**Project on “Mainstreaming Agro-biodiversity Conservation into the Agricultural Production Systems of Ethiopia”**

**2015 Second Quarter Report (April - June, 2015)**



 

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**Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The concept of Agro-biodiversity reflects the dynamics and complex relationships between human societies, cultivated plants, and the environments in which they live together, reflecting on the policies of conservation of the cultivated ecosystems, promotion of nutritional and food security of the human populations, social inclusion, and local sustainable development. Given the significant current and future roles of the agricultural sector in Ethiopian economy, a vibrant biodiversity conservation in general and Agro-biodiversity conservation in particular and its sustainable use is an essential enabler to continue livelihood. Based on these perspectives, the project “Mainstreaming Agro-biodiversity Conservation into the Agricultural Production Systems of Ethiopia” came into practice by focusing on four major crops which are indigenous to the country and important for food security and economic development of rural households. The country is well known as a center of origin and diversity for these four crops: ArabicaCoffee, Enset, Durum wheat and Tef. Despite their importance, these Ethiopia‘s farmers varieties are highly threatened by genetic erosion, which poses a serious challenge to these crops.

In 2015 quarter one; the following major achievements were recorded:

**Major results achieved under outcome 1:**

* Policy recommendations document was translated to local languages and distributed to the four project sites.
* 200 copies of local bylaws were publication and distributed to the project sites and scaling up to the nearby *woredas* and *kebeles* going on.
* 200 copies of climate change adaption strategic document was publication and distributed. The document also translated to local languages (Amharic and Afan Oromo). Soft and hard copy of the document was given to all project sites and implementation started at all project sites.
* First draft of the gender analysis document was prepared by the gender expert. Comments also forwarded from the project and final document will come sooner for implementation.
* Best practice of the project identities by the National and International consultants.

**Major results achieved under outcome 2:**

* Market strategy was on implementation and the document was translated to local languages (Amharic and Afan Oromo). The translated document also distributed to the project sites.
* Follow up the appropriate use of the market Shed s constructed at Gimbichu, Minjar-shenkora and Angacha. Finishing work also on a process for Angacha market Shed
* For biodiversity friendly products of Enset, durum wheat, tef and forest coffee were advertised on the National exhibition and bazaar conducted at Mekkelle
* Many capacity building activities were conducted on the market linkage at four projects sites.

**Major results achieved under outcome 3:**

* Enset field gene bank was established and managed
* All agronomic activities were performed to establish Forest Coffee field gene bank
* Jimma botanic garden fence and parking lot was Received from the contractor after approval of the consultant.
* Follow up of two community gene bank and one botanical garden found under construction
* Trainee of Trainers (TOT) was given on four extension package (Tef, Durum wheat and Forest Coffee) for experts working at *Zonal, Woreda and kebele* level.

Finally the program coordination outcome has also immense contributions in managing the project staff, facilitation of the procurement activities, payment of staff salary and project monitoring and evaluation activities to facilitate sooth project implementation.

Financial utilization of the reporting period showed that 3,167,813.93 were utilized out of 3,168,023.59 planned for the period. This shows 99.99% achievement for the reporting period. This financial utilization performance is attributed to late transfer of the budget requested for the quarter.

# OVERALL GOAL OF THE PROJECT

* To improve *in-situ* conservation of Agro-biodiversity resources (including crop wild relatives), secures biodiversity values, ensures food security and sustains human well-being.

#  OBJECTIVE OF THE PROJECT

* To provide farming communities with incentives (policies, capacity, markets and knowledge) to mainstream conservation of Agro-biodiversity resources, including crop wild relatives, into their farming systems.

# PROJECT OUTCOMES

* Enabling policy and institutional framework supporting in-situ conservation of Agro-biodiversity and crop relatives
* Markets provide incentive for farmer uptake of Agro-biodiversity friendly practices
* Crop wild relatives and framers varieties are conserved in in-situ gene banks and on-farm conservation sites

# COVERAGE OF THE PROJECT

The project is implemented in three regional states (Amhara, Oromia and SNNP) particularly in four project sites (Angacha, Gimbichu, Minjar-shenkora and Yayu).

# PROJECT PERFORMANCES

**Table1: Physical and financial performance report of 2014**

| **Expected** **Outputs** | **Planned activities** | **Achievements against planned activities** | **Budge / Expenditure (ETB)** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Expenditure** | **Balance** |
| **Outcome 1. Enabling policy and institutional framework supporting *in-situ* conservation of Agro-biodiversity and crop relatives**  |  |  |
| **Output 1.1: Comprehensive Agro-biodiversity friendly policies developed and approved to promote Agro-biodiversity friendly production practices** |  |  |
| Indicator | Policy documents reviewed and Agro-biodiversity friendly principles generated |  |  |  |
| Baseline | Currently Agro-biodiversity friendly policies are scattered and inadequate |  |  |  |
| Target | At least five policy documents reviewed and three Agro-biodiversity friendly principles generate  |  |  |  |
| Activity 1. | Facilitate participatory generation of recommendations to address gaps in policy and overlaps in mandates in Agro-biodiversity conservation and disseminate & advocate the findings of policy recommendations for adoption  | Awareness raising activities were conducted at all project sites on the policy recommendations. Specifically, Participatory application of recommended actions to address gaps in policy & overlap of mandates in Agrobiodiversity conservation were disseminated and advocated for 40 participants (M26, F14) at Yayu site. Policy recommendations document was translated to the local languages and distributed to the project sites for implementation.  | 29,328.02 |  |
| Activity 2. | Facilitate formulation of Agro-biodiversity management working structure from federal to local level | In supporting the structure of the Institute, an office rent was covered by the project for newly established Biodiversity Center at Awassa. To strengthen the working structure of biodiversity and Agro-biodiversity in particular, support was given to EBI in hiring process of the new staff for newly approved structure. Study result was summited by the expert on the future structural recommendations and how to sustain the achievements of the project after completion.  | 12,754.88 |  |
| Activity 3. | Facilitate the formulation, adoption and dissemination of local level bylaws to conserve Agro-biodiversity and strengthen traditional natural resources management knowledge in the four project sites | 200 copies of community bylaws were published and distributed to the project sites. Discussions were held on the implementation of community bylaws in presence of 651 participants (M404, F247) at four project site. Scaling up to nearby woredas and kebeles also started at all project sites. | 34,186.08 |  |
| Activity 4. | Facilitate to create awareness of farmers and local officials on Agro-biodiversity conservation policies | Continuous Police awareness raising training was given to woreda experts, model farmers and kebele administrators on Agro-biodiversity conservation for 96 participants (M 79, F17) at all project sites.  | 4640.00 |  |
| **Output 1.2: The National Extension Service providing farmers with knowledge based extension technology to promote farmer varieties (and conservation of Agro-biodiversity within the current production systems):**  |  |  |
| Indicator:  | Extension packages for farmers crop varieties prepared and research on increasing productivity of two farmer varieties conducted |  |  |  |
| Baseline: | There are no extension packages for farmers varieties |  |  |  |
| Target: | At least four extension package development for farmers varieties prepared and research on increasing productivity of two farmer varieties conducted |  |  |  |
| Activity 1 | Facilitate preparation of National Extension Packages for the four crops to promote farmer varieties and conservation of Agro-biodiversity within the current production systems  | 400 copies of four extension packages were published and distributed to all project sites. ToT trainings were given on all packages for 100 experts come from Zone, *woreda* and *kebele* level coordinated at federal level. Trainings were given for the beneficiary communities on the extension packages at four sites for 236 participants (M170, F66).  | 65,086.27 |  |
| Activity 2 | Facilitate linkages between extension service and research institutions, particularly those that deal with forest Arabica Coffee, Enset, Tef & Durum wheat (for updated information on agronomy, disease and pest control, processing, etc.).  | Agreement was made with EIAR to conduct research to address specific problems of the each crop. The research result will come as soon as the activities are completed by EIAR.  | 95,745.35 |  |
| Activity 3.  | Scaling up of activities of polices and institutional frame works related to agro-biodiversity conservation in 12 woredas and 36 additional kebeles |  Intensively scaling up activities was take place on the policy recommendations and community bylaws to reach other 36*kebeles* and 12*Woredas.* Discussion also held at Minjar-shenkora and Yayu in presence of participants 26 (M21, F5) come from selected *kebeles* and *woredas* for scale up.  | 48,553.00 |  |
| **Output 1.3 Adaptive capacity increased** |  |  |
| Indicator:  | Formulation of strategy to increase adaptive capacity to climate change in four project sites initiated |  |  |  |
| Baseline: | There is no strategy to increase adaptive capacity to climate change |  |  |  |
| Target: | Formulation of strategy to increase adaptive capacity to climate change initiated in four sites |  |  |  |
| Activity 1 | Facilitate formulation of a strategy to build the adaptive capacity of the country to conserve Agro-biodiversity in the long term in the face of a changing climate  | Training was given on the value chain concepts at four project sites for 131 participants (M108, F23) for cooperatives leaders and *woreda* experts. Based on the agreement made with MoA, Natural Resource Management Directorate, the final document was submitted. Training also given for the relevant bodies on the issue at Bishoftu. 200 copies of “Strategic Guideline in Integrated Natural Resources Management to increase adaptive capacity of Farmers Varieties to Climate change in Enset, Forest coffee, Tef and Durum wheat growing *Woredas*” were published and distributed for implementation. The document was translated into local languages as well.  | 21,082.65 |   |
| **Output 1.4: An effective M&E for assessing conservation status of Agro-biodiversity at community level** |  |  |
| Indicator:  | Participatory monitoring and evaluation system development initiated in the communities of four project sites |  |  |  |
| Baseline: | There is no effective and participatory monitoring and evaluation system for assessing conservation status of Agro-biodiversity at community level |  |  |  |
| Target: | Participatory monitoring and evaluation system development initiated at least in the communities of four project sites |  |  |  |
| Activity 1. | Implement the M&E system, identify lessons and share them widely (locally, nationally and internationally) through reports, publications, etc. | Document was prepared by the external consultancy firm on refinement of the M&E systems and widely shared locally at all project sites. Discussion also held at two project sites on the refined M&E for 28 participants (M25, F3).  | 10,383.30 |  |
| **Outcome 2. Markets provide incentive for farmer uptake of Agro-biodiversity friendly practices**  |  |  |
| **Output 2.1: Supply of Agro-biodiversity products increased through improved quality, efficiency of production and special marketing channels** |  |  |
| Indicator:  | Marketing of Agro-biodiversity products improved in four pilot areas  |   |  |  |
| Baseline: | There are many local level producers but fail to marketing Agro-biodiversity products |   |  |  |
| Target: | local level producers in four sites linked and improved marketing of Agro-biodiversity |   |  |  |
| Activity 1. | Facilitate to build the capacity of farmers’ cooperative association members in four pilot area based on need assessment | Minjar-shenkora project site in collaboration with *woreda* Cooperative office has been monitored and evaluated the whole activities of 16 farmer’s cooperative associations and give them feedback on their weakness. Training was given for members of five farmers cooperatives on accounting, auditing and cooperative management for 44 participants (M31, F13) at Yayu project site. Support was given for the Anagcah Enset producer associations when they conduct general assembly. 60 board members (M48, F12) were participated on the assembly. On this meeting they identify weakness and strength of the association as well as they put the way forward.  | 179,343.56 |  |
| Activity 2. | Facilitate to create / strengthen market linkage for farmers’ cooperative association in four pilot area  | Training was given to Gimbichu farmers’ cooperative members on the marketing and market linkage creation approaches for 17 participants (M16, F1). Discussion was held at Yayu site on the market linkage creation with the 34 (M29, F5) Farmers cooperatives members in presence of Sorena Geba union. On this occasion five farmers cooperatives fond at Yayu received an experience from Sorena Geba union how to form a union. In order to secure the market for fiber, MoU was renewed between Angacha farmers’ cooperative and G7 fiber factory.  | 22,567.00 |  |
| Activity 3. | Facilitate to develop monitoring mechanisms for use by the farmer cooperative associations’ use | The document prepared by the consultant firm on the monitoring mechanizes for farmers’ cooperative/association was implemented at four project sites. Minjar-shenkora *woreda* project site steering committee has been monitored and evaluated the cooperatives performance and gives feedback on their weakness and shows directions how to address the identified gaps. Similarly at Gimbichu project site, performance of farmers’ cooperatives was monitored and evaluated. 27 concerned persons were participated on the occasion.  | 42,491.64 |  |
| Activity 4. | Provide production, processing and communication materials for farmer cooperative associations in four pilot areas | Two modern metal grain storage Silos which avoid the damage caused by weevils were procured and handover to the Gimbichu farmers cooperatives. This address the new technologies needs of the farmer’s cooperative association. Procurement process also started to buy fiber moisture tester and modern thrasher for Angacha and Gimichu farmers’ cooperatives/association respectively.  | 110,000.00 | 209.66 |
| Activity 5. | Facilitate market infrastructure for farmers’ cooperative associations in three pilot area (Angacha, Minijar-Shenkora and Gimbichu) | Three market Sheds were constructed and transferred to the beneficiaries. Follow up of the appropriate use of the market Sheds were performed at Gimbichu, Minjar-shenkora and Angacha project sites. The outer part of the market shed constructed at Angacha was completed.  | 120,290.00 |  |
| Activity 6. | Facilitate to link farmers’ cooperative association with credit or financial institution to operationalized market operation | In order to strengthen the credit access for Minjar-shenkora farmers’ association intensive communication done between the association leaders and Kasem Union leaders. The association received 65,000 birr loan from Kasem Union during the first quarter of 2015.  | 95,958.11 |  |
| **Output 2.2: International and national demand for 4 Agro-biodiversity friendly products increased (Forest Coffee, Durum wheat, Tef, Enset):** |  |  |
| Indicator:  | International and national demand for 4 Agro- biodiversity friendly products increased |  |  |  |
| Baseline: | There is limited international and national demand for Agro-biodiversity friendly products |  |  |  |
| Target: | At least the demand of 4 Agro-biodiversity friendly products increased internationally and nationally |  |  |  |
| Activity 1. | Facilitate dissemination and adoption of the recommended marketing strategy on four crops of the project (Coffee, Durum wheat, Tef and Enset) | Market strategy document was translated to the local languages (Amharic and Afan Oromo) and distributed to four project sites. The market strategy was widely distributed to the relevant organizations in order to raise awareness and facilitate the implementation of the strategy.  |  |  |
| Activity 2. | Facilitate to participate in international exhibition to promote Agro-biodiversity products  | Farmer’s association/cooperatives from four sites were participated on the exhibition and bazaar conducted at Mekelle town and announced agrobiodiversity friendly products. Farmers’ cooperatives from Angacha site was participated on the exhibition and bazaar conducted in Awassa.  | 200,000.00 |  |
| Activity 3. | Facilitate to disseminate local, regional and national level to create awareness raising campaigns to promote specialized product of farmer’s varieties.  | Three market campaigns were conducted to advertise the products of farmer’s varieties. Four billboards for four crops were redesigned, printed and displayed at Bole International Airport.  | 748,261.98 |  |
| Activity 4. | Gender analysis and empowerment interventions for four crops conservation, production and marketing  | The data were collected from 8 *kebeles* of the project sites and submitted for analysis to the gender specialist come from Civil Service University. The first draft of the document summited for comments. Comments also given and final document will come soon.  | 35,211.59 |  |
| Activity 5.  | Undertake experience sharing visit in the four crops processing and production areas model farmers  | Gimbichu project site project staff, beneficiary community representatives and other stakeholders of the project from the *worda* were traveled to Yayu project site and exchange experiences. 15 participants (M13, F2) were take part on the experience sharing program.  | 170,404.67 |  |
| **Output 2.3: Incomes from trading Agro-biodiversity friendly products maintained (secured)** |  |  |
| Indicator:  | Farmers income increased from certified forest Coffee trading |  |  |  |
| Baseline: | The current income generated from forest Coffee trading is low |  |  |  |
| Target: | Forest Coffee certified |  |  |  |
| Activity 1. | Follow up of annual performance of forest coffee certificate (Capacity building based on Audit comments). | Based on the auditors recommendations, capacity building training was given for the Yayu forest coffee cooperatives and experts from the *woreda* on coffee quality assurance for 81 participants (M68, F13). Verification audit was conducted and the associations are legible for the certificate of Rain Forest Alliance. We are waiting the certificate from the Rainforest Alliance.  | 152,119.47 |  |
| Activity 2. | Investigate potential of certification for FV and landraces of Durum wheat, Enset and Tef | As per the MoU signed between Debre Berhan University and EBI on the branding of Minjar-shenkora Tef, the requested money was transferred to the University. Now the report and the branding process will be finalized sooner after completion of the chemical analysis of tef sample.  | 6221.98 |  |
| Activity 3. | Nutritional Analysis for Enset products  | The data of the nutritional analysis conducted on Enset were sent from the EIAR to EBI. To collocate additional data proposal was submitted and approved to implement in the next quarter. After data collection final report will be produced.  | 6187.00 |  |
| **Outcome 3. Crop wild relatives and framers are conserved in in-situ gene banks and on-farm conservation sites.** |  |  |
| **Output 3.1 Increase awareness on *in-situ* and on farm conservation approaches**  |  |  |
| Indicator:  | Four *in-situ* and on farm conservation sites established. |   |  |  |
| Baseline: | The current *in-situ* and on farm conservation sites and their sizes are limited |   |  |  |
| Target: | At least four *in-situ* and on farm conservation site establishment initiated |   |  |  |
| Activity 1. | Facilitate completion of the inventory and documentation of the gene pools in the conservation sites | 500 additional Enset seedlings categorized under 5 new farmers Enset varieties were planted and managed in Angacha Enset field gene bank. This will increased the number of Enset varieties in the field gene bank to 88.  |  |  |
| Activity 2. | Collection of seeds, raising Coffee seedlings and planting on the boundaries of Coffee conservation areas of Yayu Biosphere reserve.  | More than 170,000 Forest Coffee seedlings were distributed to the farmers’ cooperatives. The remaining seedling will be planted in the forest coffee field gene bank and on the boundaries of coffee field gene bank sooner. 31 daily labors (M18, F13) were employed to manage two nurseries and clearing the land for field gene bank.  | 63,531.00  |  |
| Activity 3. | Establishment of pilot forest coffee field gene bank in Yayo | To establish forest coffee field gene bank, 320 holes were prepared according to the layout done by the assigned EBI experts. Seedlings management was on progress and plantation will be done in the coming rainy season in presence of the experts from EBI. In order to protect the forest coffee gene bank from erosion vetiver grass was planted on 125m.  | 16,835.92 |  |
| Activity 4. | Design and Construction of community gene banks (for Tef and Durum wheat) | The construction of the community gene banks are too delayed due to the less commitment of the contractor. So many discussions were conducted in presence of the concerned bodies. However, the construction is still pending due to less commitment of the contractor. Currently the construction is reached at the finishing stage at both sites.  | 105,000.00 |  |
| Activity 5. | Establishment of Jimma Botanic garden and follow up the construction activities of community gene banks.  | Follow up of Jimma botanical garden construction was done but still delayed due to less commitment of the contractor. Termination letter also given to the contractor. The construction of fence and pavement of the parking lot were finalized and handed over to EBI in presence of the consultant, experts from EBI, Project and contractor.  |  |  |
| Activity 6. | Facilitate expansion, collection and conservation of Enset seed and clones | In Agnacha project site, 5020 Enset seedlings were planted and managed. 50 Enset clumps were raised which will planted in the next planting season. 44 day labor manage the Enset found in the in the field gene bank.  | 10,749.53 |  |
| Activity 7. | Facilitate participatory plant breeding to complement on-farm conservation of farmers’ varieties through development of new varieties and increasing productivity | Ethiopian Agricultural Research Institute was responsible to execute the activity. Accordingly, additional cash was transferred to conduct national work shop on the last year findings of the program and to plan effectively for the upcoming period. This additional budget also allocated to implement the result come from EAIR. However, the result was not yet delivered by the Institute. We are also intensively following them to receive the results.  |  |  |
| Activity 8. | Land escape designing, and plantation differ plants  | Land was prepared in the community gene banks compound found at Gimichu and Minjar-shenkora project sites to plant indigenous trees and flowers.  | 18,910.00 |  |
| Activity 9. | Provide seeds and other materials  | 35quintal of durum wheat and 30quintal of tef farmers varieties were bought and handover to the farmers cooperatives found at Gimbichu and Minjar-shenkora project sites.  | 73,864.00 |  |
| Activity 10. | Best practice identification  | Best practices of the project were identified by the National and International consultants. The report will be submitted sooner.  | 24,574.38 |  |
| **Output 3.2. Institutional and operational capacity building to manage *in-situ* and on farm conservation**  |  |  |
| Indicator:  | Development of four capacity building programs initiated |   |  |  |
| Baseline: | The current institutional and operational capacity to manage *in-situ* and on farm conservation sites are weak |   |  |  |
| Target: | Development of at least four capacity building programs initiated |   |  |  |
| Activity 1. | Undertake publication, translation and strategic documents  | Policy recommendations, market strategy and climate change mitigation documents were translated to local languages (Amharic and Afan Oromo). 400, 200, and 200 copies of Extension packages, climate change mitigation and community bylaws were published respectively.  | 31,411.14 |  |
| **Outcome 4. Project effectively managed and outcomes impact delivered within time and budget** |  |  |
| **Output 4.1. The PCU in place and capacity built** |  |  |
| Indicator:  | Five PCU strengthened |   |  |  |
| Baseline: | Was not well established |   |  |  |
| Target: | At least five PCU strengthened |   |  |  |
| Activity 1. | Project staff salary paid.  | Salary payments were effected at each month for the project staffs at project sites and PCU levels.  | 343,956.70 | - |
| Activity 2. | Materials procured, maintained and supplied | Different office equipment and facilities including fuel and lubricants procured accordingly based on the procurement need submitted by respective project sites and the PCU staff. Hence, project implementation facilitated intensively.  | 54,794.17 |  |
| Activity 3 | Staffs at federal and site level trained  | Payment was done at Ethiopian Management Institute and training will be given sooner in quarter III of this year.  | 161,736.00 |  |
| Activity 4. | Project M&E activities conducted and reported  | Project staff meeting was conducted at Addis Ababa. We monitored and evaluated 2014 annual achievements and distribute the budget allocated for 3rd and 4th quarter of 2015.  | 26,986.88 |  |
| Activity 5. | Four project steering committee (PSC) meeting conducted in each Woredas  | Four project steering committee meetings were conducted in project sites (1 per each site). Hence, good sense of ownership forum and introduction session for new cabinet members as a result of reshuffling of the manpower at *woreda* level. One Steering committee also conducted at PCU level.  | 9513.93 |  |
| Activity 6 | Two project steering committee (PSC) meeting conducted at PCU level | One Steering committee was conducted at PCU level and discussed on the achievements of the project in 2014 and AWP of 2015.  | 15,133.73 |  |
| Activity 7 | Eternal audit service | Year 2014 annual performance of the project was audited by Solomon audit firm. The result audit including recommendations and suggestions of the auditors were submitted. According to the report of the audit, financial management was confirmed by the external auditor as unqualified.  |  |  |
| Activity 7. | Knowledge management, documentation and communication of results  | Achievements of the project were appropriately reported from the four projects sites and documented at PCU level. The overall progress of the project also presented for the general meeting of the Institute. In order to align the project activities with the Institute plan, 2008 plan was prepared in Amharic and submitted to the Plan and programming Directorate. One poster which contains the special values of the four intended crops was prepared by PCU and distributed to four project sites for future use.  |  |  |
| **Total** |  |  | **3,167,813.93** | **209.66** |

# MAJOR CHALLENGES

* Community gene bank construction delay at Gimbichu and Minjar-shenkora project site due to less commitment of the contractor.
* Delay of Jimma botanical garden construction activities due to the contractor’s financial problems and poor implementation
* Turnover of staff from project site
* Low production of durum wheat by the cooperatives to link with food factories

# MEASURES TAKEN

* Frequent field visit, writing of warning letters and intensive discussion with the consulting company and the constructor to speed up the construction progress.
* Paving the preconditions of cash utilization at all levels and borrowing some cash from Ethiopian Biodiversity Institute account.
* With intensive communication with Rainforest Alliance head office and Oromia Coffee Union verification audit was allowed.

# LESSONS LEARNED

* The art of the mainstreaming Agro-biodiversity conservation in to all sectors was well taken by the government officials of the project site due to the efforts of the project. Thus, there are vast opportunities to sustain the activities of the project.
* In Angacha area some farmers begun to expand Enset farm rather than replacing by cereals and potatoes.
* Implementation of local bylaws developed by the community and approved by the local government body which will address the challenges and proposed the possible solutions of Agro-biodiversity conservations.
* Raised awareness level about the conservation and utilization of agro-biodiversity products