

**Minutes of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Technical Information Management Exchange Forum (TIME)  
Meeting March 25, 2004 10:00 hrs  
DPPC conference room**

**Chairperson: Ato Teshome Erkneh**

**Agenda**

- MoWR, Tamene Gossaye
- MoA, Ato Mathewos Hunde
- EFSR, Ato Teshome Erkneh
- AOB

**Agriculture Task Force**

*Ato Mathewos Hunde*

**Weather and Agricultural activities update**

The Ministry of Agriculture reported that the *belg* season has shown improvement over most *belg* rains benefiting areas of the country since the beginning of the second dekad of March. Sporadic rains were also reported from some pastoral areas during the same period. However, as of March 3 dry weather condition is prevailing in most areas.

Nevertheless, the rains received in the second dekad of March are believed to have helped farmers to resume planting and prepare land for both *belg* and *meher* crops, including long cycle crops, such as maize, Millet, and Sorghum. Moreover the available moisture has been essential for the recovery of stressed *belg* crops particularly in areas where crops were planted using the December/January rains as well as for the improvement of pasture and drinking water availability for livestock. But for the desired/positive outcome of the season, further improvement through the end of the season (i.e. May) is crucial.

FAO reported that February was dry in most parts of the country. It was noted that in the 1st week of March rains were reported only from Jimma and Illubabour. However as of 15th March rains are reported to have improved. Nevertheless it was reported that it had limited coverage and small duration. FAO indicated that the dry weather condition that prevailed before March 15th had negative impacts in *belg* growing areas in Amhara, Tigray, Harar and Arsi.

**Crop pest and animal disease outbreaks situation**

According to field reports and results of surveys conducted in different areas crop pest situation has been calm during the month of March. Similarly, no animal disease outbreaks were reported during the month.

**Health Task Force**

Ato Teshome reported that there are major concerns with regards to meningitis a total of 1,530 cases and 58 deaths are so far reported. The Ministry of Health and the Early Warning Working group had met on the issue and have disclosed that resources are being mobilized and so far situation have not gone out of control.

Malaria is also reported to be a major problem especially around the lowland areas of SNNPR. Moreover UNICEF reported that around 20,000 children are vaccinated for Measles.

**TFC**

13 TFCs by UNICEF, NGOs and Government are currently functioning in the country. UNICEF noted that it is giving training on management of malnutrition in AAU and Jimma Hospital and other places for a smooth transition of the closing of the TFCs that are planned to be absorbed by the nearest health center.

### **Nutrition Info**

Survey conducted by Save the Children US in different part of the country showed that there is critical malnutrition rate at GAM 21% and SAM 2.8%. It was indicated that signs of malnutrition are reported from lowland Bale and West Hararghe. Nutrition assessment team is sent and will report on their findings up on their return.

### **Water Task Force**

MoWR reported that critical water shortage in Somalia region has gone beyond the capacity of the regional authorities. The Ministry noted that there are signs of movement of people in search of water. In response UNICEF reported that as requested by the Somalia regional authorities it is planning to refresh its water intervention in the region. Meeting participants stressed that the MoWR should prioritize and work towards having a permanent solution to the shortage of water in the area.

Moreover water shortage due to inadequate rainfall in March in the lowland areas of west Hararghe, Bale and Arsi are reported. It was noted that if the rain resumes in mid march situation might get to normal, if not situations might get critical. Therefore it was stressed that close follow up will be needed as the situation might get critical.

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

*Reported by Ato Belete*

#### **Responses to the Agricultural requirements**

In response to Agricultural requirements, USAID/OFDA has provided funds to CARE, CRS, REST, and World Vision for emergency seeds and other agriculture related interventions.

Ato Belete reported that the requirement for relief food for March distribution stands at 65,330 MT of cereals only. Allocations have been made by the DPPC and NGOs to cover the total need for the month.

35,290 MT of cereals, 3,910 MT of Supplementary food and about 4,000 MT of pulses is being dispatched by the Commission.

Through NGOs, over 30,000 MT of cereals, about 3,000 MT of Supplementary food and 2,580 MT of pulses, has been allocated and dispatching is underway. According to the latest information, however, the allocation made by EU partnering NGOs might not be materialized during the month. The gap, which totals about 3,420 MT of cereals, will be covered by the Commission.

### **EFSR**

Ato Getachew

<b>Stock at hand</b>	<b>314,945 MT</b>
<b>Outstanding loan</b>	<b>25,498 MT</b>
<b>Under withdrawal</b>	<b>64, 561 MT</b>

## **AOB**

### **Working Group Back**

It was reported that a working group composed of the UN, donor and World Bank are back from a visit to Amhara, Tigray and Oromiya resettlement areas. The working group came back with a draft monitoring framework that is not yet commented on. Paul OCHA head reported that according to the draft the resettlement is being performed on voluntary basis and that the government has moved less than planned in the four regions. It was also stated that the government plans to move 200,000 people by end of May.

The draft stated that there are serious concerns of embedding crisis that could develop due to lack of water. Moreover according to the nutrition survey in chewako Illubabour zone there is a serious malnutrition problem on children. It was indicated that with such level of nutrition there may come the need for TFCs. Health problems and lack of shelter was also mentioned as one of the problems facing resettlers.

Moreover it was noted that due to lack of resources pledged resources such as seed have not yet reached resettlers. Therefore it was commented that MoA should be alerted to address the needs before the rainy seasons.

DPPC noted that although the commission is not actively involved in the resettlement programs Ato Teshome promised to take up the issue to the Commissioner. MoWR and MoA both asked for more detail on the findings of the working group in order to respond.

### **ICRC intervention in Somalia Region**

ICRC reported that following livestock health treatment, vaccination in Dekehabour and Gode, animal health has improved greatly. ICRC reported that in Gode goats and sheep are bought before becoming very weak and are slaughtered and distributed to IDPs. Consequently the health of the IDPs has improved. Moreover ICRC reported that it is intervening in the distribution of seed including haricots, vegetable, green paper, watermelon and sorghum to Dekhabour, Somalia Region.

MoA has asked ICRC to report on their activities in the next task force meeting.

### **Visits**

Paul, OCHA head of office reported that Mr Martti Ahtisaari, the Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General for the Humanitarian Crisis in the Horn of Africa will arrive in Addis Ababa on February 9 for a three-day visit to Ethiopia. Mr Ahtisaari visit is to provide advocacy, look at food security, resettlement and other humanitarian related issues. It was also reported that Ambassador Tony Hall, Ambassador to the UN agencies in Rome, will visit Ethiopia after Easter. Tony plans to travel to SNNPR, Arsi and also meet with officials at the DPPC.

**Meeting was adjourned at 11:15.**

**Next TIME meeting will take place on April 29, 2004 at 10:00 a.m.**

**Attendance by more participants is expected.**