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# QUARTERLY REPORT #15 (JANUARY –MARCH 2015) Capacity to Improve Agriculture and Food Security (USAID-CIAFS)



**April 2015**

This publication was produced for review by the United States Agency for International Development. It was prepared by Fintrac Inc.

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*Cover Photo: Group work at the leadership training for SNNPR bureau of agriculture, held in Shashement town on January 29 – February 1, 2015*

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## ACRONYMS

AGP	Agriculture Growth Program
AMD	Agriculture Market Development
ATP	Agricultural Transformation Plan
BOA	Bureau of Agriculture
CAADP	Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program
CIAFS	Capacity to Improve Agriculture and Food Security
CRGE	Climate Resilient Green Economy
DQA	Data Quality Assessment
FTF	Feed the Future
FY	Fiscal Year
GCC	Global Climate Change
GTP	Growth and Transformation Plan
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MOA	Ministry of Agriculture
MSc	Master of Science
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
ORDA	Organisation for Rehabilitation and Development in Amhara
PPD	Planning and Programme Directorate
REDFS	Rural Economic Development and Food Security
SEPDA	South Ethiopia Peoples' Development Association
SNNPR	Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples' Region
ToT	Training of Trainer
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

USAID's 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 (BOA) to build their human capital and institutional capacity for decision making and resource use to achieve the Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP) and 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 support, including data quality assessments to FTF partners and the USAID Mission to improve its knowledge management capacity. The project is implemented in the primary regions of Tigray, Amhara, Oromiya, and Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples' Region (SNNPR). Afar and Somali pastoralists regions are also targeted by CIAFS. This is the first quarterly performance report of 2015, covering January 1 to March 30. Key achievements this quarter included:

- Organized the first regional level leadership training for SNNPR with 60 senior officials from various directorates of the regional bureau taking part.
- Reviewed and customized the leadership curriculum for district level leaders and piloted the curriculum for relevance and application in a training program organized for 60 district officials from the Oromiya BOA.
- Trained 37 trainers from regional BOAs and civil societies. The trainees were selected using a set of criteria developed by USAID-CIAFS and the regional bureaus of agriculture. Participants developed action plans to present to their respective regional bureaus with the objective of obtaining funding to disseminate the trainings to the district levels.
- Collaborated with Haramaya University and prepared a tertiary level curriculum on climate change to train graduates to support adaptation and the Climate Resilient Green Economy (CRGE) program. The curriculum was then presented to and critiqued by subject matter experts.
- Compiled and published an abridged version of proceedings of the international conference on harnessing biotechnology for agriculture transformation and food security in Ethiopia held last August.
- Edited and prepared for publication 28 research papers on the linkages between climate change and food security prepared in collaboration with Haramaya, Mekelle, and Bahir Dar Universities.

# I. HIGHLIGHTS OF ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS

## I.1 Leadership Training in SNNPR

Following a lengthy negotiation with the regional bureau of SNNPR, USAID-CIAFS organized the Agents of Change Leadership Training on Agricultural Transformation and Food/Nutrition Security for 60 leaders and senior staff (10 of whom were women) drawn from the SNNPR BOA, the SNNPR Institute of Agricultural Research, other regional allied institutions, and line agencies. The training was held in Shashemene town from January 29 to February 1, 2015. The overall objective of the training was to increase the leadership competency and efficiency for the successful implementation of the second GTP/ATP. This was the first leadership training organized by USAID-CIAFS in SNNPR. The training was very well received. “We have become one family. We now share the same vision, the same objective. We are truly leaders,” one of the participants stated. Now that USAID-CIAFS has cascaded the leadership training in all four targeted regions, the next priority will be to scale up and further disseminate the training to district levels in all four regions.

## I.2 Cascade Leadership Training to District Level

USAID-CIAFS hired local consultants to customize the leadership curriculum 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 planning and M&E – reviewed the leadership curriculum designed for higher-level MOA staff, and prepared modules for district level leaders on thematic topics.

The curriculum was piloted in Oromiya region in a training program organized for 60 agricultural leaders selected from the AGP districts. The purpose of the pilot training was to test the relevance and application of the curriculum for eventual roll out to all the regions.

Informed by comments and recommendations from the participants, the project conducted an extensive consultative process with the regional bureaus of all the four regions and implemented a training of trainers program. USAID-CIAFS identified 37 lead trainers carefully selected from the regional bureaus, allied organizations, and credible local NGOs. Key selection criteria included motivation, commitment, and training experience. The selected trainers received instruction in the revised leadership curriculum, which included sessions on communication and facilitation. Ten of the participants were from two major civil societies - ORDA and SEPDA – as they also have district level agricultural transformation programs. Each of the trainers had previously participated in USAID-CIAFS leadership programs, and specialize in at least one of the core topics of the curriculum. Participants developed regional level action plans and selected focal persons to interface with the regional bureaus to garner support for dissemination of the trainings to the district level.

## I.3 Mainstreaming GCC into Haramaya University

As part of its support of USAID Global Climate Change (GCC) initiative, USAID-CIAFS awarded four grants to universities to develop a tertiary level curriculum on climate change. One of the grantees was Haramaya University, which presented the draft curriculum to an expert review workshop on January 12, 2015. Convened in Dire Dawa City, the workshop reviewed all the six curriculums prepared by the university - one standalone and five infused into existing post-graduate courses – and endorsed them all for post graduate training. Haramaya had also prepared a complimentary course targeting policy makers. It is expected that the curriculums will be endorsed by the Senate for incorporation into the mainstream syllabus. Dire Dawa, Bahir Dar and Mekelle Universities received the other three grants to develop tertiary level curriculums on GCC.

## I.4 Research on Food Security and Climate Change Linkages

Mekelle University is one of four universities that received a grant to conduct an off-the-shelf assessment of analytical reports on the linkages between food security and climate change to raise awareness and generate

policy support. Accordingly, the university conducted assessments on seven thematic topics on adaptation and best practices and presented findings to a regional stakeholder workshop. The workshop brought together nearly 60 participants drawn from various stakeholders, including Mekelle University, the Regional Bureau of Agriculture and Natural Resource, the Regional Bureau of Water Resources, Tigray Agricultural Research Institute, and zonal administrators. Representatives from the CRGE office and stakeholders from the Bureaus of Education and Health, meteorology agency of Mekelle branch, Adigrat University, Aksum University, Bahir Dar University, Dire Dawa University, and international and local NGOs also took part in this one-day event. The workshop was organized in four plenary sessions in which 10 papers (three more than budgeted for) were presented. The fifth session was dedicated to conclusions and mapping next steps.

The workshop brought a common understanding about climate change and its impacts on smallholder agriculture and provided invaluable information to policymakers on the linkages between climate change and agriculture. It also contributed to evidence-based adaptation planning and realization of the strategic objectives set out in the CRGE. The workshop also provided opportunities to the scientific community to interact with representatives of farmers' institutions, the local bureaus of agriculture, and the donor community.

A total of 28 papers, including those from Mekelle, Bahir Dar, and Haramaya Universities have been professionally edited, and are accompanied by a one to two page policy brief. Unfortunately, the papers will not be ready for print and distribution before project closeout because of delays from the universities in submitting final versions.

## **1.5 Biotechnology Proceedings**

USAID-CIAFS published a condensed version of the international conference proceedings on harnessing biotechnology for agriculture transformation and food security in Ethiopia, held in August 2014. The proceedings will be distributed to academic institutions, policy makers, research organizations, workshop participants, and FTF partners to raise awareness and inform decision-making processes.

## **1.6 FTF Partners' Quarterly Meeting**

The quarterly FTF partners' meeting was held on January 15, 2015 at the Capital Hotel. The meeting was dedicated to mainstreaming climate change into FTF activities. Accordingly, USAID-CIAFS presented its activities, achievements, and experiences on mainstreaming climate change into development programs.

## **1.7 Contribution to USAID Climate Adaptation Tools**

Building on the FTF quarterly workshop, USAID-CIAFS gave an extended presentation of its climate change activities to the team from the Bureau for Food Security developing new tools that can be piloted before rolled out globally to support USAID-GCC. The project also shared research materials, presented adaptation strategies, and elaborated on questions and pertinent issues related to Ethiopia's Climate Resilient Green Economy and adaptation strategies in the agriculture sector.

## **1.8 Contribution to the Design of AMD**

At the request of USAID, CIAFS has given a presentation to the team from Washington Bureau of Food security compiling basic data and information to formulating the next round of agriculture markets development program, expected to be launched next year. CIAFS has also supported the pre-design team in organizing the consultative meeting held in Hawassa by identifying and mobilizing six key stakeholders representing the SNNPR chamber and sectoral associations, the regional BoA and the agribusiness sector. The project has further actively participated in the consultative workshop held in Addis Ababa for stakeholders from Oromiya region and the federal.

## **II. SUMMARY OF PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR THE NEXT ONE MONTH (APRIL 2015)**

The project will formally close on April 30, 2015. In the ensuing few weeks, USAID-CIAFS will implement the following activities:

### **2.1 Cascade Leadership Training to Districts**

The leadership training to districts will be cascaded to Oromiya region. It was agreed with the regional bureau that 120 senior staff from AGP districts will be trained in two parallel sessions (60 in each session) by the TOT trainers over five days, April 22-26, 2015.

### **2.2 Project Closeout**

A final closeout report is being prepared for submission to USAID. In addition, project equipment, vehicles, and materials will be disposed of as soon as the disposition plan is approved by USAID. The project will hold a project closeout meeting with agents of change, regional bureaus of agriculture, MOA, USAID, and other stakeholders to share the project's results and lessons learned. The event is scheduled for April 28, 2015.