



FSS Update



Issue No. 4
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An email newsletter
to facilitate networking and information exchange among CSOs and researchers

In this issue:

- “አውቀትን ለትውልድ ማስተላለፍ” ሕዝባዊ ውይይት፣ ገጽ 1
- Workshop on Ethiopia/EU Economic Partnership Agreement p.2
- Climatic Change and Adaptations Workshop, p.2
- Debriefing on the Biosafety Protocol, p.3
- Ninth Annual Conference of AESE, p.3
- IGAD Conference on Quest for a Culture of Peace, p.3
- New Acquisitions of FSS Documentation Center, p.4
- Obituary, p.4

Spotlight



Invitation to participate in the discussions on FSS presentations at the International Conference of the Ethiopian Economic Association (10-12 June 2006).

FSS researchers will make presentations on:

- Progress report of a scoping study of woreda-level decentralization,
- Water harvesting,
- Urban poverty (Addis Ababa).

ጾኛው የማጥመ አውቀትን ለትውልድ ማስተላለፍ ሕዝባዊ ውይይት

በማኅበራዊ ጥናት መድረክ “ክድህነት ወደ ልማት፡ አውቀትን ለትውልድ ማስተላለፍ” በሚል መሪ ርዕስ ስር የአዲስ አበባ ከተማ ማስተር ፕላንና የኢንቨስትመንት ስራዎች አጀማመር ላይ የሚያተኩር ውይይት አርብ ሚያዝያ 6 ቀን 1998 ዓ. ም. ከምሽቱ በ12 ሰዓት በሂልተን ሆቴል ተካሄደ።

በየሁለት ወሩ በሚካሄደው በዚህ የማጥመ ውይይት ላይ በአፄ ኃይለ ሥላሴ ዘመን መንግስት የአዲስ አበባ ማዘጋጃ ቤት የፕላን ጉዳይ ኃላፊና ታላላቆችን የአዲስ አበባ ከተማ መንገዶች በዋነኛነት የወጡት አቶ ጌታቸው ማህተመ ሥላሴ በእንግዲነት ቀርበው ለውይይቱ ተሳታፊዎች ያላቸውን ሰፊ ልምድ በጥናታዊ ትንተና አቅርበዋል። በጊዜው በከተማዋ መስፋፋት ላይ ችግር ከፈጠሩት ምክንያቶች ውስጥ በዋነኛነት የከተማው ፕላን ሲታቀድ ለ900 ሺህ ሕዝብ መሆኑና ጥናቱ በውጭ አገር ባለሙያዎች መሰራቱ ዕቅዱ የአገሪቱን ተጨባጭ ሁኔታ ከግንዛቤ እንዳያካትት አድርጓል ሲሉ አቶ ጌታቸው አስረድተዋል።

በንጉሱ ዘመን ከነበረው ማስተር ፕላን ጋር እንደዚሁም በጊዜው ከነበረው መሬት አስተዳደር ጋር የተያያዙ ችግሮች ምን ይመስሉ እንደነበርና ስለወደፊቱ የአዲስ አበባ ሁኔታ ከውይይቱ ተሳታፊዎች ለአቶ ጌታቸው ጥያቄዎች ቀርበላቸዋል።

በአጼ ኃይለ ሥላሴ ዘመን የግለሰብ ንብረት በህግ ያለው ከሌለ በከተማው መስፋፋት ላይ ከፍተኛ እንቅፋት እንደነበረ አቶ ጌታቸው

አስታውሰዋል። እንደ አቶ ጌታቸው ገለጻ ግለሰቦች ንብረቱ ነው፤ ገብረበታለሁ በማለት ስለሚሚገቱ ለከተማው መስፋፋት ትልቅ እንቅፋት ሆነው ነበረ።

በጊዜው ከነበራቸው ራዕይና ከገጠሟቸው ችግሮች መካከል በ1961 ዓ.ም የኤሌክትሪክ ባቡር ወደ ከተማዋ ለማስገባት ያደረጉት ጥረት በመንግስት ለውጥ ምክንያት ሳይሳካ መቅረቱ በዋነኛነት የሚቆጫቸው ጉዳይ መሆኑን ተናግረዋል።

በአሁኑ ወቅት ያለው የከተማ መሬት አሰጣጥ ካልተስተካከለና ወደ ከተማ የሚፈልገውን የሕዝብ ቁጥር መቀነስ የማይቻል ከሆነ የአዲስ አበባ የወደፊት ዕድገትና ልማት ፈተና የሚገጥመው መሆኑንም አቶ ጌታቸው አስረድተዋል። የመሬት አሰጣጡ ደረጃ እየወጣለት በአግባቡ ለዘላቂታው በሚበጅ መልኩ እስካልተካሄደ ድረስ አሁን ባለው ሁኔታ አዲስ አበባ ለዘመናዊ ከተማነት ያላት ተስፋ የጨለመ መሆኑን አቶ ጌታቸው ተንብደዋል።

ከዚህ በተጨማሪ አቶ ጌታቸው ማህተመ ሥላሴ የብሔራዊ ሀብት ልማት ኮርፖሬሽን የመጀመሪያው ሥራ አስኪያጅ በነበሩበት ወቅት የኢንቨስትመንት ሥራዎች እንዲከፈቱ ስላደረጉት ጥረት ሰፊ ልምዳቸውን አካፍለዋል።

በዚህ የውይይት መድረክ ላይ መንግሥታዊና መንግሥታዊ ያልሆኑ ድርጅቶች ባልደረቦች፣ ተማሪዎች እንደዚሁም ምሁራንና ከተለያዩ የህብረተሰብ ክፍሎች የተውጣጡ ግለሰቦች ተሳትፈዋል።

የማኅበራዊ ጥናት መድረክ ድህነትን ለመቀነስና ዘላቂ ልማትን ለመፍጠር በተካሄዱ ጥረቶች ውስጥ በአመራር ወይንም በባለሙያነት ግንባር ቀደም ሚና ያላቸውን

አንጋፋ ኢትዮጵያዊያን በመጋበዝ ልምዳቸውን ለአዲሱ ትውልድ እንዲያስተላልፉ መድረክ ሲያዘጋጅ በርካት ያሉ ወራትን አስቆጥሯል።

Workshop on Ethiopia/EU Economic Partnership Agreement

A one-day workshop on “Ethiopia/EU Economic Partnership Agreement: Challenges and Opportunities for Enhanced Co-operation” was held on 2nd May 2006 at the Conference Hall of the Addis Ababa Chamber of Commerce. The participants of the workshop were drawn from government departments, the private sector, and civil society organisations. FSS was represented at the workshop by Dr Taye Assefa, the Research and Publications Director.

Following opening statements by Mr. Tim Clarke, Head of the EC Delegation to Ethiopia, and Mr. Eyesuswork Zafu, President of Addis Ababa Chamber of Commerce, three short presentations were made by Mr. Geremew Ayalew (Head of Foreign Trade Relations – MOTI), Mr. Yabowork Haile (Chairperson of the Board of Poverty Action Network Ethiopia – PANE), and Mr. Kebour Gena (President of Initiative Africa – IA).

The Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) has its origins in the co-operation agreement signed between the European Union (EU) and the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries in Lomé, Togo, in 1975. Following the four Lomé conventions, a broader partnership agreement was signed by the heads of State of all EU and ACP nations in Cotonou, Benin, in June 2000. The same year, the negotiation of EPA was officially launched; EPA is expected to come into force in January 2008.

The ACP states grouped themselves into six regions for the negotiations: Eastern and Southern Africa (ESA), SADC, ECOWAs, Central Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific. Ethiopia has opted to take part in the negotiations under ESA.

Each ESA country has established a National Development and Trade Policy Forum—NDTPF, which is multi-sectoral (Agriculture, Investment, Services, etc.) and composed of representatives of state and non-state actors (NSAs). Ethiopia’s NDTPF comprises 24 members drawn from sectoral Ministries and NSAs “directly involved” in supporting trade and development work. Over a quarter of the members are from the private sector, NGOs and civil society. The purpose of the NDTPF is to prepare briefs outlining the optimal development and trade negotiating position for the respective country.

Proponents of the EPA argue that it will:

- Stimulate sustainable development,
- Promote regional integration,
- Establish WTO-compatible trade relation between EU and ACP nations, and
- Ensure special and differential treatment to LDCs.

The main issues highlighted by the presenters at the workshop revolved around the common concerns of the private sector and civil society organisations regarding the negotiation and possible impact of EPAs. These included:

- Lack of capacity to effectively negotiate and implement EPAs,
- Lack of awareness of EPA issues by key stakeholders among NSAs,
- Lack of open forum for public debate on challenges and other issues of EPA,
- Reduced customs revenue and adverse impact on service delivery to the poor, women, children and other marginalised groups,
- Inability to meet MDGs,
- Increased competition from foreign firms,
- Collapse of manufacturing sector,
- Poor infrastructure,
- Low wages, increased unemployment and job insecurity,
- Negative balance of payment,
- Lack of trained work force.

Suggestions put forward to address some of these challenges included:

- Need to enhance understanding of the issues and implications of EPA,
- Need for public dialogue and use of the media to sensitize the public,
- Improve leadership capacity both for state actors and NSAs,
- Build capacity for critical analysis,
- Need for more focus on poverty reduction and development.

The workshop was concluded with a call on the Ethiopian Chamber of Commerce to organise, in collaboration with the EC Delegation to Ethiopia and civil society organisations, similar platforms in the future for more discussions on such critical issues.

Climatic Change and Adaptations Workshop

The Ethiopian Economic Association/ Ethiopian Economic Policy Research Institute (EEA/EEPRI), in collaboration with the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), organized a half-day *Stakeholders Consultation Workshop on Adaptation to Climatic Change*. The workshop was held at the Global Hotel, Addis Ababa on 17 April 2006, and attended by stakeholders including policy makers, researchers, academia, civil society organizations and community representatives. FSS was represented by Dr. Daniel Kassahun, the Environment Researcher.

The broad objectives of the workshop were to develop a capacity for vulnerable rural areas to adapt to global climatic change and to provide policy makers and stakeholders with tools to better understand, analyze and mainstream climatic

adaptation in the various development activities of the country.

The workshop started with a short briefing on the purpose of the workshop by Dr. Berhanu Adenew, Head of the Agricultural and Rural Development at EEPRI. The discussion session focused on the vulnerability to climate change, adaptation measures to climatic change in rural areas, identification of actors for various adaptation measures, and the role of information in the adaptation process and the way forward. It was noted that similar workshops would be organized in two towns of western Ethiopia which are located within the Nile Watershed.

Debriefing on the Biosafety Protocol

The Forum for Environment (FfE) organized a half-day debriefing session on the Third Meeting on Biosafety by nations that are party to the Cartagena Protocol, which was held between 13th and 17th of March 2006 in Cartagena, Brazil. The briefing session was held at Semen Hotel, Addis Ababa, on 14th April 2006. Speaking on the occasion was Dr. Tewolde Berehan Gebre Egziabher, Director General of the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA). The title of his presentation was "Reflections on the Third Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety".

Dr. Tewolde's presentation focused on two issues; the first was on the potential harm posed by the genetically modified (GM) organisms. The second one was the *labeling* issue, which focused on the handling, transportation, packaging and identification of GM products. In the Cartagena meeting a consensus was reached to enforce the compulsory labeling of "what specific ingredient is contained" in all GM products. The presentation was followed by questions and comments from the participants to which Dr. Tewolde responded with additional clarification. This debriefing took place at the time Dr. Tewolde was selected for "The 2006 Champion of the Earth" award, organized by the United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP). Dr. Tewolde is recognized by UNEP as a champion against the patenting of life forms and for community rights in Africa. Participants drawn from government, civil society, local and regional NGOs attended the debriefing. Representing FSS at the meeting was Dr. Daniel Kassahun.

Ninth Annual Conference of AESE

The Ninth Annual Conference of the Agricultural Economics Society of Ethiopia (AESE), sponsored by the World Bank, Plan Ethiopia and Sasakawa Global (SG) 2000, was held at the Ghion Hotel from Friday, April 14 to Saturday, April 15, 2006. The Conference, which had as its theme 'Reversing Rural Poverty in Ethiopia: Dilemmas and Critical Issues', was opened by H.E. Dr. Abera Deressa, State Minister, Ministry

of Agriculture and Rural Development, who complimented the AESE on organizing a conference on such a timely and relevant theme.

The Conference brought together agricultural economists and other professionals affiliated to various national and international research organizations, including Alemaya University, Addis Ababa University (AAU), the Ethiopian Development Research Institute (EDRI), the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI). Ms Senait Seyoum represented FSS at the conference and Dr. Daniel Kassahun attended some sessions.

A total of 15 research papers, addressing various topics under the theme of the conference, were presented during the one and half day conference. Most of the papers reported the findings of case studies carried out in different parts of Ethiopia, i.e., 3 woredas of Southern Tigray (small-scale irrigation), Hirna watershed (property rights and resource degradation), 2 woredas of Oromia Zone of Amhara region (poverty profiles), selected sites in Amhara region (lathyrism), pastoral areas of Afar and Somali (economic diversification and livelihood strategies), Hetosa district of South Eastern Ethiopia (household food security), Eastern Ethiopia (the role of *chat*), Kalu in Wello (drought risk efficient crop mix), and southern Ethiopia (crop marketing). But a number of presentations had a more general scope (the Nile; public investment, growth and poverty; application of computer-based health information system to combat HIV/AIDS; poverty, innovation and agriculture; impact of policy reform on coffee producers; and profitability of honey processing).

Role of IGAD Scholars & Intellectuals in the Quest for a Culture of Peace

The Heinrich Böll Foundation, which has its headquarters in Nairobi, hosted a conference on 2-4 March 2006 under the theme: "In Quest of a Culture of Peace in the IGAD Region: The Role of Intellectuals and Scholars". The meeting, which was held at the Windsor Hotel in the outskirts of Nairobi, brought together some two dozen scholars and CSO representatives from the sub-region.

The two-day meeting was attended by some two dozen participants from Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan and Uganda. Lively discussions were held around the nine presentations that were made in the course of the proceedings. The themes covered included: clash of identities, regional integration, election politics in Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda, the human rights crisis in Eritrea, the crisis of statehood in Somalia and the challenge of national renewal in the Sudan. Professor Bahru Zewde, Executive Director of FSS, presented a paper entitled "Embattled Identity in Northeast Africa: A Comparative Essay".

This is not the first time that the Heinrich Böll Foundation has organized such a meeting. While appreciative of the work done so far, in view of the ever-worsening situation in the

sub-region, the participants expressed a strong urge to move beyond resolutions and publication of conference proceedings. There was a consensus to institutionalise this informal network, be it by merging with the UNESCO initiative (a Forum or Think Tank of the sub-region's scholars) that is currently being put in place or independently.

New Acquisitions of FSS Documentation Center

Materials on Ethiopia

Central Statistical Authority. 2006. *Agricultural Sample Survey 2005/06 [1998 E.C.]. Volume II. Report on Livestock and Livestock Characteristics (Private Peasant Holdings)*. Addis Ababa.

Ethiopian Economic Association. 2005. *Report on the Ethiopian Economy Vol. IV. 2004/05*. Addis Ababa.

_____. 2006. *Quarterly Report on the Macroeconomic Performance of the Ethiopian Economy*. Vol.4, No. 1. Addis Ababa.

Tassew Woldehanna et. al. 2005. *Education Choices in Ethiopia: What Determines Whether Poor Households Send Their Children to School?* London: Young Lives.

Valfort, Marie-Anne. 2006. *Ethical Altruistic Voting in a Multi-Ethnic Developing Country: Evidence from Ethiopia*. (not published).

Other Publications

Dalal-Clayton , David Dent, and Olivier Dubois. 2003. *Rural Planning in Developing Countries: Supporting Natural Resource Management and Sustainable Livelihoods*. London: Earthscan Publishing.

Escobal, Javier, Jaime Saavedra, and Pablo Suarez. 2005. *Economic Shocks and Changes in School Attendance Levels and Education Expenditure in Peru*. London: Young Lives.

Journals

Africa Development. (2005). Special Issue: All Knowledge Is First of Local Knowledge. Vol. XXX, No. 3. (Dakar: CODESRIA).

Africa Development. 2005. Vol. XXX, No. 4. Dakar: CODESRIA.

Ethiopian Journal of Economics. 2001. Vol. X, No. 1 (April). Addis Ababa : Ethiopian Economic Association.

Obituary

Dr Adanech Kidanemariam, the first Ethiopian woman Minister of Health and a long-time friend of FSS, passed away on 3rd April 2006 at the age of 63. Her funeral was held on 27th April 2006 at the St. Peter/Paul's Church in Addis Ababa.

Dr Adanech Kidanemariam was born in a village called Borkosha, in Angetcha Woreda, former Kembata Awraja. She trained as a community nurse and a midwife at Gonder Public Health College, where she also served after graduation in these capacities. Later she joined Syracuse University where she got her first degree in Nursing. Later she got her MSc degree from Colombia University. After serving for a while at Gonder Public Health College and then at Addis Ababa University, she won a WHO scholarship and went to the United States, where she received her doctoral degree. Upon her return she served as an Assistant Professor and Head of the Public Health Department at the Medical Faculty of Addis Ababa University until the change of government.

In 1991, Dr Adanech was appointed as Minister of Health and served in this position for nearly three years during the Transition Period. After retirement, she served on the management boards of several CSOs.

Dr Adanech is survived by her two children.

FSS staff and members wish solace and strength to the family of Dr Adanech Kidanemariam.



FSS Update

A free medium for sharing information among CSOs on their initiatives, activities, challenges and achievements.

Send your contributions to:
fss@ethionet.et