



USAID - MASHAV - MoA Joint Technical Program

Introduction

The agricultural sector is the largest sector of Ethiopia's economy. The majority of this sector consists of small-holders' farms. Population growth increased economic competition, and depletion of land and water sources in recent years deteriorated the state of these farmers. The solution for improving small holders' livelihood in developing countries should address all the aspects of agriculture including: recruit and allocation of finances, management of soil and irrigation systems, better crops and plant material supply, agro-techniques, agricultural extension, post-harvesting and marketing. The addition of horticultural crops, both of fruits and vegetables, to the small holders' production

basket can greatly improve their economic situation and avoid the risks involved in monoculture farming.

The Joint Technical Program involves cooperation between three partners: **MASHAV**- Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; **USAID** – The United States Agency for International Development; and **MoA** – The Ministry of Agriculture of Ethiopia. The Joint Program addresses the first and crucial step in fruit-tree agriculture, i.e. the supply of elite plant material via advanced vegetative propagation methods: modern nurseries and micro-propagation.

USAID-MASHAV-MoA Joint Program

The USAID-MASHAV-MoA program focuses on the development of horticultural plant propagation in Ethiopia through nursery cultivation and tissue culture propagation. This goal is achieved by introducing and supplying improved facilities, equipment and materials as well as intensive capacity building activities. The joint program demonstrates large-scale plant production with timely production planning and quality control inspections. The program's nurseries produce high yielding and internationally marketable varieties of avocado, citrus and mango. Various rootstocks

are introduced for adaptation to different soil and water conditions and for tolerance to soil-born diseases. The program upgrades small tissue culture research laboratories into semi-commercial scale production of pineapple, banana, potato, enset, vanilla, cassava, coffee, and more. Through collaboration with other international and national aid agencies the Joint Technical Program's scope will increase to cover additional aspects of fruit tree and vegetable cultivation. This will enable empowerment of small holders through addressing horticultural production from A to Z in a coordinated and resources-saving manner thus overcoming the inconclusive character of a single aid program.



The Team

The program's team includes both local and foreign experts. Together they provide leadership and motivation as well as know-how, acquaintance with local farming conditions and allow communication with local farmers and the local government.

The characteristics of the program's team are:

- Coherence and team spirit
- Ability to learn and adopt

- Efficiency and hard working

The current joint team of the USAID-MASHAV-MoA Program includes:

- Project coordinators (MASHAV & MoA), a USAID controller and a focal person (EIAR)
- Site managers (laboratory and nursery managers)
- Experts and workers at the project sites

Sites

Nurseries: Nurseries of the Regional Bureau of Agriculture at Butajira, Areka (SNNPR), Bicolo (Amhara), Alemata (Tigray), Uke (Oromia).

Micro-propagation laboratories: Holeta, Melkassa, Jimma (EIAR), Bahir Dar (ARARI).

Activities

- Construction and upgrading of plant propagation facilities
- Providing critical equipment and supplies for nurseries

- Plant production (nurseries and micro-propagation) and quality control
- Capacity building – fruit trees nurseries and micro-propagation

Effectiveness and Sustainability

The program will provide the following benefits to the development of agriculture in Ethiopia:

- Millions of horticultural crop-plants of the best varieties. This will create a potential for better quality fruits at the local markets as well as potential for export with best taste, shelf life and uniformity of the fruits.
- Sources for the best internationally known fruit crops rootstocks and varieties for various purposes.

- Hundreds of trained plant propagators: managers, professionals and technicians for nurseries and micro-propagation laboratories.
- Manuals, guidelines and source books for the operation of nursery and micro-propagation laboratories.
- Acquaintance with the commercial sector with horticultural plant propagation opportunities.



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Project Coordinators



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