



FSS Update



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An email newsletter

to facilitate networking and information exchange among CSOs and researchers

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Spotlight



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

FSS researchers will make presentations on:

- Progress report of a scoping study of woreda-level decentralization,
- Water harvesting,
- Urban food insecurity .

National Food Security Network Launching Workshop

A half-day workshop, organized jointly by the Christian Relief and Development Association (CRDA) and ActionAid Ethiopia, to launch a National Food Security Network (NFSN) was held at the CRDA Main Office on May 25, 2006. The workshop was attended by representatives of various NGOs and CSOs. Ms Senait Seyoum represented FSS at the workshop.

The workshop started with a welcome address by Ato Teshome Shiberu, Coordinator of CRDA's Urban Development Forum (UDF), who indicated that the process of forming a NFSN was started in November 2005 as part of a global initiative. In March 2006, a consultation workshop was held which was attended mainly by representatives of rural NGOs/CSOs. The meeting recommended that the current workshop be organized, with greater representation from urban NGOs/CSOs.

Ato Tena Shitarek, Food Security Program Officer at ActionAid Ethiopia, then made a presentation on 'Global and National Food Security Issues and Opportunities'. The presentation highlighted the food security situation, role and contribution of NGOs and challenges faced at both global and national levels. It concluded by highlighting opportunities to kick off networking by having NGOs/CSOs engage in the global agenda and taking advantage of donor interest in building local capacity in the area of food security. The presentation raised a number of questions regarding the current status, definition of the scope and boundaries of the network (especially in terms of inclusion of urban and poverty

aspects), relations with government, and the future of the NFSN.

Following the discussion on the presentation, the workshop elected members of a Steering Committee for the Network. Seven NGOs/CSOs, including CRDA (28), ActionAid Ethiopia (27), Plan International Ethiopia (24), FSS (21), SOS Sahel (18), AARDR/OFM-Office of Forced Migration (12), and IHA/UDP (12) were nominated. Out of these, the first five which secured the highest votes (indicated in parentheses) were elected as members of the Network Steering Committee.

Following the election, Ato Tena Shitarek of ActionAid Ethiopia made a presentation on the International Food Security Network (IFSN) project being implemented by ActionAid Ethiopia since August 2004, with funding by the European Commission (EC). The IFSN involves six core countries in Africa (Mozambique, Ghana, Uganda, Ethiopia, Malawi and Burkina Faso), three core countries in Asia (Bangladesh, Vietnam and Afghanistan), and two core countries in Latin America and the Caribbean (Guatemala and Haiti). A total of 21 other countries (10 in Africa, five in Asia and six in Latin America and the Caribbean) are also participating in the network.

The IFSN project seeks to: 1) reinforce civil society in developing countries at national, regional/state and local levels through capacity analysis, alliance building and negotiations with governments, 2) support debate at national, regional/state and local levels, and 3) contribute to discussions and negotiations on food security at the international level. In line with this: 1) International thematic groups have been formed (on land and natural resource access, biodiversity/indigenous knowledge, genetically modi-

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fied organisms, food aid, small scale farming and best practices in agro-industry), 2) Attempts have been made to influence the WTO-WSF Meeting in January 2005, 3) Research and policy analysis have been launched, 4) International learning and sharing have been promoted (through a Newsletter), 5) Alliances have been built with other social movements (via Campasena), and 6) Bridges have been built with international organizations and bilateral donors (EU and FAO).

ActionAid Ethiopia has identified three partner organizations for the project, namely, CRDA/RDF, PANE (Poverty Action Network) and IDR (Institute of Development Research, AAU). In addition, research studies have been undertaken on the following:

- The effect of Ethiopia's accession to WTO and the role of CSOs;
- The current resettlement programme;

Policies and practices for strengthening and improving access to and control over land [as a contribution to ICARRD (International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural development)].

With a view to influencing donor policy, consultation workshops have also been held on the EC's new thematic food security strategy. In future, the project plans to:

- Launch a study on 'Urban Food Security Strategy - Guideline to CS advocacy on FS in urban areas';
- Undertake capacity assessments: a) capacity building and assessment of CSOs, and b) strengthening the NFSN;
- Create systematic linkages between macro level policy decisions and grassroots level action.

Following this, the workshop participants were invited to make suggestions on the way forward. The SOS Sahel representative suggested that the Network develop a Memorandum of Association and a Strategic Plan. The OFM representative felt that the elected Steering Committee should develop guiding principles for the Network within the coming six months and come up with a definite action plan within a year. The strategic plan and memorandum of association might take longer. Ato Regassa of CRDA indicated that in addition to drafting the TOR and bylaws, the Steering Committee's basic responsibility was to develop a clear framework, specifying terms of 'partnership' and 'networking', and defining relationships between the Network and CRDA's RDF. The chair closed the session by indicating that the Steering Committee will refine the ideas put forward and produce a document based on the workshop recommendations within the next three months.

Upon the request of CRDA, the Chair then invited Ethio Agri-CEFT, one of the sister companies of the MIDROC Ethiopia Investment Group, which had earlier circulated a brochure on 'Endod for leech control', to make a brief presentation. The presenter indicated that Ethio Agri-CEFT has been running a commercial farm for the cultivation of Endod and has been financing field demonstration trials since 1999.

The demonstrations in Mullo-Sululta and Gondar areas on the control of leeches, which are causing great losses in livestock productivity, have been running for over a year. Ethio-Agri-CEFT is now proposing to form an alliance with the NGO sector for the marketing and controlled administration of Endod on livestock affected by leeches. Following the presentation, a number of questions were raised from the floor regarding the adverse environmental impacts of Endod application (birds, fishery, etc.), patent rights, marketing, etc., which were answered by Ato Asrat Bulbulla of Ethio Agri-CEFT.

Soils for Sustainable Development

A two-day conference of the Ethiopian Soil Science Society (ESSS) was held at the Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research (EIAR), Addis Ababa, from 27 to 28 April 2006. The theme of the 8th conference was "Soils for Sustainable Development".

The conference was opened with a keynote address by Mr. Volli Carucci from WFP. About nine research papers, dealing with soil survey, soil quality parameters, soil and water management, soil fertilizer, and research and development were presented and discussed. Dr. Daniel Kassahun, Environment Researcher of FSS, presented a paper titled "Status of Satellite-Based Soil Surveys in Ethiopia: Potentials and Constraints". The paper examined the currently underutilized space technology potential for the sustainable management of soil resources. Opportunities for acquisition of objective, timely and cheaper soil information for immediate intervention were also discussed. During the business session, an election of the Society's Executive Committee was held.

Stakeholder Workshop on Sustainable Land Management

A workshop on the Sustainable Land Management (SLM), which is a World Bank Project with a grant from the GEF, was held at ILRI, from 2-4 May 2006. The workshop started with a welcome note of H.E. Ato Neway Gebreab, Director with the Rank of Minister, Ethiopian Development Research Institute (EDRI). H.E. Dr. Abera Deressa, State Minister of MoARD, made an opening speech.

On the first day, two lead papers were presented by Dr. Gete Zeleke, on the Stakeholder Analysis of SLM, and Dr. Mohamed Yesuf, on the Assessment of Cost of Land Degradation in Ethiopia. Both presentations were followed by reflections from various discussants. On the second day, various papers were presented on issues of Cost Benefit Framework of SLM, which were followed by inputs from several discussants and participants.

The third day was allocated for the discussion of operational issues of SLM. The concept note on the proposed MoARD/World Bank/GEF program of the SLM was presented and

discussed. Further discussions were undertaken on setting of the potential mechanisms for coordinated and harmonized support for SLM. The workshop was attended by about 80 participants drawn from Federal and Regional Bureaus, Research Institutes, the academic community, civil society organizations and donors. Representing FSS at the workshop was Dr. Daniel Kassahun.

'Beyond numbers - Towards transformative leadership'

On May 16, 2006, a National Forum organized by Women Direct, Progynist and other Associate members of Women Direct in Ethiopia was held at the Hilton Hotel, Addis Ababa. FSS was represented at the Forum by Ms Aynalem Asheber.

Women Direct is a network of like-minded organizations and individuals working to support the collective voice of women in Africa. Women Direct sponsors one National Forum each year in each partner country for women leaders, policy makers and the civil society actors. This year, Progynist, the Direct Collaborating Partner (DCP) for Ethiopia, and other Associate members in Ethiopia organized the National Forum under the theme: '*Beyond numbers - Towards transformative leadership*'.

A total of 44 participants from GOs, NGOs and CBOs participated in the Forum and shared their wisdom and experiences in leadership and decision-making. Of these participants, four were men.

The welcoming speech was given by W/ro Netsanet Mengistu, Executive Director of Progynist & DCP-Women Direct, and the keynote address was given by Dr Margaret Hutchinson, Executive Director of ECDW & DCP-Women Direct, Nairobi. Dr. Hutchinson highlighted where the African Woman is, saying she is primarily at home but also in other social, economic, political and legal sectors of her country. She mentioned some of the women who excelled in leadership such as Dr. Helen Johnson, the first African woman President (Liberia), and Prof. Wangari Mathai – Kenya's Nobel Peace Laureate. Dr. Hutchinson summarized how women are faring in political leadership in the region as follows:

Country	Recent election year	Total MPs	Women MPs	% of Women MPs
Rwanda	2003	80	39	48.8
Burundi	2005	118	36	30.5
Tanzania	2005	323	97	30.4
Ethiopia	2005	529	116	21.9
Uganda	2006	305	73	23.9
Kenya	2002	224	18	8.1

Following Dr. Hutchinson's speech, two discussion papers were presented by:

- Ms. Solome Tadesse, Private Consultant – 'Women leaders should work together to bring about change, and go beyond numbers to give effective leadership'.
- Ms. Asmaru Berihun, Head, Women's Affairs Office, Ministry of Education, former MP – 'Women Members of Parliament: Achievements & Challenges'.

Both presentations were followed by panel discussions and experience sharing among participants. Finally, a consensus was reached that women need to take up leadership with an agenda, commitment and values. They also need to demand their rights beyond numbers. They need to collaborate and unite for the common cause of women's equality even across party lines.

International Multi-stakeholder Forum on the Cut-flower Industry

The Forum for Environment (FfE), in collaboration with the International Flower Campaign (IFC), organized an International Multi-Stakeholder Forum on lessons and experiences from other countries for cut-flower industry in Ethiopia, which was held at Hilton Hotel, Addis Ababa on 18 May 2006.

The forum was opened with a keynote speech by Dr. Te wolde Birhan Gebre Egziabher, Director General of Environmental Protection Authority. He underscored the need to integrate an environmental auditing system with the rapidly expanding cut-flower industry in Ethiopia. Various representatives from Kenya, Tanzania, Ethiopia, The Netherlands, USA and Ecuador presented papers. Following the presentations, issues on corporate social and environmental responsibility of the cut-flower industry were discussed. In the discussions, compliance with the codes and standards was given prime attention due to the increasing concern by people and governments about the thorny side of the flower industry.

Various national and international civil society organizations and trade union representatives attended the forum and forwarded recommendations to make the floriculture industry socially and environmentally responsible. FSS was represented at the forum by Dr. Daniel Kassahun.

Public Lecture on Indigenous Trees and Global Environmental Crisis

Organized by the Environmental Science Program of Addis Ababa University, a half day public lecture on indigenous trees and global environmental crises was held on 24 May 2006 at the Ras Mekonen Hall, Addis Ababa University.

In the event, H.E. Professor Mesfin Abebe, from the Prime Minister's Office, and Ms. Janny C. Poley, from the Netherlands Embassy, made an address on the importance of indigenous trees to rehabilitate degraded lands, conserve soil and water, generate income and cope with global climatic changes.

Prof. Legesse Negash, from Department of Biology, stressed that conservation and development of natural resources should be given due emphasis alongside the agricultural and industrial development efforts underway in the country. According to him, nurturing trees, bushes and grasslands would help to alleviate poverty. Some of the indigenous trees in Ethiopia are being depleted fast and that a favorable situation needs to be created to revive them.

Following the public lecture, students and lecturers of the university had a program to plant indigenous tree seedlings in their respective campuses. Representing FSS in the public lecture were Dr. Daniel Kassahun, the environment researcher, and Ato Mesay Mitiku, the media officer.

New Acquisitions of FSS Documentation Center

Materials on Ethiopia

Asmelash Woldemariam. 2006. *The Effects of Land Reform on Peasant Social Organization: A Study of Village Level Dynamics in Central Tigray, 1974 -1994*. Addis Ababa: Addis Ababa University, Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology.

Dom, Catherine, and Mohammed Mussa. 2006. *Review of Implementation of the Decentralization Policy: A Sample Survey in Four Sentinel Weredas of Tigray Region*. Briefing Paper. Oxford: Mokoro.

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Erulkar, Annabel S. et al. 2004. *Adolescent Life in Low Income and Slum Areas of Addis Ababa Ethiopia*. Addis Ababa: UNICEF.

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Ezekiel, Gebissa. 2004. *Leaf of Allah: Khat and Agricultural Transformation in Harerge, Ethiopia, 1871-1991*. London: James Currey Publishers

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Getenet Alemu. 2002. *Aid-Driven Import Substitution and the Agriculture Industry Nexus: Conceptualizing the Aid Growth Relationship in Ethiopia*. (Dissertation) The Hague: Institute of Social Studies.

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Frame Work. Chiba Shi: Institute of Developing Economics.

Getenet Alemu, Belay Simane and Mulugeta Feseha. 2006. *Proceedings of the Conference on Poverty and Development in Ethiopia: Challenges and Options*. Addis Ababa: Institute of Development Research.

The African Child Policy Forum. 2006. *Stick, Stones and Brutal Words: The Violence Against Children in Ethiopia*. Addis Ababa.

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Woldeamlak Bewket. 2003. *Towards Integrated Watershed Management in Highland Ethiopia: The Chemoga Watershed Case Study*. Wageningen: Wageningen University and Research Center.

Worku Nida. 2006. *The Impact of Urban Migration on Village Life: The Gurage Case*. Addis Ababa: Addis Ababa University, Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology.

FSS Update

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

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Forthcoming

FSS Bulletin (Vol. 3&4, April 2006)

Articles:

- *Impacts of Urban Redevelopment on the Livelihoods of Displaced People: The Case of Casainchis Local Development Plan* (Berhanu Zeleke)
- *A Financial Analysis of Conservation Tillage as a Solution to Land Degradation on Small Farms in Ethiopia* (Seth Shames)
- የግብርና ቴክኖሎጂ ግብዓቶች በሀብታሙና በአካባቢው የተፈጥሮ ሀብት ላይ ያሳገው ተጽዕኖ ከግንብቻ ወረዳ አንጻር (ሲ.ፊ.ፊው ተክለጊዮርጊስ፣ ሙኒራ ሸምላዲንና ገዢነት ግርማ)