

FAO and Ministry of Agriculture launched two national projects



FAO/Participants of the inception workshop

February 2013, Addis Ababa: FAO and the Ministry of Agriculture together launched two national projects aimed at supporting the national forest resources assessment and preparation of national master land use plan of Ethiopia.

The projects were launched in early February 2013 at Adama town with the presence of senior international, national and regional forest, natural resource and land use experts with FAO's financial contribution of 830,000USD through its [Technical Cooperation Programme \(TCP\)](#).

The project on support to national forest resources assessment of Ethiopia will assess forest resources of the country and establish a long term forest monitoring system to provide up-to-date qualitative and quantitative information on the state, use, management and trends of forest resources. It will also build the capacity of the government at various levels to conduct similar study in the future before its ends in September 2014.

The project on capacity development for the preparation of the national master land use plan in Ethiopia, on the other hand, will strengthen the capacity of the [ministry of agriculture](#) to meet the increasing demands to coordinate the formulation of national master land use plan and other activities in the country until February 2014.

Opening the inception workshop to launch these projects, State Minister of Agriculture H.E. Mr. Sileshi Getahun said that the launching of the project on supporting the national forest resources assessment is in line with government of Ethiopia's priority policy objectives and contributes to its realization of alongside laying a foundation for sustainable development. However, the state minister said, the lack of a knowledge base on forests in Ethiopia undermines attempts at sustainable forest management and the contribution of forests to the livelihood of Ethiopians.

"It is envisaged that this project would fill the gap through enhancing the capacity of the ministry of agriculture to perform surveying and mapping of forests for better understanding of the extent and spatial distribution as well as to lay a basis for a sustainable management plan," Mr. Sileshi said.

The project on capacity development for the preparation of the national master land use plan, according to the state minister, will enhance the capacity of the ministry to prepare and accomplish the master land use plan of the country. "It will also lay a foundation for the preparation of regional master land use plans and other consecutive activities that are key for proper and sustainable use of land in the country," the minister said.

Mr. Hassen Ali, Assistant FAO Representative to Ethiopia for his part also reiterated that the projects would help initiate the establishment of a system where by the Ministry of Agriculture at Federal and regional levels undertake regular inventories for the future.

"FAO Ethiopia believes that this is not a onetime work rather it requires updating of the information in future in a sustainable manner. We hope that the workshop findings will also contribute to improved forest resources and land use management in Ethiopia thereby accelerating the sustainable development of the country," Mr. Hassen said.

Other senior land use and forest experts also applauded the two projects as they are timely and relevant to today's Ethiopia. Both projects will be implemented with the assistance and engagement of various government ministries and agencies.

During the two day workshop, participants from the regional agricultural bureaus, forest and natural resources departments expressed their excitement of FAO's initiative to organize such workshop and that it has enabled them to understand the objectives, activities and outcomes of the two projects.

They also expressed their readiness to support the implementation of the project at all levels and requested FAO to continue its support to similar initiatives in the country.

About the Projects:

1. **Support to national forest resources assessment of Ethiopia.**

Budget: \$469,000

Duration: October 2012 - September 2014

Implemented by: Ministry of Agriculture

Impact: Enhancing the national Forest resource inventory that ultimately contributes for the improvement of the role of the forest resources to the national economy.

Outcome: Forest resources of Ethiopia well managed and sustainably utilized.

Outputs: Better participation of partners and major users of forestry information achieved, capacity of ministry of agriculture at national and regional levels strengthened, forest type and land use classification system developed, harmonized and national approaches to NFMA and long-term monitoring of resources developed, field data collected and network of permanent sample sites established and map produced at different scales and for different administrative levels.

2. **Capacity development for the preparation of the national master land use plan in Ethiopia**

Budget: \$361,000

Duration: September 2012 - February 2014

Implemented by: Ministry of Agriculture

Impact: To contribute to proper use of land resources for various purposes in general, increased agricultural production on sustainable basis, as well as to sustain natural resource base for the present and future generations in Ethiopia in particular.

Outcome: Capacity of the Land Administration and Use department will be enhanced for the preparation and formulation of the national master land use plan.

Outputs: Guideline for the preparation of Agro-ecological zoning prepared, reclassification of Agro-climatic zones conducted, secondary socio-economic and bio-physical data on land use planning collected, compiled and stored, reconnaissance surveys conducted for the preparation of land use plan and proposal produced for carrying out national master land use plan.

If you need further information about these projects, please contact Mr. Abubeker Ali, Natural Resources Management Team Leader at FAO Ethiopia via e-mail: Abubeker.Ali@fao.org
