**Ethiopian Biodiversity Institute (EBI)**

**Project on “Mainstreaming Agrobiodiversity Conservation into the Agricultural Production Systems of Ethiopia”**

**2015 Third Quarter Report (July – September, 2015)**





**July, 2015**

**Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The concept of Agrobiodiversity 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 Agrobiodiversity conservation in particular and its sustainable use is an essential enabler to continue livelihood. Based on these perspectives, the project “Mainstreaming Agrobiodiversity 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 two; the following major achievements were recorded:

**Major results achieved under outcome 1:**

* Four extension packages have been developed and implemented at four project sites.
* Lobbing and awareness creation trainings were given on Policy recommendations, community bylaws and climate change adaptation strategy guideline at four project sites.
* One national dialogue focused on biodiversity conservation was conducted in presence of the different relevant organization.
* Support was given to the newly inaugurated Biodiversity Centers.
* Validation workshop was conducted on Gender analysis result.
* Best practice of the project was identified and submitted for use.

**Major results achieved under outcome 2:**

* Awareness creation trainings were implemented on Market strategy at four project sites.
* Three market sheds have been constructed of at Gimbichu, Minjar-shenkora and Angacha fully completed and follow up of appropriate use of the sheds was conducted.
* MoU between G7 sack factory and Angach Enset producers association was renewed and farmers are suppling Enset fiber and boost their capital.
* Annual audit of Yayu Biosphere area cooperatives was conducted for 2015.
* In collaboration with Debre Brihan University barding of Minjar-shenkora tef on process and will be completed sooner.
* Establishment of Yayu farmers Union was started. 127,000 birr collected from sell of coffee forest seedlings was given to farmers cooperatives to solve their capital problem to form union.
* Two moisture testers have been bought for Angacha farmers association
* Two threshers have been bought and distributed to Gimbichu and Minjar-shenkora farmers’ cooperatives.
* Four biodiversity friendly products such as Enset, durum wheat, tef and forest coffee have been promoted by displaying billboard at Bole International Airport.
* Many capacity building activities were conducted on the market linkage at four projects sites.

**Major results achieved under outcome 3:**

* Coffee Forest gene bank has been established and managed. Fence of the gene bank also under construction.
* Enset field gene bank was managed.
* Jimma botanic garden was managed.
* Community gene banks constructed at Gimichu and Minjar-shenkora were almost completed and ready for handover to beneficiary communities.
* Four training manuals for each entry crops (Durum wheat, Tef, Enset and Forest Coffee) were developed in collaboration with MoA. Training also given to the Regional, Zonal, *Woreda* and *Kebele* level experts on the training manuals.
* Conservation measures practiced on Farmers Varieties of Tef at Minjar-shenkora Woreda was scaled up to Lume Woreda.
* Conservation measures practiced on Farmers Varieties of durum wheat at Gimichu has been scaled up to three nearby woredas such as Aleltu ,Berehe and Ada’a.
* Conservation measures practiced on Coffee Forest at Yayu Woreda was scaled up to the other five Woredas found in the Yayu Biosphere areas.
* Documentary film was produced on the biodiversity conservation practices in collaboration with Ethiopian Broadcasting Corporation (EBC) during the celebration of World biodiversity day.

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

Financial utilization of the reporting period showed that 2,370,980.40 have been utilized out of 3,075,346.18 planned for the quarter. This shows 77.1% achievement for the reporting period.

# OVERALL GOAL OF THE PROJECT

* To improve *in-situ* conservation of Agrobiodiversity 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 Agrobiodiversity resources, including crop wild relatives, into their farming systems.

# PROJECT OUTCOMES

* Enabling policy and institutional framework supporting in-situ conservation of Agrobiodiversity and crop relatives
* Markets provide incentive for farmer uptake of Agrobiodiversity 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 Agrobiodiversity and crop relatives**  |  |  |
| **Output 1.1: Comprehensive Agrobiodiversity friendly policies developed and approved to promote Agrobiodiversity friendly production practices** |  |  |
| Indicator | Policy documents reviewed and Agrobiodiversity friendly principles generated |  |  |  |
| Baseline | Currently Agrobiodiversity friendly policies are scattered and inadequate |  |  |  |
| Target | At least five policy documents reviewed and three Agrobiodiversity friendly principles generated  |  |  |  |
| Activity 1. | Facilitate lobbying for adoption of the police recommendations, strengthening working structure and build capacity of Kebeles and Woredas to implement their mandate on agro-biodiversity conservation; | Lobbing of policy recommendations were performed to create awareness of kebeles and weredas level officials at four project site in presence of 202 participants (M =172 and F= 30). This was built the capacity of the local level officials on the agrobiodiversity conservation. In addition to capacity building, the project also supported the newly inaugurated biodiversity centers at different locations.  | 71,621.84 |  |
| Activity 2. | Facilitate implementation of local level by-laws and scale up to nearby kebeles on agrobiodiversity and strengthen the traditional natural resources management knowledge on agrobiodiversity friendly practices | Community bylaws were implemented at four project site. In Gimbichu project site the bylaws was scaled up to the nearby woredas (Aleltu, Berehe and Ada’a). Similarly the bylaw was scaled up to 19 additional nearby kebeles in Angacha site. In general 215 participants (M=189 and F=26) from woredas and kebeles administrations were involved in the scaling up process of community bylaws.  | 67,889.06 |  |
| Activity 3. | Support EBI to host a national dialogue and coordination mechanism to enhance institutionalized collaboration between relevant institutions involved in agro-biodiversity conservation and its sustainable use; | One national dialogue was conducted at Adama in presence 85 participants (M=63 and F=22) came from the parliament and relevant organization to biodiversity conservation. Participants agreed that biodiversity conservation is not possible by EBI but needs efforts of relevant institution and the whole citizen as well. Thus, agenda of biodiversity conservation, sustainable use and benefit sharing is needs attention of all partner organization.  | 165,088.00 |  |
| **Output 1.2: The National Extension Service providing farmers with knowledge based extension technology to promote farmer varieties (and conservation of Agrobiodiversity 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 implementation of the extension package and develop training manuals for four crops | Four training manuals were developed for all entry crops in collaboration with MoA which supports the Extension packages implemented so far. Training was given to the experts come from Regional, Zonal, Woreda and Kebele Agricultural offices. Now the extension packages and the training manuals were under implementation at four project sites. To end this 345 participants (M=284 and F=61) take part on the training given on Extension packages at four project sites.  | 79,333.82 |  |
| Activity 2 | Identify and support (capacity building) relevant CBO and facilitate their collaboration in the pilot sites & marketing of specialized products (as necessary and in conjunction with outcome 2) | This activity will be covered in quarter four as per annual work plan  |  |  |
| Activity 3.  | Assess the lessons/ best practice and disseminate to familiarize the model for national application and suitability for replication to cover other crops; | This activity was delegated to UNDP-Country office. Payment also effected by UNDP-Country office. Best practices of the project was assessed and presented for validation. Scaling up of the best achievements of the project activities were take place and currently the project reaches 63kebeles and 13 Woredas in four sites.  | - |  |
| **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 dialogue on climate change adaptation strategy to build the capacity of the country to conserve agro-biodiversity in the long term in the face of a changing climate (so agro-biodiversity can continue to contribute to matching food production to increased demand and changing production environments) | Even though this activity is planned for Q4, at project sites dialogue has been conducted on the climate change strategy developed by the project and food security.  | 17,635.50 |   |
| Activity 2 | Assess climate change impacts on the durum wheat and teff production raise awareness of the importance of the country‘s agro-biodiversity in food security, economic development and securing agriculture future; | Primary and secondary data were collected on Durum wheat and Enset by multidisciplinary team. Analyses of the data were on progress and the final result of the assessment will be submitted sooner.  | 33,399.58 |  |
| **Output 1.4: An effective M&E for assessing conservation status of Agrobiodiversity 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 Agrobiodiversity 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. | Quarterly M&E of the project conducted at Federal level in presence of EBI planning and programming directorate representative and the project site workers. Strength and weakness also identified. The team also reached at an agreement on the way forward. Similarly M&E systems implemented at all project sites to support the farmers’ cooperatives/association performance in presence of the relevant woreda level government officials.  | 11,736.44 |  |
| Activity 2 | Conduct Project Terminal Evaluation (PTE) | This activity will be covered in quarter four as per annual work plan  |  |  |
| Activity 3 | Communication on the project results (in conjunction with outcome two and three) | In collaboration with Ethiopian Broadcasting Corporation (EBC) a documentary film was produced on the occasion of World Biodiversity Conservation Celebration day focusing on biodiversity conservation practices.  | 71,682.37 |  |
| **Outcome 2. Markets provide incentive for farmer uptake of Agrobiodiversity friendly practices**  |  |  |
| **Output 2.1: Supply of Agrobiodiversity products increased through improved quality, efficiency of production and special marketing channels** |  |  |
| Indicator:  | Marketing of Agrobiodiversity products improved in four pilot areas  |   |  |  |
| Baseline: | There are many local level producers but fail to marketing Agrobiodiversity products |   |  |  |
| Target: | local level producers in four sites linked and improved marketing of Agrobiodiversity  |   |  |  |
| Activity 1 | Build the capacity of farmer’s cooperative association members in four pilot areas based on need and capacity assessment document findings of M & E and gender analysis study results  | Capacity building trainings were given to the farmers cooperatives/association at four sites for 87 participants (M=70 and F=17) on benefits of forming cooperatives/associations and increasing members of the cooperatives/associations, record keeping and marketing of their products. Validation workshop also conducted on the results of the project gender analysis results in presence of higher officials from federal, regional and zonal level. Valuable comments and suggestions were forwarded from the participants on the results of gender analysis. Final document will be submitted sooner after incorporation of the comments and suggestions.  | 68,957.35 |  |
| Activity 2. | Facilitate to create / strengthen market linkage for farmers’ cooperative/ association in four pilot area and create linkage with Ethiopian Commodity Exchange Agency (ECXA) to access information on prices, supply and demand for Forest Coffee, Durum wheat, Tef and Enset | At Angacha project site close communication with G-seven was undertaken and MoU also renewed to strengthen trade of fiber. Better market assessment for bulla trade is underway. Panel discussion was conducted at Yayu site in presence of 68 participants (M=57 and F=11) of five coffee forest producers cooperatives and Woreda administration on formation of Yayu area union. The Woreda administration show an interest to offer office and store at Yayu town if union is formed. At Gimbichu project site discussion was conducted with brothers’ food factory, African food factory PLC and Awan food factory in presence of Areda FV cooperative chairman, Gimbichu trade and market development vice and project site officer. This will pave the way to sign MoU to supply FV of durum wheat to those factors in the future.  | 51,395.63 |  |
| Activity 3 | Provide production, processing and communication materials for farmer cooperative associations in four pilot areas | One of the critical quality parameter for Enset fiber is its moisture content. In order to test the moisture content of the fiber produced by the farmers’ association before transporting to G7 sack producing factor, two moisture tasters bought by the project and handover to the farmers association. In order to meet the new technology needs of framers cooperatives found at Gimichu and Minjar-shenkora woredas, two high tech threshers imported from abroad were bought and distributed (one for each woreda).  | 224,000 |  |
| **Output 2.2: International and national demand for 4 Agrobiodiversity 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 Agrobiodiversity friendly products |  |  |  |
| Target: | At least the demand of 4 Agrobiodiversity friendly products increased internationally and nationally |  |  |  |
| Activity 1. | Facilitate to promoting the four crops specialized products (quality promotion activities) at local, regional, national fairs; | Two hundred copies of posters for four crops published and distributed to facilitate the promotion of farmers varieties. Process also started to participate on international exhibition and bazar conducted at Addis Ababa.  | 39,162.00 |  |
| Activity 2. | Facilitate implementation of the capacity building program to enable production and dissemination of promotional materials, including entering into promotional campaigns with airlines, sports people, etc  | Agreement with Walta Information Center was renewed. Accordingly, four billboards (one for each entry crops) were redesigned and displayed at Bole International airport in collaboration with Walta Information Center.  | 547,606.88 |  |
| **Output 2.3: Incomes from trading Agrobiodiversity 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) and other crops quality parameters, payment for certificate | Annual audit of Yayu area cooperatives farms were undertaken by Rain Forest Alliance auditor. The report of the audit will be presented sooner. Based the auditor recommendations, capacity building activities will be performed sooner. | 75,100.00 |  |
| Activity 2. | Investigate potential of certification for FVs and landraces of Durum wheat, Tef and Enset | As per the MoU signed between Debre Berhan University and EBI on the branding of Minjar-shenkora Tef, the additional money was transferred to the University to undertake the promotion of the brand. At project site level discussion has been held on the branding of Minjar-shenkora tef in presence of representatives from Debre Birhan Univresity, Federal patent right office, Debre Birhan trade and transport office.  | 16,793.13 |  |
| Activity 3. | Facilitate submission of an application to UNESCO for five more Man and Biosphere Reserves (MAB) in order to expand the forests that need to be conserved and sustainably used for biodiversity and special development potentials | This activity will be covered in quarter four as per annual work plan  |  |  |
| **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 the registration/ assessment of the on farm conservation of the four crops to attain 500,000ha in situ/on farm conservation at 4 sites | Assessment of coverage of farmers’ varieties of three crops (durum wheat, Tef and Enset) was started in this quarter and will be completed in the fourth quarter. In case of Yayu project site, it is already known that the biosphere area covers 167,021ha.  | 43,859.48 |  |
| Activity 2 | Forest coffee field gene bank established and managed  | With full involvement of expertise from EBI and Yayu Woreda agricultural office, Coffee forest field gene bank was established. 350 coffee forest seedlings have been transplanted to the field gene bank site. All the necessary management practice like constructing triangular shade, mulching, replacing weak seedlings, planting temporary shade trees and others are on progress. Soil and water conservation activities also started. In order to protect the forest coffee gene bank from erosion, vetiver grass was planted on 125m.  | 7,200.00 |  |
| Activity 3 | Collect seeds, raising seedling, planting the seedling and manage the planted coffee | Management of more than 160,000 coffee seedlings is on progress at two nursery sites. These seedlings will be distributed to the cooperative members in the coming planting season.  | 15,975.00 |  |
| Activity 4 | Construct fence and guard house for Yayu Field Gene bank | Agreement was made with the constructor who constructs the fence on 2.6ha. Currently the contractor mobilizes the resources and started the construction as per the agreement. Based on the agreed term, 30% payment was effected.  | 326,400.00 |  |
| Activity 5 | Manage the community gene banks site of Gimbichu and Minjar-shenkora  | Juniper seedlings were planted around the premises of Areda community gene bank. Different indigenous trees were planted in the compound of Minjar-shionkora Community gene bank.  | 4,635.00 |  |
| Activity 6 | Promote Farmer’s Cooperatives/ Association FVs production & conservation to contribute to the food security | Awareness raising discussion was conducted in Angacha, Minjar-shenkora and Gimbichu project sites to promote the contribution of Enset and durum wheat for food security in the facing climate change challenges. 2627 farmers (M= 1871 and F=756) participated on this discussion. | 10,087.00 |  |
| Activity 8 | Plant & Manage Jimma Botanical garden site  | Different kinds of flowers, indigenous trees and medicinal plants have been planted in the compound of the botanic garden and appropriate management practices are on progress. Regarding to the construction of the Botanic Garden, due to very poor delivery of the contractor termination letter has been 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.  | 14,476.72 |  |
| Activity 9 | Facilitate the participatory plant breeding activities at Gimbichu and Minjar-shenkora project site | At Gimbichu project site, 20 accessions of durum wheat retrieved from EBI gene bank was sown on demonstration site of four FTCs and appropriate management practices are in progress. Similarly 12 accessions of Tef have been sown and under management at five FTC found in Minjar-shenkora project site.  | 20,606.85 |  |
| Activity 10 | Under take expansion and management of Enset field gene bank | Regular management practices such as weeding, pruning, cultivation & water harvesting works were performed. In order to avoid the intruders to the gene bank, fence maintenance was done. In general 5020 Enset seedlings were planted and managed.  | 15,869.50 |  |
| **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 | Facilitate design of a financing strategy to ensure long-term conservation of Agro-biodiversity in the in situ conservation sites | In order to search long term financial sources for agrobiodiversity conservation, EBI formed one committee and the committee will be expected to produce project proposal sooner.  |  |  |
| **Output 3.3: PES for reduced or avoided deforestation & forest degradation, and improved forest restoration developed and implemented** |  |  |
| Indicator:  | Reduced or avoided deforestation & forest degradation, and improved forest restoration |  |  |  |
| Baseline: | The current emission is 32 M tCO2e and the national economic system and the local communities are not acquiring global benefits from PES despite the sustained conservation efforts |  |  |  |
| Target: | At least one Project Design Document (PDD) carbon sequestration target of 27.4 M tCO2e ER as a result of better management and protection of the coffee forest completed and placed on the voluntary carbon market by midterm and initial financial benefits accrued by end of project |  |  |  |
| **Activity 1** | Forest management systems Implemented and facilitate demarcation of Yayu forest as well as establish PES scheme market document;  | MoU was signed with Environment Forest Coffee Forum to develop PES document as soon as possible. |  | **704,365.78** |
| **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: | PCU 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.  | 32,4093.00 |  |
| 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.  | 28,252.60 |  |
| Activity 3 | Project M&E activities conducted and reported  | PCU and UNDP representative have been conducted joint M&E of all project sites. During this time discussions were held with the project site steering committee members, beneficiary community representatives and project site workers. Agreement also reached on the acceleration of the project activities and completing all planned activities before commencement of final evaluation of the project.  | 16,063.48 |  |
| Activity 4 | Four project steering committee (PSC) meeting conducted in each Woredas  | Four project steering committee meetings were conducted in project sites (1 per each site).  | 2,060.17 |  |
| **Total** |  |  | **2,370.980.40** | **704,365.78** |

# MAJOR CHALLENGES

* Community gene bank construction delay at Gimbichu and Minjar-shenkora project sites due to less commitment of the contractor.
* Disappearance of the contractor from Jimma botanical garden construction site without announcement.
* 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 contractor to speed up the construction progress.
* Paving the preconditions of cash utilization at all levels and using some cash from Ethiopian Biodiversity Institute account.

# LESSONS LEARNED

* The art of mainstreaming Agrobiodiversity 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 Agrobiodiversity conservations.
* Raised awareness level about the conservation and utilization of Agrobiodiversity friendly products.
* Implementation of extension packages and development of training manuals for four entry crops which will be increase the productivity of farmers’ varieties.
* Certification and branding of farmers varieties to increase the acceptance of agrobiodiversity friendly products in the market and at the same time assure benefit of the producers.