Theory, Methods and Practice*. London: Zed Books.

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