

**Minutes of the 29<sup>th</sup> Technical Information Management Exchange Forum (TIME)  
Meeting January 29, 2004 10:00 hrs.  
DPPC conference room**

**Chairperson: Ato Getachew Tesfaye**

**Agenda**

- NMSA, Ato Tesfaye
- Agriculture Task Force, Ato Mathewos Hunde
- Food Task Force, Ato Mesfin Shiferaw
- EFSR, Ato Getachew Tesfaye
- AOB

**Meteorology**

*Ato Tesfaye*

**Weather Update on the month of January**

NMSA - National Metrological Service Agency reported that the month of January, especially since the start of the second dekad has exhibited some rainfall over the southern and eastern parts of the country. It was noted that Negelle has exhibited 23.9 mm of rainfall, Jijiga 31.9 mm, Dire Dawa 40.2 mm, Harar 87.4 mm and Mieso 31.2 mm of rainfall. However it was reported that Gode has not exhibited rainfall in the month of January. Rainfall due to easterly perturbations and interaction type, was exhibited more in southern Oromia, southern Afar and northern Somali, whereas no data is found over southern Somali.

Station	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gode	10.7	13.5	18.4
Dubti	0	0	43.1
Jijiga	0	0	30.3
Konso	41.9	38.1	35.3
Negelle	50.5	58.2	43.5
Yabello	23.9	57.3	31.4

**Agriculture Task Force**

*Ato Mathewos Hunde*

**Weather and agriculture update**

Beginning from early days of the second dekade of January, unseasonable rains have fallen over most *Belg* rain benefiting areas of the country. The rain was beneficial for i) Pasture/brows and water replenishment ii) land preparation iii) growth and development of earlier planted rainfed and irrigated crops, and iv) *Belg* crops sowing.

However, as in some areas harvesting of *Meher* crops is not yet fully completed, there are concerns that the current rains might cause damage to crops unless efforts are made to speed up harvest and threshing. Taking this into consideration; the MoA has been advising farmers and other concerned bodies to take appropriate preparatory actions.

**Pest Situation**

It was reported that pest situation in the country has been calm during the month of January. However, due to favorable conditions created as a result of improved vegetation cover and moisture availability, survey for the outbreak of desert locust is still underway over suspected areas.

### **Update on emergency seeds interventions**

Following the 2004 joint UN and government appeal, the Ministry of Agriculture reported that it has submitted a project proposal to the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development. The project, expected to be funded by FAO, aims at addressing seed shortage problems of some seed insecure farmers in Wolita, Sidama, Kambata, Tembaro, Silte, Hadiya Ganugofa and Guraghe zone as well as Konso, Buji and Amaro special woredas of SNNPR. The total cost of the project is estimated at US\$ 399,651.

It was noted that a total of US\$ 6,300,200 is required to address natural calamities induced seed shortfalls in eight regions for 2004 *Belg* and *Meher* planting seasons. Moreover it was noted that US\$ 5,750,000 is needed for livestock emergency intervention and US\$ 1,100,000 for enhancing capacities in the areas of coordination, early warning, monitoring and evaluation.

MoA reported that as *Belg* crops' sowing has already started in some *Belg* growing areas, supply of emergency seeds (for *Belg* planting season) needs to be completed as soon as possible. Therefore it was stressed that donors, UN agencies, NGOs and government's should make immediate assistances in this regard.

### **Update on the status of food aid movement**

*Reported by Ato Mesfine*

#### Allocation for the month of November

DPPC reported that 100% of grain requirement for the month of November is transported. However, as indicated in the table below, there is a substantial amount of supplementary food and oil that is not yet dispatched.

<b>NGO</b>	<b>Supplementary food</b>	<b>Oil</b>
CRS	30 quintal	900 quintal
CARE	320 quintal	120 quintal
FHI	157.5 quintal	
SC- US	450 quintal	
World vision	304 quintal	

#### Allocation for the month of December

DPPC reported that except for a few amount of aid to Somalia region 80% of allocation for the month of December is transported. It was also noted that highest performance of dispatch from NGOs is reported by CRS (100%), while lowest uplift is reported by CARE.

In response CARE reported that American Red Cross a JEOP partner that was performing CARE dispatch had obtained food aid from other sources therefore it did not have the capacity to dispatch JEOP food aid. Moreover due to problems at distribution site in Desse Zuri Concern, also JEOP partner doing CARE dispatch, was unable to distribution. The beneficiaries at the woreda were under the process of resettling to other areas and were supposed to receive their food ration in their new settlement. However, the beneficiaries had refused to resettle until they receive their food. The Zonal and Woreda officials had notified Concern to withhold the distribution until further notice. Concern on its side has reported to FDPPC for solution but no decision is so far reached.

#### Allocation for the month of January

DPPC reported that due to shortage of food, dispatch for the month of January will be prioritized to worst affected areas, i.e Afar and Somali Regions. It was noted that food in the warehouse will not cover needs for all regions for the coming months. However it was recommended that WFP, NGOs and the DPPC should see the amount of food at their stocks to have a clear knowledge of available food in the country.

Regarding status of pledge Ato Getachew reported that so far only USD 3.1 million from the government of Canada is received. WFP reported that it is pushing for cash donation to make local purchase. DPPC has also showed its strong support for cash donation.

## **EFSR**

Ato Getachew

<b>Stock at hand</b>	<b>322,600 MT</b>
<b>Outstanding loan</b>	<b>36,575 MT</b>
<b>Under withdrawal</b>	<b>45, 829 MT</b>

Ato Getahcew reported that 26,279 MT of aid is expected to arrive by end of February.

## **AOB**

### **Early Warning Department**

Ato Teshome, Early Warning Department Head, reported that unseasonable rain in pastoral areas beginning of 2<sup>nd</sup> dekad of January has improved water and pasture situations. However, Debora, WFP stated that reports from the field indicate that traditionally the local people believe that the unseasonable rain might affect the Gu rain. Therefore she pointed out that further close monitoring maybe needed in the area.

### **CARE update**

Following CARE's report that its seed voucher program in East and West Hararghe may not work, DPPC Information Center is asked to come up with comprehensive information on the status of seed voucher program in the country in general for the next TIME meeting.

### **EURON Aid**

DPPC reported that EU has disclosed its plan to start allocating, in the month of March, the over 16,000 MT of food that was planned for the month of September 2003.

### **Government Structure**

In response to comment regarding the new government structure that might affect DPPC relief operations should start, Ato Getachew stated that the new structure is not likely to affect relief operation. He also noted that the transition will be smooth.

### **Port status**

WFP reported that as there is limited amount of aid coming into the country the port is not in any congestion. It was also reported that 400,000 MT of fertilizer is coming in.

### **Lack of consensus in the non-food area**

Ato Getachew noted that in the preparation of the 2004 appeal document, agencies and the DPPC more or less had similar figures for food pledges and delivery information. However in the non-food area the government and the agencies had different figures. To avoid similar incidents, it was suggestion that a standard format that will be applicable for members of the humanitarian community be established.

### **TIME Meeting**

In response to the low turn out of participants it was suggested that major donors, NGOs, UN agencies and the task force chairs should be informed that the TIME meeting has restarted and will continue taking place on monthly basis on the last Thursday of each month. Additionally, OCHA was given the task of informing UN agencies and Donors while DPPC was asked to inform major NGOs and the task forces.

**Meeting was adjourned at 11:00.**

**Next TIME meeting will take place on February 26, 2003 at 10:00 a.m.**

**Attendance by more participants is expected.**