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

**2015 First Quarter Report (January– March, 2015)**



 

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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:**

* Awareness raising workshops were conducted on police recommendations
* Policies recommendation document was sent for translation
* Four local bylaws were under publication and scaling up to the nearby woredas and kebeles started
* Climate change adaption strategic document was prepared and sent for publication and translation to local languages. Soft and hard copy of the document was given to all project sites and implementation started at all project sites.
* Study was conducted on how to sustain the achievements of the project after completion
* House Hold Survey data were collected from four project sites on Gender and given to the expert for analysis. Document will be produced sooner by the expert.

**Major results achieved under outcome 2:**

* Market strategy was on implementation and the document was on translation to local languages (Amharic and Afan Oromo) in order to smoothen the implementation process
* Follow up the appropriate use of the market shades constructed at Gimbichu, Minjar-shenkora and Angacha. Finishing work also on a process for Angacha market shade
* Enset product was advertized on the National exhibition and bazaar conducted at Awassa
* Many capacity building activities were conducted on the market linkage at four sites.

**Major results achieved under outcome 3:**

* Enset field gene bank was established and managed well
* Major activities were preformed to establish Forest Coffee field gene bank
* Two community gene bank and one botanical garden were under construction
* Trainee of Trainers (TOT) was given on three 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 **1,079,657.14ETB** were utilized out of **1,769,113.13** planned for the period. This shows **61.03%** 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 Bishoftu (for 35 participants) and Metu (for 40 participants) during TOT training on Extension pancakes. Procurement process was finalized to translate the police recommendation document from English to local languages (Amharic and Afan Oromo). Payment will be done after the translation work completed.  |  |  |
| Activity 2. | Facilitate formulation of Agro-biodiversity management working structure from federal to local level | 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 also conducted to come up with structural recommendations and how to sustain the achievements of the project after completion. Document will be submitted by the expert sooner.  | 69,415.00 |  |
| 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 | Procurement process was completed to publish the four local bylaws. At the same time the approved bylaws were on implementation in all project sites. Scaling up to nearby woredas and kebeles also started at all project sites. |  |  |
| 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 104 participants at all project site.  | 13,579.20 |  |
| **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  | Procurement process was completed to publish the extension packages. The documents were submitted to the publishing company. Meanwhile ToT trainings were given on Tef, Durum Wheat and Forest Coffee at Bishoftu and Matu for experts comes from Zone, woreda and kebele level. ToT training will be offered on Enset sooner.  |  |  |
| 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. In order to implement the extension package TOT training was conducted on Tef, Durum wheat and Forest Coffee extension package  | 52,656.30 | 7,759.20 |
| 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 palace on the policies issues especially on local bylaw to those kebeles and Woredas not under the project site.  |  |  |
| **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  | 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. Procurement process was completed to publish and translate into local languages. Soft and hard copy of the document also was also sent to the project sites and implementation will be started sooner after translation of the document is completed.  |  |  30,207.75  |
| **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 M&E systems and widely shared locally at all project sites. The refinement of the M&E mechanisms document was distributed to all project sites and implementation will be started sooner.  |  |  20,138.50  |
| **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 | Continuous training was provided for farmers association on marketing of Enset products, office supplies provided to the cooperatives. Training was provided on natural resource management for Yayu farmers Association members (23 participants). Based on the recommendation of Rainforest alliance auditor. Procurement process also finalized to construct the 40 meters water way to the coffee processing site. Procurement process of two modern grain storage Silos were completed to introduce the new technology to Gimbichu farmer’s cooperative association.  | 60,087.50 | 26,681.50 |
| Activity 2. | Facilitate to create / strengthen market linkage for farmers cooperative association in four pilot area  | Angacha Farmers cooperatives participated on the exhibition and bazaar conducted at Awassa and advertize the Enset products (Bulla and Fiber). They also sell 50kg of Bulla on this exhibition and bazaar. In order to secure the market for fiber, MoU was renewed between Angacha farmers’ cooperative and G7 fiber factory. Tef sample and price quotation was given to Mama fresh Enjera export. If the company agreed the farmers’ cooperative will be signed MoU and start to supply Tef. Up to now 50qt of durum wheat was bought by the Cooperative and on communication to sell the products to the food factories and big whole grain buyers.  | 25,730.75 | 14,546.25 |
| 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.  | 33,317.00 | 6,960.00 |
| Activity 4. | Provide production, processing and communication materials for farmer cooperative associations in four pilot areas | In order to introduce the new technologies to farmers, procurement process was completed to buy two silos (grain store which avoid the damage caused by weevils) for Gimbichu woreda farmer’s cooperatives.  |  |  |
| Activity 5. | Facilitate market infrastructure for farmers’ cooperative associations in three pilot area (Angacha, Minijar-Shenkora and Gimbichu) | Three market shades were constructed and transferred to the beneficiaries. Follow up of the appropriate use of the market shade were performed at Gimbichu, Minjar-shenkora and Angacha project sites. To plaster the outer wall of the market shade constructed at Angacha procurement process finalized by the woreda and plastering work was started.  | 6, 805.25 | 79,963.75  |
| 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 recived 65,000 birr loan from Kasem Union.  | 17,509.00 | 2,629.50 |
| **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) | 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  | Farmers’ cooperatives from Angacha site was participated on the exhibition and bazaar conducted in Awassa. They sell 50kg of bulla on this occasion.  |  |  |
| Activity 3. | Gender analysis and empowerment interventions for four crops conservation, production and marketing  | One day training was provided on gender mainstreaming for project workers to facilitate the data collected for geneder analysis. 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 final document will come soon  | 33,642.00 | 35,773.00 |
| Activity 4. | Undertake experience sharing visit in the four crops processing and production areas model farmers  | The some of the project site staffs were visit relevant organization and take an experience.  | 63,540.02 | 188,823.63 |
| **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 associations (for 23 participants). Verification audit will be conducted sooner by the auditor already assigned by Rainforest Alliance.  | 17,320.00 | 22,957.00 |
| Activity 2. | Investigate potential of certification for FV and landraces of Durum wheat, Enset and Tef | MoU was signed with Debre Berhan University to work on the branding of Minjar-shenkora Tef in Quarter II, 2015.  |  |  |
| Activity 3. | Nutritional Analysis for Enset products  | Agreement was reached with EIAR and sample was collected and sent for analysis. The result will come soon.  | - | - |
| Activity 4 | Protein content analysis for durum wheat  | Fifteen (15) durum wheat accessions were tested for protein content by the Ethiopian Conformity Assessment Enterprise.  | 17,354.00 | 2,784.50 |
| **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. | Implementing the demarcation developed by OFWE for Yayu forest coffee  | Based on the discussion cared out with the Mattu OFWE office we identify that, only 10 kebeles left to finalize the demarcation of Yayu forest biosphere. They agreed to submit the final report on the previous work and propose the cost for the remaining 10 kebele demarcation.  | 52,061.00  |  |
| Activity 2. | 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 in Angacha Enset field gene bank. This will increased the number of Enset varieties in the field gene bank to 88.  | 37,018.50 | 3,258.50 |
| Activity 3. | Collection of seeds, raising Coffee seedlings and planting on the boundaries of Coffee conservation areas of Yayu Biosphere reserve.  | More than 200,000 Coffee seedlings were managed in two nurseries which will be planted in the coming main rainy season. To establish the field gene bank, Forest Coffee seedlings also raised and managed in nursery. 25 daily labors (10 female and 15 male) were employed to manage two nurseries and clearing the land for field gene bank.  | 24,530.00 | 39,913.20 |
| Activity 4. | Establishment of pilot forest coffee field gene bank in Yayo | To establish forest coffee field gene bank, site clearing and seedling raising were on progress and plantation will be done in the coming rainy season  | 17,930.72 | 22,346.28 |
| Activity 5. | 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.  |  |  |
| Activity 6. | Establishment of Jimma Botanic garden and follow up the construction activities underway  | Follow up of Jimma botanical garden construction was done but still delayed due to less commitment of the contractor. The construction of fence and pavement of the parking lot were finalized and ready for handover.  |  |  |
| Activity 7. | Facilitate expansion, collection and conservation of Enset seed and clones | In Agnacha project site, 500 Enset seedlings were planted and this will be increased the number of seedling at different stage in the field gene bank to 5020 with the increment of varieties from 83 to 88. Seventy Enset corms were planted based on varietal difference for propagation purpose. 44 day labor manage the Enset found in the in the field gene bank.  | 52,656.30 | 7,759.20  |
| Activity 8. | 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 follow them to receive the results.  |  | 60,415.50  |
| Activity 9. | Land escape designing, and plantation differ plants  | Land escape was designed and coffee and other plants planted and managed at Jimma botanical garden  | 20,138.50 |  |
| Activity 10. | Crop wild relatives identification and documentation for four crops  | Wild relatives of Tef and Enset were identified by the experts and collected for conservation. More than 113 accessions of Enset were under management at Angacha Enset field gene bank  | 17,354.00 | 2,784.50  |
| **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. | Conduct an assessment of mandate and capacity gaps for the local and national level management of in-situ conservation sites ( in conjunction with outcome 2) | Mandate analysis and capacity gap assessment was conducted by the external consultancy firm (Nolot Professional Business PLC) and presented on the workshop for the stakeholders to create awareness creation to pave the way for implementation. Now implementation was started.  |  |  |
| Activity 2. | Undertake publication, translation and strategic documents  | Procurement process was finalized to translation of bylaws, climate change adoption strategy and publication of four community bylaws and climate change adoption strategy.  | 72,608.19 | 103,088.28 |
| **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.  | **356,702.33** | - |
| 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.  | **60,131.76** |  |
| Activity 3 | Staffs at federal and site level trained  | It will be implemented in the nix quarter.  |  | 59,354.48  |
| Activity 4. | Project M&E activities conducted and reported  | Project staff meeting was conducted to monitor 2014 annual achievements and to plan 2015 first and second quarter activities. 16 project staffs were participated. | 4,488.12 | 15,650.38  |
| 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.  | 5,738.00 | 4,331.25  |
| Activity 6. | 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 will be come sooner.  |  |  |
| Activity 7. | Knowledge management, documentation and communication of results  | Based on the agreement made between EBI and Biserat FM 101, National project Coordinator made an explanation on the project achievements for two hours. It was broadcasted on the FM radio in two programs.  |  |  |
| **Total** |  |  | **1,079,657.14** | **689,455.99**  |

# 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
* Late transfer of the first quarter of 2015 budget to the project account.
* Turnover of staff from project site
* Low production of durum wheat by the cooperatives to link with food factories
* Recommendation of Rainforest Alliance auditors to reject the certificate of the Yayu forest coffee farmers associations.

# 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