



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 already three years. Many staff, teachers, stakeholders and consultants are involved in this project. In 2012, four universities started a new BSc course on value chain management and in February 2013, a new MSc course on value chain management was launched. 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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The achievements so far

by Derbew Belew and Getachew Nigussie - Jimma University

The Netherlands initiative of capacity building in higher education (NICHE) in collaboration with NUFFIC has launched a new project (ETH/019) in September 2010 for capacity building of Ethiopian Universities (four requesting and four "new" universities) on the area of agribusiness and value chain management.

The overall objective of the project is to contribute to a vibrant and sustainable commercial agriculture sector in Ethiopia, while its specific objective is to strengthen the universities capacity to serve the commercial agricultural sector by:

- Delivering graduates with the needed competencies;
- Effectively implementing jointly formulated research agenda;
- Actively involving the sector in both education and research.

The overall objective of the project is to contribute to a vibrant and sustainable commercial agriculture sector in Ethiopia, while its specific objective is to strengthen the universities capacity to serve the commercial agricultural sector.

Partners

- Requesting organizations: Jimma, Haramaya, Hawassa and Ambo universities
 - Implementing consortium: Nijmegen and Ghent universities, INHolland and Aeres Group universities of applied sciences, two private companies: DLV Plant and Q-Point (lead), Ethiopian partner: SID Consult
 - Four “new” universities: Adama, Bahir Dar, Wolaita Sodo and Semera
- Q-Point and Jimma University are lead, north and south partners, respectively, coordinating the overall implementation of the project.

Achievements so far

In December 2012, Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the four requesting Universities (Jimma, Ambo, Haramaya and Hawassa) on Capacity Building Project for Higher Education in Agribusiness and Value Chain Management (AGRIBIZZ - NICHE/ETH/019) was signed. Areas of cooperation among the requesting universities include:

- Development and implementation of joint research activities, addressing the issues of mutual interest so as to foster and promote research and education capacity in the agribusiness sector;
- Co-organizing seminar, workshops and expert consultation at national and regional level as needed;
- Exchange of scientific staff and assignment of young professionals and students in joint activities as part of

specialized on-job training and practical internship, respectively.

Agribizz project is being implemented in eight Ethiopian Universities (Jimma University being lead local institute has played (and is playing) important role in organizing and facilitating the following major activities (among others):

1. Trainings and workshops:
the details on trainings & workshops conducted, and results achieved during the year 2012 and 2013 are indicated in the table below.
2. BSc program in Agribusiness and value chain management:
The program was started in four universities (Jimma, Haramaya, Hawassa and Ambo) in year 2011, two universities (Bahir Dar and Wolaita Sodo) in 2012 and the other two universities (Adama and Semera) have completed necessary preparations to start in September 2013.
3. MSc program in Agribusiness and Value Chain Management:
The program has been launched in Jimma University in March 2013 with nine students, while the other three universities (Haramaya, Hawassa and Ambo) have planned to start in September 2013.
4. PhD program:
12 PhD students have started their studies and currently they all are actively engaged in their field research, data collection and analysis. The respective universities are facilitating provision of car and costs associated with field research.

Four “new” universities



Bahir Dar University



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ADAMA UNIVERSITY
Adama University

WOLAITA SODO UNIVERSITY



ወላይታ ሶዶ ዩኒቨርሲቲ

Wolaita Sodo University



Semera University

Overview of Project Workshops organized by Agribizz project in 2012 and 2013

No	Workshop topic / purpose	Outputs (include capacity building if applicable)	Number of days	Number of staff trained total	Female staff in %
1	Project Coordinators Meeting	Activities were planned for future implementations	1	6	17
2	Research Proposal Development - project development Training	Experts starts to develop project and searching for sponsors	4	24	25
3	Training on animal and plant production in Value chain BSc program module development	Guideline for module preparation was developed	5	57	16
4	BSc program module Preparation of round one	Module for 17courses was produced and distributed for eight universities	15	44	16
5	BSc program module Preparation of Round two	Module for 13 courses was produced and distributed for eight universities	15	38	24
6	Project Coordinators Meeting	Activities were planned for future implementations	2	5	20
7	Training for financial experts of four requesting universities	Experts develop experience how they can plan and report the project financial issues	3	10	50
8	Meeting of project coordinators with PhD students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ PhD students field research Problems were identified, ▪ Solutions were suggested ▪ Status of the research was evaluated 	1	14	
9	MSc Curriculum development	Draft curriculum was developed	15	16	6
10	MSc. program national curriculum review work shop	Comments to strengthen curriculum was collected from different stakeholders of the workshop participants	1	100	25
11	MSc. Program Curriculum Finalization	Final curriculum which includes comments collected from different stakeholders was included and made ready for use	5	6	16
12	Research and Project development training	Project log frame was identified, potential sponsor for project was identified	2	16	13
13	Project coordinators meeting	BSc and MSc progress was evaluated, PhD field research work was evaluated and improvement ideas were identified.	2	11	18
14	Gender policy development (Universities) work shop	Gender policy of four universities was assessed and points for policy improvement was sated	5	18	28
15	Agribusiness and Value chain BSc Module revision planning work shop	Contents for curriculum revision was identified, date for the revision was planned, addition training thematic areas was identified	3	12	25

Linkage labour market

by Carel Jaspers – Q-Point BV



The labour market in Ethiopia plays an important role in NICHE projects, expressed through a

focus on technical and vocational education and training (TVET). Also in the NICHE/ETH/019 project, labour market and linkage with the private sector is an important issue. One of our project aims is to upgrade the skills and knowledge of the project participants for initiating and obtaining contact with private sector which will result in:

1. Actual knowledge regarding developments in the market, which good have impact on the curriculum;
2. Better understanding regarding the labour market needs;
3. Increasing number of internships for students in private sector;
4. Staff exchange;
5. Applied research for private sector;
6. Research projects for private sector;
7. Private sector involved in educations as guest lectures.

The Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs has premised that the NICHE program should pay special attention to gender balance and labour market issues.

Ethiopian TVET's and universities offers women a good opportunity to enter the labour market, but many trades and vocations are still considered typically male or female. These interventions will challenge this stereotyping through gender-sensitive training programmes which seek to improve female participation and provide equal opportunities.

To create a better match between demand and supply, staff and lectures of the participating Universities will be trained in practice. In August 2013, the focus will be on linkage with the floricultural and vegetable sector in Ethiopia. During the training, flower and horticultural companies, but also important trade and producer associations in Ethiopia will be involved. Based on the success of this training program, additional training will focus on the dairy and meat sector in 2014.

Biophysical controls on Ethiopian Arabica coffee quality

by Kassaya Tollese Serge – PhD student at Gent University

Background

Southwestern Ethiopia is the region of origin and diversity of Arabica coffee. Ethiopia has coffee of immense genetic diversity, which grows in diverse agro ecological zones. However, the quality of a large amount of the coffee in Ethiopia does not meet the international market requirements. Moreover, there is growing interest of international markets for high quality specialty coffee, which is mainly controlled by genetic traits, growing environment, cultivation practices and

post-harvest management techniques. Thus, inappropriate control over these parameters in the coffee value chain is the major cause of coffee quality loss in Ethiopia. This requires investigation and analysis of the effects these parameters and its interaction affect coffee quality. Therefore, this research project was has the following general objectives:

General objectives:

- To determine coffee quality (cup taste and biochemical composition) in relation to growing environment, genotypes, cultivation practices and post harvest techniques;
- To derive concepts and methodologies to enhance coffee quality;
- To predict coffee cup quality and biochemical composition from near infra red (NIR) spectra and machine learning tools.

Methodologies

The study was conducted in Manna, Gomma, and Limu kossa districts of

Jimma zone in Ethiopia, which are known as the predominantly coffee growing areas of the Jimma zone. So far three experiments to determine coffee quality have been conducted in the coffee harvest season 2012-2013. The first experiment dealt with the interacting effect of different altitudes and processing methods. The second experiment investigated the influence of different value chain components, i.e. farmers, private traders and cooperatives. The third experiment dealt with the interacting effect of coffee varieties and processing methods.



Quantification of shade level of coffee trees using "sun scan" canopy analyzer



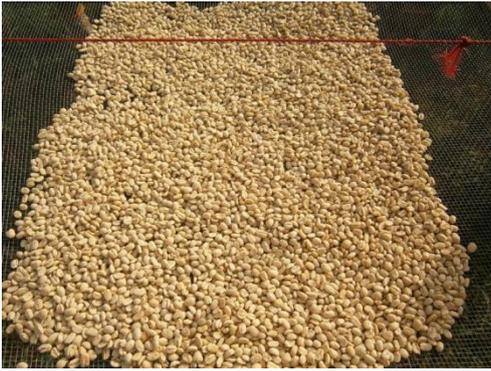
Harvested coffee cherries ready for processing



Drying on raised bed made from mesh wire



Red cherries subjected to wet processing machine

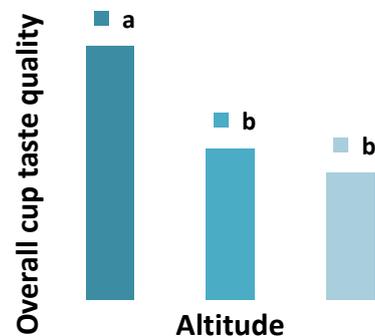


Drying on raised bed made from mesh wire



Cupping of coffee samples

So far cup taste quality of the collected coffee samples was assessed by Ethiopian Commodity Exchange (ECX) in Jimma, Ethiopia. Here preliminary result of cup taste quality of interacting effect of altitude and processing method on overall coffee cup taste quality is presented. Accordingly, the result showed that there is a significant effect of altitude on cup quality of coffee collected from different altitude levels: low altitude (1400 – 1550), mid altitude (1600 -1700) and high altitude (1900 – 2200 m a.s.l.). The overall cup taste quality was significantly higher at high altitude as compared to the mid and lower altitude. The biochemical compositions (caffeine, chlorogenic acids, trigonelline and sucrose) of the coffee samples will be further analyzed. NIR spectra will be collected and analyzed via machine learning tools to predict coffee cup quality.



Overall cup taste quality as influenced by altitude in the Manna district, Jimma zone, Ethiopia. Overall cup taste quality score is based on a scale of 0–10: 0 = unacceptable, 10 = excellent. Different letters indicate significant difference between altitude according to LSD-test, $\alpha = 0.05$.

Gender issues in dairy production

Interview Birhanu Megersa Lenijso – PhD student at Radboud University Nijmegen



Why did you choose to study gender issues in dairy production?

Ethiopia is a patriarchal society, where almost all decisions are passed by men.

A women, especially in a marriage, has no role in public decision matters, even though they can involve in domestic decision matters the last say is still for the men. Gender inequality is reflected in every aspect of life and possibility contributed for the object poverty in the country. Both governmental and none governmental organizations are making efforts to left millions of poor (farmers) out of poverty.

One of this efforts is linking smallholder farmers to markets and increasing their level of commercialization, in order to increase household incomes and their access to higher value markets. However, smallholder commercialization and many other development programs in the country pay no or very little attention to the gender dynamics and ends up in deteriorating the situation of women and worsening the gender gaps. Dairy is a women`s commodity and also one of the commercialized commodities in Ethiopia.



One way of milk transportation



Milk collection center

The women are responsible for cattle management, milking cows, processing milk in to butter and cheese and marketing the products in local market when raw milk was not a saleable commodity. In the process of smallholder market integration milk turns to be a cash crop which is produced for sale. As many evidences from other countries indicate there is a tendency for a commodity to be taken over by men when it enter the market arena and becomes profitable. Taking the nature of the commodity in to account in Ethiopian context it seems very critical to study the gender dynamics that smallholder dairy farmers market integration involves and the current study is initiated from this perspective.

Increasing household income from smallholder market integration may not necessary result in better household welfare.

What are your experiences?

My experiences, previous studies and particularly the PhD preliminary fieldwork, shows that the increasing household income from smallholder market integration may not necessary result in better household welfare.

Although cash income is increasing, the trajectory through which the income returns back to the household is changing. This change in income control without changing the gender role of providing for household expenses may endanger household welfare, especially child welfare. Therefore the gender dynamics needs consideration to evaluate the impact of market based programs.



Milk market

For example, assessments show that household income is increasing in the processing commercialization, however sex disaggregated data show that women`s access to and control over dairy income that they used to control and spent in traditional/subsistence oriented dairying is decreasing. Women are also disadvantaged in the process of commercialization as the result of persistent gender-disparities in access to productive resources and the family structure. Moreover, women bear the

additional workload that agricultural intensification and commercialization introduces while men share the income generated, even those women used to control and spent.



Waiting for milk buyers

What do you want to achieve with this study in Ethiopia?

The study aims to examine the gendered and intra-household impact of smallholder market integration in Ethiopia. The study employs an experimental approach to compare households with higher and lower level of dairy market integration on; women`s intra-household bargaining power, intra-household food consumption and nutritional allocation, intra-household time allocation and parental investment on child educational welfare. It is believed that the study will contribute to the better understanding of the process of agricultural commercialization, as a pillar of growth and transformation plan in the country.

Value chain integration and its impact on performance: case to malt barley value chain in Ethiopia

Interview with Mulugeta Damie Watabaji - PhD student at Gent University
Department of Agri-Economics, Agri-Food Marketing and Chain Management
Division



Why have you chosen this subject?

1. Its socio-economic importance as livelihood of millions of Ethiopians is based on it;
2. The topic was not researched so far;
3. Immense contribution to the commercialization of Ethiopian Agriculture.

I want to see the malt barley value chain in Ethiopia being integrated and Ethiopian being self-sufficient in malt supply to all local breweries.

What are your experiences till now?

I gained a lot during my stay in Belgium for six months in terms framing my PhD

research proposal through close supervision from promoter and series of constructive comments from colleagues working in our division (i.e Agri-food Marketing and Chain Management). I also learned much from the courses I have taken and various research and PhD meetings I attended with colleagues in our division there at Ghent.

What do you want to achieve in Ethiopia?

I want to see the malt barley value chain in Ethiopia being integrated and Ethiopian being self-sufficient in malt supply to all local breweries. As beer consumption in Ethiopia is increasing at high rate, linking the malt barely farmers to the malt chain will have significant impact in terms of improving the living standards of these farmers.

MSc national curriculum review workshop at Jimma University

by Getachew Nigussie – Jimma University

In 2012, the four requesting Universities, Jimma, Hawassa, Haramaya and Ambo, we working on the development of a new MSc course on value chain management. Based on a joint labour market assessment, the Universities developed a new course on value chain management. During a stakeholders meeting in December 2012, at Jimma University, the course curriculum was presented to stakeholders. With the feedback of the stakeholders, the new MSc course was introduced in the Spring of 2013.



Stakeholders from different organizations as Universities, NGO's, private companies and experts from Ministry of Education and Ministry of Agriculture

Collective Action and Risk Preferences of Smallholder Farmers in Ethiopia

Interview with Molla Alemayehu Yismaw - PhD student at Radboud University Nijmegen.

Why have you chosen this subject?

Risk is a benchmark that links livelihood, long-term investment and poverty. Risk makes farmers to be hesitant of adopting innovative activities that can improve their livelihood no matter how much such innovations are rewarding for farmers. The main question in the development arena of developing countries like Ethiopia is how risk makes farmers to be short sighted, poor and widens inequality between them. Thus, understanding the effect of risk on farmers behavior has paramount importance of devising appropriate strategy in agricultural development agenda of a country.

Do you like your studies?

Of course yes. It gives me additional knowledge that I do not have before. Knowing more means knowing different alternatives of accomplishing things and evaluating the pros and cons of each strategy and selecting the optimal one.

What are your experiences till now?

I have served as a lecturer at Haramaya University about 10 years in the departments of Agricultural Economics

and Economics. I taught different courses such as Microeconomics, Quantitative Methods in Economics and others.

Risk makes farmers to be hesitant of adopting innovative activities that can improve their livelihood no matter how much such innovations are rewarding for farmers

What do you want to achieve in Ethiopia?

Understanding the link between risk, social networks and livelihood strategies of farmers and how the interaction of these factors affect the agricultural development of a country in general and the welfare of farmers in particular.

What do you expect of your time of studying in The Netherlands?

I expect my time of study in the Netherlands will be very exciting, sharing experience from resource persons, learning new ways of accomplishing things and grasping styles of doing activities that can improve my efficiency and caliber.

Evaluation of dairy milk quality, udder health management practices and its implication

Interview with Bizunesh Mideksa Borena - PhD student at Gent University



In this study through questionnaire survey and laboratory analysis milk quality (nutritional, bacteriological and drug residue) check will be performed, evaluation of udder management practices and dairy milk value chain will also be part of my work.

Why have you chosen this subject?

Because milk is the most complete food but very scarce in most Ethiopian places.

Do you like your studies?

Sure, this is my area of interest and I will be even happier if the outcomes of my study are utilized by different actors to bring a change in the production of quality dairy milk.

What are your experiences till now?

Till now I could manage to establish the dairy milk quality check laboratory, and purchase much laboratory equipment, but I failed to purchase some important equipment that I need for my research here in Ethiopia. So I have requested the Q-point to purchase it for me from abroad. I also made a preliminary survey on the study site and got one review paper publication.

What do you want to achieve in Ethiopia?

I want see everyone get enough and quality dairy milk. All equipment's and the laboratory I established for my PhD study will be an inputs for me and even for other academic staffs and postgraduate

students because these equipment's and the laboratory will be used for further studies on milk quality and production. In the future after I complete my study also I will be teaching, conducting research and participate in community services, I hope/dream to play a critical role in achieving the goal "quality milk for everyone".

What do you expect of your time of studying in Belgium?

I expect my time of studying in Belgium will be very interesting. Because I already have once exposure to Gent, unfortunately that time it was for the first time when I was there so it was a bit difficult for me to adapt to very cold snow weather. So except for the weather condition, I really enjoyed my stay there.

I hope/dream to play a critical role in achieving the goal "quality milk for everyone".

Do you have some more interesting topics you want to share with us?

I have plenty of interesting information to share, so just to mention some of them:

1. The people are very disciplined and have good respect for the foreigners.
2. Everyone (the young as well as the elders) is busy with his/her own life. I mean social life is quite different from Ethiopia. I really appreciate how people are giving much value for time. I think there the saying "Time is Gold", is really true over there.

Partners Consortium



Support Integrated Development



Requesting Ethiopian Universities



Development cooperation programme



Netherlands Initiative for Capacity development in Higher Education - NICHE

This newsletter is created by

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