**Mainstreaming Agro-biodiversity Conservation into the Agricultural Production Systems of Ethiopia**

**Year 2014 First Quarter Report (January – March, 2014)**

   

**April 2014**

**Addis Ababa**

1. **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Given the significant current and future roles of the agricultural sector in Ethiopia, 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: wild 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.

During the reporting period, the following major achievements were recorded as an incentive to protect loss of farmers’ varieties genetic resources. Under the first outcome of the project, final document of the review of national polices were under printing and duplication process including four local level bylaws adoption and dissemination activities at project site level. Moreover, linkages with three regional offices were also established and subsequent capacity building activities are ongoing. Besides those achievements, consultant procurement was also completed to conduct project monitoring, evaluation and impact indicators refinement activities. Under outcome two the project, four market linkages and commodity exchange activities were the major achievements with capacity building activities conducted for 8 farmers’ cooperatives of the project site. Under outcome three of the project, ongoing construction activities of two community gene bank and one botanical garden were the major achievements. Moreover, Angacha field gene bank management activities, 190,000 coffee seedling production activities in Yayo and seed recollection activities in Gimbichu and Minjar sites are some of the achievements in the reporting period. Meanwhile the program coordination outcome has also immense contributions in managing the project staff, facilitation of the procurement activities and project monitoring and evaluation activities to facilitate sooth project implementation.

Financial utilization of the reporting period showed that 2,259,730.56 ETB were utilized out of 4,916,348.23 planned for the period. This shows 46% achievement for the reporting period. This financial utilization performance is attributed to late transfer of the budget requested for the quarter.

1. **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.
1. **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
1. **PROJECT COMPONENTS**
* 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 are conserved in in-situ gene banks and on-farm conservation sites
1. **PROJECT PERFORMANCES**

**Table1: Physical and financial performance report for the period April-June, 2013 (Second quarter)**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Expected** **Outputs** | **Planned activities** | **Progress 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 the completion of participatory review of policies and mandates related to agro-biodiversity conservation | - | - | 11,189.30 |
| Activity 2 | 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  | Final comments were incorporated and printing service procurement process was finalized to disseminate the recommended actions and findings of the five national polices and institutional frameworks review document approved last year. Hence, 150 copies are under printing and duplication process. It will be delivered soon.  Meanwhile, two days dissemination and advocacy workshop was conducted in Minjar-Shenkora project site on participatory application of the recommended actions of the review document. Accordingly, 48 woreda level experts and decision makers and 79 target community representatives were participated on the workshop (24 are female participants). The presentation and discussion in Minjar-Shenkora was facilitated by the policy specialist of the project coordination unit. It will be applied for the rest three project sites accordingly.  | 88,328.56 | 209,571.23 |
| Activity 3 | 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, half day discussion was made with regional representatives from Amhara, Oromiya and SNNP regional states where our project is operating. Agreement was reached to coordinate and facilitate the implementation of the project activities at grass root level and scale up best practices into adjacent woredas in the short run (we used the opportunity of NBSAP meeting held in Adama Town). On the other hand, woreda level key project implementing offices (office of agriculture and cooperative) capacity gaps and need assessment was also conducted to enhance project implementation and mainstreaming perspectives. Accordingly, 8 offices in four project sites assessed and will be supported accordingly (4 offices of agriculture and cooperatives each).  | - | 90,753.64 |
| Activity 4 | Facilitate the formulation, adoption and dissemination of local level bylaws to conserve agro biodiversity and strengthen traditional natural resources management strategies in the four project sites | Two adoption and dissemination workshops of local level bylaws of forest coffee and teff were conducted in Yayo and Minjar Shenkora woredas respectively. 85 (27 female) participates were attended the workshops that comprises the woreda level decision makers and experts and the representatives of the target community.  | 25,275.00 | 54,651.00 |
| Activity 5 | Capacitate local institutions to implement (including local level bylaws) their mandate on agro biodiversity conservation  |  | - | 52,735.29 |
| Activity 6 | Facilitate to create awareness of farmers and local officials on agro biodiversity conservation policies | - | - | 38,060.00 |
| Activity 7 | Facilitate to host a nationaldialogue and coordination mechanism to enhance institutionalized collaboration between the relevant institutions involved in agro biodiversity conservation and its sustainable use | - | - | - |
| **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  | As per the agreement with Ministry of Agriculture; Extension Directorate, pertinent data collection and draft report preparation was completed to validate the extension packages for farmers’ varieties of our project crops (teff, forest coffee, enset and durm wheat). Hence, all preconditions were completed to held the validation workshop soon. Accordingly, 64 participants from different national, regional and local partners were identified and communicated for the workshop.  | - | - |
| Activity 2 | Facilitate linkages between extension service and research institutions, particularly those that deal with forest Arabica coffee, enset, teff and durum wheat (for updated information on agronomy, disease and pest control, processing, etc.).  |  | - | 81,124.06 |
| Activity 3 | Facilitate to deliver training for technical and extension officers on agro biodiversity conservation in general and the four (*Arabica* coffee, enset, tef, durum wheat) crops in particular | - | - | 49,478.00 |
| Activity 4 | Facilitate to conduct an assessment of the capacity of the extension service on farmers varieties to pilot the updated extension package on the four pilot crops and design a capacity support program to respond to the needs | - | - | - |
| **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  | Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resource Management Directorate was responsible for the execution of the task as per the memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed. Accordingly, final document is under preparation and only left with soil analysis data to include. The final document will be produced soon.  | 28,798.45 | 32,956.55 |
| **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 | Facilitate the refinement of project M&E and impact indicators at the pilot levels | Consultancy service procurement processes were completed to conduct both refinement processes for project monitoring, evaluation and impact indicators (activity 1) and monitoring mechanisms refinement including establishment of participatory M & E systems for adaptive management (activity 2). One joint document is expected so that subsequent implementation of activity 3 will be reliable. TBM Training and Development Constancy firm was awarded to handle the task.  | - | 56,588.27 |
| Activity 2 | Facilitate refinement of the monitoring mechanisms, in particular setting up a participatory monitoring system that allows use of the monitoring information for adaptive management | - | - | 67,570.38 |
| Activity 3 | Implement the M&E system, identify lessons and share them widely (locally, nationally and internationally) through reports, publications, etc. | - |  |  |
| **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. | Assess capacity needs for the effective operationalization of the farmer cooperative associations  | Final report of the capacity need assessment of the 8 farmers’ cooperatives in all project sites was submitted by the consulting firm. The way forwards are clearly stated for all farmers cooperatives assessed.  | - | 152,240.00 |
| Activity 2. | Facilitate to build the capacity of farmers cooperative association members in four pilot area based on need assessment | Based on the consultant’s capacity need assessment final report, lists of recommended activities for each crop farmers’ cooperative associations are well designed to implement soon. Procurement of items was ordered and other capacity support plans are forwarded to each project sites including the final assessment document. Based on capacity building activities and awareness creation sessions conducted previously, the number of members of the 8 farmers’ associations of the project sites gets increasing including the capital of the associations. Accordingly, the number of members increased by 150 (2053 total members).  | - | 95,150.00 |
| Activity 3. | Facilitate to create / strengthen market linkage for farmers cooperative association in four pilot area  | Upon linkages established previously, commodities exchange was exercised by respective farmers associations of the project sites. Hence; -Angacha enset production and marketing cooperative delivered 4000 kilogram enset fiber to G7 fiber factory. - Five Yayo forest coffee producing and marketing farmers cooperatives delivered 679 quintal (67900 kilogram forest coffee) to Oromiya Coffee Farmers Union in Addis Ababa. -In Gimbichu project site, before transporting seed to factories, we have planned to conduct protein content test for some major farmers’ varieties cultivated in the district. Accordingly, Ethiopian Conformity Assessment Enterprise (ECAE) in Addis Ababa has received 4 kilograms of two durum wheat varieties named locally as *Gerardo* and *Ejerso*. Hence, two samples will make one composite sample for each farmer’s varieties (1 kilogram per sample). The enterprise charges 1060.35 ETB per sample for protein analysis of durum wheat. -In Minjar-Shenkora woreda, two farmers associations delivered 650 qt teff for consumers’ cooperative in Adama Town.  | 10,050.00 | 37,900.02 |
| Activity 4. | Facilitate to develop monitoring mechanisms for use by the farmer cooperative associations’ use | Final report of the Monitoring and Evaluation mechanisms of the 8 farmers’ cooperatives in all project sites was submitted by the consulting firm. The way forwards are clearly stated for all farmers cooperatives assessed.  | - | 78,498.75 |
| Activity 5. | Provide production, processing and communication materials for farmer cooperative associations in four pilot areas | The 8 multi-crop mechanical threshers so far distributed were serving the members of the respective farmers’ associations in Gimbichu and Minjar- Shenkora woreda. The data will be complied and communicated soon for the amounts of threshed quantities and income generated by the respective cooperatives.  | - | 71,270.00 |
| Activity 6. | Facilitate market infrastructure for farmers’ cooperative associations in three pilot area (Angacha, Minijar-Shenkora and Gimbichu) | In Angacha project site, enset products’ market shed construction is ongoing and will be completed soon (80% status). However, in Gimbichu project site, construction completed (100%) and the market shed for durum wheat was handed over to the beneficiaries. However, to ensure the sustainable utilization of both market shades, we have planned to develop guidelines for both market shed utilization and administration.  | 12,520.00 | 129,465.91 |
| Activity 7. | Facilitate to link farmers cooperative association with credit or financial institution to operationalized market operation | Geri and Gechi farmers’ cooperatives in Yayo project site have received 500,000.00 ETB credit support from Sorena Geba Union in the district as per the credit association proposal submitted for dry processed coffee marketing.  | - | 35,060.00 |
| **Output 2.2: International and national demand for 4 agro-biodiversity friendly products increased (Shade coffee, durum wheat, teff, enset):** |
| Indicator:  | International and national demand for 4 agrobiodiversity friendly products increased |  |  |  |
| Baseline: | There is limited international and national demand for agrobiodiversity friendly products |  |  |  |
| Target: | At least the demand of 4 agrobiodiversity 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) |  |  |  |
| Activity 2. | Facilitate to participate in 2 international exhibition to promote coffee and tef specialized products  | - | - | - |
| Activity 3. | Facilitate to disseminate at local, regional and national level to create awareness raising campaigns to promote specialized products of four farmers varieties (coffee, durum wheat, tef and enset)  | Yayo forest coffee project site was visited by Ethiopian Biodiversity Institute management members, staff and the journalists from different institute (FM 102.1, Fana Broadcasting Corporate, Addis Zemene news letter and ETV). Best practices and major findings of the project site were broadcasted accordingly by the medias participated. 17 representatives participated. On the other hand, documentary film production is underway by ETV in Yayu forest coffee and Angacha Enset field gene bank project sites major achievements and best practices. As part of Knowledge management, our project staff and representative from Ethiopian Biodiversity Institute attended Biological Society of Ethiopia national conference on **Coffee production, variety and trading: way to maximize Ethiopia’s benefit held in Dilla University.** Knowledge from scientific paper and plenary discussions were captured in the areas of coffee diversity, production, protection and marketing. Discussion was made with Walta to extend the contractual agreements of the Billboards of the four crops in Bole international airport. Accordingly visit was conducted to check the quality of the art work and the current location of the four billboards before extending the agreement. Accordingly, some arrangements and quality improvement activities are designed and decided. Hence, will be implemented soon according to the expected modifications.  | 150,112.83 | 2127.17 |
| Activity 4. | Facilitate to build the capacity of wereda officials and farmers’ cooperative association leaders on marketing of agro-biodiversity products | - | - | 24,057.91 |
| Activity 5  | Gender analysis and empowerment interventions for four crops conservation, production and marketing  | Four days training was provided on gender mainstreaming for 40 (23 females) project staff and the woreda level partners to build the concepts of gender, gender analysis techniques and gender mainstreaming perspectives in general and for agro-biodiversity conservation and utilization in particular. Checklists for data collection are updated and field data collection will be commenced in April 2014. Finally, gender mainstreaming in agro-biodiversity guideline will be developed after the analysis report.  | 143,611.93 | 141,838.10 |
| Activity 6 | Undertake experience sharing visit in the four crops processing and production areas model farmers  | - | - | 57,090.00 |
| **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. | Facilitate to certify yayo coffee forest | - | - | 42,817.50 |
| Activity 2. | Investigate potential of certification for FV and landraces of durum wheat, enset and tef | - | - | 33,010.37 |
| **Outcome 3. Crop wild relatives and framers are conserved in in-situ gene banks and on-farm conservation sites.** |
| 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.  | Demarcating, surveying, documenting and mapping of *in situ* and on-farm conservation site for each crop | - | - | 31,723.01 |
| Activity 2. | Facilitate gazetting of the in situ conservation sites (in conjunction with outcome 1) | - | - | 9,515.00 |
| Activity 3. | Facilitate completion of the inventory and documentation of the gene pools in the conservation sites | In Yayo project site, in collaboration with the woreda office of agriculture, gene pool inventory was conducted for the forest coffee of the biosphere reserve. Similarly, through planting of additional enset seedlings in Angacha enset field gene bank, 2 additional new enset varieties are identified and this will increase the number of enset varieties in the field gene bank to 84.  | 40,667.47 | 9332.53 |
| Activity 4. | Collection of seeds, raising tree and coffee seedlings and planting on the boundaries of coffee conservation areas of Yayo Biosphere reserve | 190,000 coffee seedlings are under production and management in two nurseries for the coming main rainy season out planting in Yayo. 40 daily labors (20 females) were employed in two nurseries in the quarter.  | 40,120.00 | 18413.7 |
| Activity 5. | Design and Construction of community gene banks (for tef and durum wheat) | Two community gene banks construction activities are also ongoing with 40% achievements of the contract period. First payment also effected as per the performance and contractual agreement.  | 923,707.28 | 98,099.01 |
| Activity 6 | Establishment of Jimma Botanic garden | Construction of Jimma botanical garden is ongoing and payment also facilitated as per the financial procedure and consultant supervision report. About 30% completed.  | 375,158.60 | 224,841.40 |
| Activity 7. | Support farmers to access FV of land races of tef and durum wheat  | Recollection of seed is under way in both Gimbichu and Minjar-Shenkora woreda. Until the reporting period, 70 quintals of durum wheat and teff recollected for upcoming production season redistribution purpose.  | - | - |
| Activity 8. | Facilitate expansion of the Enset Field Gene Bank  | In Agnacha project site, during the reporting period, 1520 enset seedlings were planted and this will increase the number of seedling at different stage in the field gene bank to 4520 with the increment of varieties from 82 to 84. 41 daily labors were working in the field gen bank during the reporting period.  | 40,223.85 | 70,150.15 |
| Activity 9 | Collection and conservation of wild Enset seed and clones | 113 wild enset seedlings planted during fourt quarter (in field gene bank) were under good management. The survival rate report showed that only 19 seedling because poor vigoursity during planting time.  | - | 12,940.00 |
| Activity 10 | 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, cash was transferred to conduct national work shop on the last year findings of the program and to plan effectively for the upcoming period.  | - | 127,501.00 |
| Output 3.2.  |  |  |  |  |
| 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) | Consultancy service procurement processes were completed to conduct mandates and capacity gaps for local and national level management of in-situ conservation sites. Nolot professional business plc consultancy firm was awarded to handle the task.  | - | 104,665.00 |
| Activity 2. | Implement capacity support program to respond to the capacity gaps | - | - | 180,785.00 |
| Activity 3. | South-South Exchange visits for officials to build the capacity at different levels of government structures on mainstreaming of agro-biodiversity into development and agricultural plans | - | - | - |
| **Output 3.3: (Co-finance and in conjunction with the developing concept for GEF 5) -- PES for reduced or avoided deforestation & forest degradation, and improved forest restoration developed and implemented:** |
| Indicator:  | Reduced or avoided deforestation and forest degradation and improved forest restoration at Yayo project site initiated |   |  |  |
| Baseline: | High rate of deforestation and forest degradation |   |  |  |
| Target: | Reduced or avoided deforestation and forest degradation and improved forest restoration at Yayo project site initiated |   |  |  |
| Activity 1. | Conduct collection of preliminary data for the establishment of PES scheme for the coffee forest carbon at both national and local levels | International consultant procurement process was delegated to UNDP CO.  | - | - |
| **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 for 16 project staff at project sites and PCU levels (25% female). Two staffs resigned in the reporting period (Market specialist at project ordination unit level and Minjr-Shenkora woreda project site officer). However, subsequent recruitment is in progress.  | 301,145.90 | 48,855.00 |
| Activity 2. | Materials procured, maintained and supplied | Different office equipments 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.  | 57,849.50 | 5915.28 |
| Activity 3 | Staffs at federal and site level trained |  | - | - |
| Activity 4. | Project M&E activities conducted and reported  | Two days project staff meeting was conducted to discuss on 2013 annual achievements and to plan 2014 first quarter activities. After the meeting, field visit was conducted in Gimbichu project site to have experience on community gene bank management and construction activities. 16 pro0ject staff participated. Field visit also conducted in each project sites accordingly. Hence, smooth implementation track paved for each sites. Delivery at project sites increased.  | 22,161.19 | 10,998.00 |
| 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.  | - | 6095.12 |
| Activity 6 | Two project steering committee meeting conducted | - | - | 1570.97 |
| Activity 7 | Audit service | Year 2013 annual performance of the project was audited by Getachewu Wakjira audit firm. Accordingly, some implementation supporting comments were suggested at exit meeting with the auditor. The auditor visited two project sites activities to evaluate the community gene bank construction activities, input distribution strategies and fixed asset management at project site level.  | - | - |
| Activity 8 | Knowledge management and documentation  | In agreement with ETV, documentary film was prepared for forest coffee production demarking process and enset production and processing process.  | - | 50,013.77 |
| **Total**  |  |  | **2,259,730.56** | **2,656,618.63** |

1. **MAJOR CHALLENGES**
* Delay of Jimma botanical garden construction activities due to the constructor’s gaps and poor implementation
* Late transfer of the first quarter budget to the project account and simultaneous challenges to transfer to project sites due to commercial bank of Ethiopia network problems at that time.
1. **MEASURES TAKEN**
* Frequent field visit and discussion with the consulting company and the constructor as well
* Paving the preconditions of cash utilization at all levels and borrowing some cash from Ethiopian Biodiversity Institute account
1. **LESSONS LEARNED**
* Regional level coordination mechanism should have emphasis to realize the mainstreaming perspectives of the project in all sectors at all levels.(national and local). There are vast opportunities to mainstream the activities of the project.