

South-South Cooperation Programme improving agricultural production and food security in Ethiopia



Participants of the workshop

18 February 2014, Adama – South-South Cooperation Programme (SSC) is improving agricultural production and food security in Ethiopia, the Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations and Ministry of Agriculture of Ethiopia said.

In a review workshop organised in Adama town of Oromiya National Regional State, on February 10, 2014, Dr. Modibo Traore, FAO sub regional Coordinator for Eastern Africa and Representative in Ethiopia, to the African Union and the UN Economic Commission for Africa, said 30 Chinese Agricultural experts and technicians who were deployed in the in different parts of the country under the South-South cooperation program are helping the government and people of Ethiopia to improve agricultural production and food security in the country.

“The results obtained from the program are exemplary and need further follow up with both Chinese and Ethiopian experts,” Traore said.

Among others, the Chinese cooperants have assisted farmers in various farming tools, technologies which included trial of a variety of crops, cash crops, horticulture, and other vegetables. Besides these, Chinese technologies including transplanting, double- ridge, double seeds, reasonable density & watering, ridging, up-cirrus and topping and changing salt affected soils have been applied together with farmers in Amhara, Oromiya, SNNP and Tigray regions.

Mr. Regassa Bayesa, Director of Finance and Property Administration Directorate of the Ministry of Agriculture on his part said that the program is improving agricultural productivity and production through skill transfer.

"The ministry will make every effort to solve any challenges that hinder SSC programme implementation," the director said.

South-South Cooperation programme

The South-South Cooperation programme was started in May 2013 following the deployment of 30 Chinese experts and technicians in Amhara, Oromiya, Tigray and SNNP National Regional States.

The Chinese Agriculture technicians and experts were trained, among many others, in small scale irrigation, agricultural extension, crop production and protection, horticulture development, livestock production, post-harvest and processing technologies and farm mechanization and are working with Ethiopian farmers in the four regions.

The South-South Cooperation Program (SSCP) has an overall objective of providing technical assistance to enhance agricultural production and productivity through the improvement of small-scale irrigation schemes, strengthening post-harvest technologies and household agro-processing technologies through support of the Agriculture Growth program (AGP).

It also aims to increase household's income and attain food security using Farmer Training Centers as strategic entry point for effective and efficient agricultural extension system.

Besides these, the program will also enable reduce rural poverty and ensure food security of the targeted population by reducing rural malnutrition rate, increasing cereal and vegetable production, increasing the net incomes of farms, increasing the knowledge and skill of small-scale irrigation utilization and by improving the effectiveness and efficiency of agriculture extension services.

According to the Ministry of Agriculture, the review workshop has critically evaluated the progress made so far, recommendations of the high level mission and has agreed on major issues to improve delivery of the programme.

Mr. Xiangxi Wei, the CT Leader also noted that the high level mission has motivated the Chinese cooperants and nearly all the challenges identified during the high level mission were solved.

Chinese New Lunar Year

The workshop was also aimed at celebrating the Chinese New Lunar Year so that they are relaxed and motivated for their future work.

Both Dr. Traore and Mr. Regassa expressed their happiness for having celebrated the Chinese New Year together with the Chinese Cooperants and warmly welcomed all to observe the event together.

"Coming together for the New Year and relax and at the same time to discuss on SSC programme activities is a commendable approach as it enables both enjoyment to refresh our minds and creating awareness in the status of our implementation," Dr. Traore said.

Ms Liang Zhen Secretary of the Economic Attaché of Chinese Embassy in Ethiopia appreciated the importance of the programme to improve agricultural production and food security in Ethiopia.