

NEWSLETTER



Supporting the development of Commercial Agriculture Programs at four Ethiopian universities

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Welcome

by Carel Jaspers, Q-Point



Supporting the development of Commercial Agriculture

Programmes at four Ethiopian universities (NICHE/ETH/019), funding by Nuffic, runs a year. In this newsletter you find information about the project, the state of affairs, but also backgrounds, stories and experiences of students and teachers. I hope you enjoy reading.

Carel Jaspers, director Q-Point



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Brief project description

by Carel Jaspers, Q-Point

The main target group of the project consists of professional staff involved in agricultural and agribusiness education at the four requesting universities. The capacity of this staff in student-centred teaching and value chain and agribusiness management will be developed through short term staff training in value chain and agribusiness management, MSc and PhD training, and training and guidance in student-centred education and gender mainstreaming. The main strategies for reaching the project objective are:

- Building of strong linkages with stakeholders;
- Curriculum review and development at BSc and Msc level;
- Enhancing collaboration between faculties and there stakeholders;



MSc training in Ethiopia

- Forming educational development teams at each university;
- In the Colleges of Agriculture and/or those of Business Economics, teams and Programs for Agribusiness and Value Chain Management will be established;
- Gender mainstreaming will be promoted as a cross-cutting issue.

Overall project objective
To contribute to a vibrant and sustainable commercial agriculture sector in Ethiopia

Specific project objective

To strengthen the universities' capacity to serve the commercial agricultural sector, by delivering graduates with the needed

competencies, effectively implementing jointly formulated research agenda's, and actively involving the sector in both education and research.

Meet the student Alemayehu Dekeba Bekele



Alemayehu Dekeba Bekele,
27 years old from Institute of
Cooperatives and
Development Studies Ambo
University Ethiopia

What is your phd subject?

Development Studies Research Focus:
Consumption Behavior and Consumers'
Preferences for Dairy Product Quality and
Safety in Ethiopia.

*Do you like your studies in the
Netherlands?*

Yes of Course! I like mostly the emphasis
on research work and independence.

*What is the extra value that you are
studying in the Netherlands?*

The Dutch have a lot to offer and to share.
I have learnt immensely from their work
culture specifically the respect they have
for all types of work. Living and studying
with Dutch students gave me a platform
to be more open and unusually direct in
my opinion. Above all, studying in the
Netherlands gave me an opportunity to
network with very dynamic researchers
and benefit from their rich experience.

***I have been very much impressed
about the efficiency of people in
their work.***

*What are your experiences in the
Netherlands?*

I have gained a lot of experiences from
being in the Netherlands. First of all, the
people are very open, approachable,
helpful and direct. Secondly, I like the
highly developed infrastructure and the

decent level of living standard. Thirdly,
the tolerance among different people is
amazing. Fourthly, being in the
Netherlands, have thought me a lot about
the importance of a system and rules in
the day to day life. Fifthly, I have been
very much impressed about the efficiency
of people in their work. Though the
weather is so unbearable in most of the
months of the year, that did not stop
people from achieving their goal. Above
all, living with international students from
different nationalities have gave me a lot
of inter-cultural experience.

***I would create a platform to share
my experience to my students and
colleagues in the Institute in
Ethiopia.***

What do you dislike in the Netherlands?
People in the Netherlands are relatively
too direct in their opinion. In the first two
or three months, I found it a bit tough.
However, gradually I have adapted to it.
There is a lot to gain and to save from
being open and direct.

What do you want to achieve in Ethiopia?
After completing my study in the
Netherlands, a lot of tasks awaits me
home. I have a plan to spend a lot of my
time doing problem focused researches
and outreach activities in the area of the
untapped commercial agriculture. In
addition, I would be contributing my level
best to the enrichment of undergraduate
and postgraduate programs in my
Institute. Moreover, I would create a
platform to share my experience to my
students and colleagues in the Institute.

Meet the student Gifty Abera Geleta



Gifty Abera Geleta,
36 years old, from
Hawassa University
Ethiopia

What is your Phd subject?

My PhD subject is Postharvest Technology of root crops, and I am planning to explore the Proximate Composition and Minor Constituents of Oromo Potato (*Plectranthus edulis*) as Influenced by Storage duration and Potentials for value addition. This crop is one of the neglected but traditionally important root crop in southern and western parts of Ethiopia.

Do you like your studies in the Belgium?
Yes, indeed, although I miss my family, I am very glad and honored to get this chance to study in Belgium, and do my research at the University of Gent, one of the best Universities in Europe.

I had the chance to meet and work with people of different cultural and social background, and thus share experience.

What are your experiences in Belgium?
My experiences in Belgium are countless. Most of the People I encountered here are friendly. However even if they understand a little bit English, they actually try to help. One thing which I found really interesting is the strange similar nature of all the people. They wrap their scarf similarly, they make similar faces while talking, their style of talking is almost same.

I learned the team spirit among fellow researchers and co-workers in the laboratories.

The meticulous planning, and hard work of the staff and students is inspiring.

I think Belgium is a place where the world really comes together, and all the different ideas and cultures can really be seen. People from all over the world live in Belgium, due to its strategic place on the map and its connections with the rest of the world. With all of these people from different cultures intermixing in Belgium, it truly makes the Belgian culture richer. I have learned so much about cultures from all over the world.

What do you want to achieve in Ethiopië?
I want to see improvement in the livelihood of Ethiopians through rational use of the available resources. There are lots of untapped crops in Ethiopia like Oromo Potato (*Plectranthus edulis*). I need to continue exploring their potential contribution to the socio economic and daily diet of Ethiopian poor farmers where it is solely consumed. As a researcher I want to build a network of academic peers nationally and globally in my profession. Up on completion of my PhD I keep on teaching in the University and remain active researcher in postharvest technology.

I want to build a network of academic peers nationally and globally in my profession.

Presidents of the Ethiopian Universities visit The Netherlands and Belgium

by Carel Jaspers, Q-Point

In November 2011 a delegation of eight Presidents from the Ethiopian universities visited The Netherlands and Belgium. First they visit DLV Plant BV in Wageningen. The main objectives of this visit was to build up a network between Ethiopian universities and knowledge institutions (Radboud University, Ghent University, WUR, INHolland, Aeres Group), private consultants (DLV Plant, Q-Point) and Dutch companies.



The Ethiopian delegation visits DLV Plant

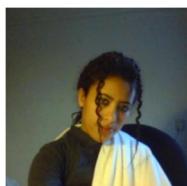
On Thursday 17 November 2011, the consortium organized a networking meeting at the Junushoff in Wageningen.



Approximately 70 people attended this network meeting, including 20 Ethiopian students of Radboud, WUR and HAN.

Some important lessons learned are the collaboration between universities (students and teachers) with the private sector, research by Dutch and Belgian universities for the private sector in the Netherlands and Belgium. The visit also showed that there are opportunities for cooperation of Ethiopian Universities with Dutch and Belgium research institutes and universities in the field of agro-business and value chain development.

Meet the students



Fitsum Wakweya Bayissa,
27 years, from Hawassa
University

"I want to contribute some for the country's big efforts to attack poverty and movements to realize sustainable development."



Sintayehu Hailu Alemu,
38 years from Hawassa
University

"I want to achieve organizational as well as personal objectives in Ethiopia through teaching, providing consultancy service and undertaking research activities."

Training 'Bsc Training of Module Preparation based on 'Curriculum for undergraduate program in agri-business and value chain management'

by Sebastiaan Hetterschijt, Q-Point

In May 2012 Ms. Jolanda Stolk (STOAS), Mr. Hermann Schilt (CAH) and Mr. Sebastiaan Hetterschijt (Q-Point) conducted a training workshop with the title 'Bsc Training of Module Preparation based on 'Curriculum for undergraduate program in agri-business and value chain management' (B.Sc. degree)'. The group carried out a lot of tasks, assignments, discussions, workshops to develop a planning for the different modules, to develop an outline for a module book and to make cases for the module book.



In five days the group carried out a lot of work.

After an introduction on Monday, we got a clear picture of the starting point of the group. On the second day we worked in 8 groups, 4 groups per subject (animal and plant production). Sometimes experts are taken out of the groups to have bilateral meetings on specific subject, they brought back information to the groups. A planning document was developed. On Wednesday planning documents for 8 LT's

(learning tasks) were finished by the participants.



Sebastiaan Hetterschijt with some students

On this day we developed more than 60 cases that we can use for developing of the module books. The next day continuous assessment was added to the planning document and we made a start with module book development. There were also bilateral discussions about planning of the development of module books after finishing this workshop.



Bilateral discussions

The last day there were presentations about the gender subject and how to develop the module book after this workshop.

Women in dairy business

by Jolanda Stolk – Stoas Hogeschool



Many households in rural Ethiopia own one or two cows, women who are looking after them. They take care of the cattle, bringing feed from the field, cleaning, milking processing milk into butter or yoghurt. But selling at the market, the men take over, women are not allowed to come to the place where the milk are sold. The men collect the money. They have to learn how to access the local market . It is important that male members appreciate the important role that woman play in milk business and improve their position on the market.



Many households in rural Ethiopia own one or two cows

The Question "How can we improve our position in the value chain" is one of the issues of small farmers in most of the African countries like Ethiopia. A challenge for graduates of Agricultural University's to support the needs of smallholders, to contributions to development of Ethiopian agricultural sector.



Teachers develop new modules for competence bases learning.

What are the needs of the labor market ? which knowledge and learning tasks do students need? Universities have conducted need assessment and started to develop a curriculum that enable students to handle cases like this.

Research plans Phd researchers have become clear

by Marijke Dhaese – UGhent



The first visit of seven Phd researchers at Ghent University for the Nuffic/NICHE project is now coming to an end. After many administrative challenges, the researchers finally came to Ghent in January 2012, about a year after we first met in Ethiopia. At the end of their first stay, the research plans have become clear, and everyone is as good as ready to start in the field; we will work on barley chains in beer production, coffee, dairy products and oromia potatoes,

products that are important either for food security or export.



Phd researchers at Ghent University

Ghent University has experience in research in Ethiopia, including a large project financed by the Flemish Interuniversity Council with Jimma University coordinated by prof. Luc Duchateau (Department of comparative physiology and biometrics) who is also involved in this Nuffic project. Other collaborators in this Nuffic project are

from the Department of Agricultural Economics (X. Gellynck, W. Verbeke, G. Van Huylenbroeck and M. D'Haese), Department of food safety and food quality (B. De Meulenaer) and Department of applied analytical and physical chemistry (P. Boeckx).

Gender mainstreaming in NICHE-019

By Anouka van Eerdewijk, Radboud University



In April-May 2012, there was a second visit to the universities of Haramaya and Hawassa. This visit was a follow up of the gender assessments that were done in 2010 on gender mainstreaming in four Ethiopian universities. The aim of this visit was to deepen the assessments and to develop recommendations for a university to develop gender policy. The consultants were assessing the position of female staff and female students, and also to the way gender issues are integrated in education curricula and research programs.

The last few years, many Ethiopian universities are increasing attention to gender issues, which has come to support female students and also establishment of gender offices. As the drop-off percentage of female students is high. Partly because of their background and partly because they are less assertive during lectures. Universities offer them extra help in the form of extra tutorials in which they are taught.

Attention is also paid for financial and material support to students, both women and men, from a weak socio-economic background. There are also female students who perform well in the universities, and regularly performs as the best students from the class.

There are considerable differences between universities and faculties to the extent that gender is included in education and research. There are several places, where gender courses are offered. Some universities offer bachelor gender studies.



Some female students perform as the best students from the class

Based on the gender assessments, the experts looked at how gender can be further embedded and mainstreamed in existing curricula and research programs of universities. The involvement of the four universities, offers the possibility to describe the current situation of gender at the universities, and to give recommendations for a coherent gender policy.

Next year, a workshop with all four participating universities will be organized to exchange experiences and best practices.

Training Research and Outreach Project Development

By Frans Doorman, AgDev Consult

A workshop on Research and Outreach Project Development was conducted from May 15 to 18 2012 in Adama, Ethiopia. Goal of the workshop was skills development in the development of research and outreach projects, for strengthening research, outreach and income generation.

Participants were the intended future members of business units, to be established at the departments participating in the project at the four requesting universities. These units are to support staff in identifying, formulating, and acquiring funding for research and outreach projects that have the triple function of strengthening academic activities, supporting stakeholders in improving productivity and incomes, and income generation for the university.

The workshop was expected to lead to increased skills in research and project development and acquisition: project identification, identifying and enlisting donors, and project and proposal preparation.

All participants felt they had increased significantly their understanding of and skills in project development

The workshop evaluation showed the participants felt these outcomes were achieved, with high satisfaction levels with the different workshop components and the workshop overall. All participants also felt they had increased significantly their understanding of and skills in project development, and two-thirds thought they would now be able to develop projects themselves.

Agenda 2012

July 16	- July 28	Module development agribusiness and value chain in animal chains
July 30	- August 11	Module development value chain in plant chains, logistics and financial management
August 27	- August 28	Management meeting and annual working plan
August 29	- August 31	Training financial management and Nuffic rules
September	- December	Preparation of MsC programma Value Chain and Agribusiness



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Partners Consortium



Support Integrated
Development



Requesting Ethiopian Universities



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