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QUARTERLY REPORT #04 (OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2014) Capacity to Improve Agriculture and Food Security (USAID-CIAFS)



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Cover Photo: National Conference on Climate Change and Smallholder Adaptation in Ethiopia, December 15-16, 2015 organised by USAID-CIAFS

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The author's views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Agency for International Development or the United States government.

Acronyms

ACPA	Aged and Children Pastoralists Association
AGP	Agriculture Growth Program
AMDe	Agribusiness and Market Development
ATA	Agricultural Transformation Agency
ATP	Agricultural Transformation Plan
BoA	Bureau of Agriculture
BDS	Business Development Services
CAADP	Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program
CIAFS	Capacity to Improve Agriculture and Food Security
COR	Contracting Officer Representative
CRGE	Climate Resilient Green Economy
CSA	Central Statistical Authority
DQA	Data Quality Analysis
ENGINE	Empowering New Generations in Improved Nutrition and Economic Opportunities
ESAI	Ethiopian Sustainable Agribusiness Incubation
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
FTF	Feed the Future
FY	Fiscal Year
GCC	Global Climate Change
GIS	Geographic Information System
GIZ	German Society for International Cooperation
GRAD	Graduation with Resilience to Achieve Sustainable Development
GMO	Genetically Modified Organisms
GTP	Growth and Transformation Plan
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
LMD	Livestock Market Development
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture
MoFED	Ministry of Finance and Economic Development
MSc	Master of Science
NASAC	Network of African Science Academies
PCM	Project Cycle Management
PIF	Policy and Investment Frameworks
PPD	Planning and Programming Directorate
REDFS	Rural Economic Development and Food Security
SNNPRR	Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples' Region
ToT	Training of Trainers
UNDP	United Nations Development Program

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Capacity to Improve Agriculture and Food Security (USAID-CIAFS) project is an important component of USAID-Ethiopia's multi-year strategy under the Feed the Future (FTF) initiative. Objectives of FTF include increasing agricultural productivity, preserving natural resources, improving agricultural marketing, increasing the purchasing power of vulnerable households, and maximizing food security. Pursuant to this objective, USAID-CIAFS supports the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and regional Bureaus of Agriculture (BoAs) to build their human capital and institutional capacity for decision-making and resource use to achieve the Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP)/Agricultural Transformation Plan (ATP) objectives. Private sector agribusiness, associations, and entrepreneurs are also stakeholders supported by the project. USAID-CIAFS also provides monitoring and evaluation (M&E) related support, including data quality assessments (DQAs) to FTF partners and the USAID Mission to measure project performance across the primary regions of Tigray, Amhara, Oromiya, and Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples' Region (SNNPR). This is the fourth quarterly performance report covering the period October to December, 2014.

Key achievements in this quarter include:

- Convened the fourth bi-annual planning and M&E national workshop for 83 senior officials drawn from all of the regional BoAs in the country, the Federal MoA, and allied offices such as the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development (MoFED), National Planning Commission, Central Statistical Authority (CSA), Institute of Agricultural Research, Seed Enterprises, Cooperative Agency, and the Institute of Biodiversity. The three day workshop was organized in collaboration with the Agricultural Transformational Agency (ATA) and focused on the role of planning and M&E.
- Collaborated with Mekelle and Bahir Dar Universities to develop tertiary-level curriculums on Global Climate Change (GCC): two standalone and six integrated into current MSc. degree curriculums. The curriculums were critiqued at regional workshops before presenting to the senates and boards for approval.
- Collaborated with Mekelle and Bahir Dar Universities to conduct research on the linkages between climate change and food security and produced more than 20 papers that were presented to regional workshops to raise awareness of climate change.
- Organized a two-day national conference to deliberate on climate change impacts and adaptation options to sustain smallholder agriculture in Ethiopia. The conference concluded by establishing a Climate Adaptation Forum to map strategic direction and advise government institutions, donor interventions, etc. USAID-CIAFS was chosen to serve as secretariat to the Forum.
- Designed a modular curriculum on leadership for district level leaders to enhance their capacity in planning and implementation.
- Conducted a rapid DQA of AGP-AMDe, AGP-LMD, ESAI, and USAID-ENGINE projects in Amhara and Tigray regions and verified the accuracy and relevance of data reported in the FTF Monitoring System (FTFMS).
- Collaborated with the Network of African Science Academies (NASAC) and the Ethiopian Academy of Sciences to produce a policy brief booklet for policy makers on biotechnology.
- Published three volumes of best practices in smallholder agriculture and climate adaptation derived from study visits and research. Compiled and finalized proceedings on biotechnology international conference.
- Organized a briefing session for all FTF implementing partners on FY2014 FTFMS reporting. The project also provided FTFMS user training to two M&E managers from CARE and Aged and Children Pastoralists Association (ACPA).
- Prepared and submitted a report to USAID, the MoA, and BoAs on post-study visit of best practices in agricultural extension in Thailand.

I HIGHLIGHTS OF ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS

I.1 Bi-annual Planning and M&E National Workshop

The fourth bi-annual planning and M&E national workshop, organized in collaboration with the MoA and the ATA, was held in Bahir Dar from December 26 to 28, 2014. Building on three previous workshops that were organized collaboratively with MoA-Planning and Programming Directorate (PPD) and ATA, the fourth bi-annual focused on the following three major themes: (1) share best experiences in planning and M&E and foster horizontal and vertical linkage among regions and between regions and the federal MoA-PPD; (2) review the status of the FAO sector-wide M&E system initiative; and (3) review implementation performance of the GTP-I and draw lessons for GTP-II.

Eighty three senior representatives (11 percent women), drawn from all ten of the regional BoAs in the country, the Federal MoA, and allied offices such as MoFED, National Planning Commission, CSA, Institute of Agricultural Research, Seed Enterprises, Cooperative Agency, Institute of Biodiversity, and multi-lateral agencies of FAO and the World Bank, participated in the three day workshop. Participants also included the technical committee/taskforce charged with planning GTP-II. Four of the non-AGP regions were sponsored by ATA and the federal; the other six regions were sponsored by USAID-CIAFS. With all regions participating, the workshop was truly national in scope. Complementing the workshop, participants visited best practices in large scale irrigation in Mecha Woreda, 40 Km from Bahir Dar.

Overall, the workshop was very successful and achieved all of its objectives. It was rated a “high-level” by the participants and the director of MoA-PPD. The agenda was focused, substantive, and relevant to GTP-II. Unlike previous workshops that run for two days, this event was convened over three days, providing participants with adequate time for discussion and to view a sample of agricultural best practices in the region. It was also the first time that the workshop was opened by the head of the regional BoA, thus indicating the weight the region had given to the event. Participants were drawn from all the regions in the country and the federal MoA as well as allied organisations, which gave the workshop a national perspective.

Several lessons were drawn from the workshop that could serve as input to GTP-II:

- The planning and implementation of GTP-II should take into consideration the lessons learned from GTP-I, mainly from planning and M&E perspectives.
- The MoA-BoA sector wide web-based M&E system that is currently piloted by FAO should be appreciated and all concerned bodies should contribute to its success.
- Regions where the FAO web-based system is being piloted should speed up data collection and entry into the system to check its feasibility and rollout at a large scale.
- The MoA has to closely work with the CSA to ensure data quality, avoid possible overlapping in data collection, and define their respective roles.
- PPDs at all levels of the MoA structure should play proactive roles in coordinating the design and planning process of GTP II.
- Evaluation should be given more consideration for lessons learned, and reporting has to be result-based and analytical as well.

I.2 Global Climate Change Curriculum and Research Studies

USAID-CIAFS awarded two sets of fixed price contracts to Mekelle and Bahir Dar Universities to support GCC: one to develop MSc level curriculums on GCC to train graduates equipped with climate change science and address the huge gap that exists in manpower in the country to implement the Climate Resilient Green Economy (CRGE); and the second to conduct research on the linkages between climate change and food security and present findings to regional workshops to sensitize policy makers as well as the wider community and enhance national and local awareness of climate change impacts and risks.

In this first quarter of the year, Bahir Dar and Mekelle Universities presented their postgraduate curriculums in workshops attended by academic and research scientists, NGOs, policymakers and agriculture experts from the respective regions. Bahir Dar opted to incorporate GCC into MSc in Environmental and Natural Resource

Economics, while Mekelle prepared one standalone curriculum, MSc in Economics, Climate Change Economics, and five courses were infused into ongoing postgraduate degree programs. The curriculums were extensively reviewed and critiqued by subject matter experts and policymakers, and were endorsed for teaching post-graduate students.

Bahir Dar University also organized a workshop and presented its research output on the nexus between climate change and food security in the smallholder context in Amhara region. In total, 16 technical papers, covering land degradation, agro-climatic data analysis, smallholder perceptions of climate change, adaptation strategies and technologies, and the like were presented at the workshop. Policy briefs were also prepared on each research topic.

The workshops in Bahir Dar had extensive media coverage, both at national and regional levels, and served the strategic objective of raising public awareness on the linkages between climate change and food security in the smallholder context in Ethiopia. USAID-CIAFS will publish the research materials in proceedings and distribute them to policy makers and other stakeholders.

I.3 National Workshop on Climate Change and Smallholder Agriculture

A two-day national conference was organized by USAID-CIAFS in Addis Ababa on December 15-16, 2014 to deliberate on climate change impacts and adaptation options to sustain smallholder agriculture in Ethiopia. Over 100 senior people, drawn from key ministries, regional governments, parliament, academia, multilateral agencies, research, and the media attended the two day conference. A good number of high-level officials from the AGP regions and “emerging nations” of Afar and Somali BoAs were also present at the conference. The conference provided a platform for sharing knowledge and experiences in mainstreaming adaptation into development programs. The conference concluded with establishment of a Climate Adaptation Forum to map strategic direction and advise government institutions, donor interventions, etc. USAID-CIAFS was chosen to serve as secretariat to the Forum.

I.4 Leadership Curriculum Adaptation for District Level

USAID-CIAFS hired local consultants to design a leadership curriculum in order to cascade the leadership training to the district level. A team of experts, specializing in the major thematic topics of the curriculum – leadership for change, food security and nutrition, social accountability and governance, climate change, and M&E – reviewed the leadership curriculum that was designed for higher-level MoA staff, and prepared modules for district level leaders. The curriculum will be piloted in the Oromiya region for a Training of Trainers (ToT) the next quarter.

I.5 Rapid DQA for FTF Projects

Based on a request from the FTF Coordinator, the USAID-CIAFS M&E specialist conducted a rapid DQA of selected FTF projects in Amhara and Tigray regions in collaboration with specialists from USAID/Ethiopia, including the COR. The objective of the DQA was to verify region and field level data reported in FY14 FTFMS, and to review the overall M&E system at the regional offices of selected projects. The projects assessed were AGP-AMDe, AGP-LMD, ESAI, and USAID-ENGINE.

The rapid DQA indicated that, except in a few cases, the quality of data reported in FY14 FTFMS was acceptable with minimal margin of error. The DQA team observed a concerted effort being made by implementing partners to ensure that the data reported meets quality standards and captures results. The team observed how established projects in particular are making noticeable changes in improving the quality of data and strengthening their internal data quality control system. Nonetheless, the team has also observed some shortcomings in the data reported and gaps in the overall M&E system currently in place by the projects. Data quality verification is done in most cases intermittently and is not systematic. These limitations have to be addressed as a matter of urgency to ensure the quality of data reported. As a way forward, the DQA suggested follow-up actions which were incorporated in the report submitted to USAID.

I.6 Best Practice Videos

USAID-CIAFS has prepared two sets of videos to support its agricultural extension efforts. The first set of videos is on best practices in agriculture and climate change, derived from the two rounds of in-country study visits the

project organized for MoA/BoA officials in previous years. The videos, each lasting 12 minutes, were prepared on the following topics with the narration in English and the sub-titles in Amharic. These ten videos deal with

- Vertisol management
- Honey production
- Rust resistant wheat
- Water harvesting
- Milk and dairy production
- Coffee production
- “Quncho” teff variety
- Integrated watershed management; and
- Seed multiplication

Two videos that are 15 minutes each, one on Kenya and another on Uganda, were also prepared in English with narration in Amharic. The video on the CSA practice in Kenya was shown at the Climate Change Conference the project convened in December to sensitize participants. Copies of the videos will be formally submitted to the federal MoA, the regional BoAs, and FTF partners involved in delivering extension messages to smallholders in agriculture. The project has also prepared a three minute video on CSA practices.

I.7 Policy Brief on Biotechnology

In line with its efforts to empower government leaders, USAID-CIAFS collaborated with the NASAC and the Ethiopian Academy of Sciences to produce a policy brief on biotechnology. The draft policy brief, developed primarily for African policy makers, was critiqued in a two-day editorial technical team workshop held in Addis Ababa. The booklet is a scientific synthesis of biotechnology sciences and practices that builds on the key recommendations of the August 2014 conference that USAID-CIAFS convened on harnessing the potential of biotechnology for food security and agricultural transformation. The booklet will be prepared by NASAC and translated into Arabic and possibly Amharic and other working languages in Africa for quick reference by policymakers.

I.8 Published Best Practice Studies

USAID-CIAFS published three volumes of best practices in smallholder agriculture and climate adaptation in Ethiopia, derived from the two rounds of in-country study tours and a consultancy study conducted just over a year ago across agro-ecologies and farming systems. In total, over 40 adaptation practices and technologies were published and disseminated in workshops.

I.9 Publish Biotechnology Proceedings

USAID-CIAFS organized an international conference on biotechnology for agricultural change in the last quarter. The conference deliberated over two days on the technological progress, country experiences, and public perceptions regarding biotechnology and proposed a series of recommendations to support the enabling environment in Ethiopia. USAID-CIAFS has prepared an abridged version of the materials, presentations, and discussion points of the conference in proceedings for publication.

I.10 Thailand Study Tour Report

USAID-CIAFS prepared and submitted a detailed report to USAID, the MoA, and BoAs on the best practice visit to Thailand that was organized in the last quarter for high officials from the MoA and regional bureaus. The report highlights tour objectives, sites visited, observations, best practices in agriculture extension, and key recommendations for policymakers.

I.11 M&E Taskforce Meeting

USAID-CIAFS is a member of the M&E taskforce established under REDFS framework to coordinate donor support to strengthen the PPD. The taskforce is composed of the World Bank, FAO, ATA, GIZ, and IFAD. USAID-CIAFS continued to play an active role by participating in the monthly and quarterly meetings. In the past, the project has collaborated with the ATA, the World Bank, and FAO in organizing bi-annual planning and M&E workshops.

I.12 FTFMS Support to Implementing Partners

USAID-CIAFS organized a briefing meeting of all FTF partners on FY14 FTFMS reporting at the request of the COR/FTF Coordinator. The project has also provided FTFMS user training to two M&E managers from FTF implementing partners CARE and ACPA. Both organizations currently implement the Graduation with Resilience to Achieve Sustainable Development (GRAD) project, and the Camel Milk Value Chain project, respectively. The two-hour training covered how to efficiently use the FTFMS. Trainees were given resource materials and guides to help them use the system efficiently. Complementing the briefing and user trainings, the project provided support to AGP-AMDe, TYA, CFSP, LAND, and GRAD projects with online data entry and reporting.

I.13 FY14 FTFMS Reporting

USAID-CIAFS has entered the FY14 data in USAID's FTFMS and submitted the report to USAID prior to the November 10, 2014 deadline.

I.14 FY14 AID Tracker Reporting

USAID-CIAFS has also entered the FY14 data in Aid Tracker, which is a web-based and Mission-wide M&E system.

II. SUMMARY OF PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR THE NEXT TWO MONTHS (JANUARY TO FEBRUARY 2015)

The project will formally close on February 27, 2015. In the ensuing months, USAID-CIAFS will implement the following activities that started earlier but rolled over:

Leadership Training, SNNPR

Following a lengthy negotiation with the regional bureau of SNNPR, the leadership training will be delivered in January 2015 to key decision-makers to increase their leadership competency and efficiency for the successful implementation of the GTP/ATP. As proposed by the regional bureau, the training will be delivered to 60 selected participants.

Publish Proceedings and Other Materials

USAID-CIAFS will finalise compiling and editing proceedings and manuals for publications. The ToT manual for pastoral communities has undergone several rounds of review and editing and will be ready for publication before the close of the project. In addition, the project will review and publish research papers and policy briefs on climate change and food security produced by Haramaya, Dire Dawa, Mekelle, and Bahir Dar Universities. The project will also publish and disseminate reports documenting best practices in agriculture technology and climate change. A condensed version of the biotechnology conference proceedings will also be published and shared with stakeholders before the end of the project.

ToT for District Level Training

In order to cascade the leadership training to district levels, USAID-CIAFS has customized the existing curriculum. This will be piloted in Oromiya region and five to seven ToTs will be identified from each region through a consultative process and trained to transfer the skills and knowledge to district level leadership to enhance their planning and implementation capacity.

Project Closeout

A final report will be prepared for submission. In addition, a closeout plan will be submitted to USAID as defined in the award contract. The project will hold a one day project close out workshop with agents of change and other stakeholders.