



Supporting the development of Commercial Agriculture  
Programs at four Ethiopian universities (ETH 019)

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## Welcome

By **Carel Jaspers - Q-Point BV**



Supporting the development of Commercial Agriculture Programmes at four

Ethiopian universities (NICHE/ETH/019), funding by Nuffic, is already in the fourth year of implementation and many objectives are already achieved. Till now around 250 local staff and teachers are trained on value chain management and a third group of students started the BSc course on value chain management. A lot of attention was paid to the linkage between universities and private sector (horticulture, floriculture and dairy) with follow up in May 2014 with focus on poultry. In this newsletter you will find information about the project, background, stories and experiences of students, teachers and (inter)national experts. I hope you enjoy reading.

Carel Jaspers, director Q-Point BV

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## Gender policy

By **Tigist Tarekegn Shiferaw – Directorate Gender diversity and education**



I was attending the workshop organized by NICHE-project that gives good insights to me for prepare a gender policy. At the end of the workshop the preparation of an action plan was done. After the workshop I told to the top management about the basic thematic area of discussion on the workshop as usual. Every time when our office delegate to participate any workshop we have an experience to report or debriefing to the management either on

written or orally. This create an awareness and common understanding about the need of the policy.

***We develop a well-organized gender policy that helps to fill the gap.***

The management assigns the committees those staff participate on the workshop. When the first draft was completed we

send it to all institute/college/school for comment. We collected the comment and incorporated the comment and defend the final version. The final version is completed and we are waiting the approval by the senate. We have a plan to arrange a meeting if possible a workshop that helps to create a common understanding and awareness to create a transparency.

The reaction of other people who are concerned:

- The reaction on both, top and bottom, was that they are accepting the need of the policy;
- On senate meeting the gender representation and the issues were put on the agenda for this special event;
- Some members have a knowledge gap on gender issues.

Result: We develop a well-organized gender policy that helps to fill the gap.

## Impression of linkage training flowers and dairy

By Alma Ruting - Q-Point BV



In September 2013 and January 2014, linkage trainings took place in Ethiopia. The goal of these linkage trainings is to create a better relationship between the local universities and the business community. The business community has a need for students with both theoretical and practical skills. Having a good relationship with the business community for internships, trips and research assignments is of great importance.



*Visiting Holland Dairy.*

During the training, attention is paid to create relationships with local businesses and also business trips are arranged.

***During these business visits, it is discussed how universities can serve local business and what the business community can do for the students' education.***



*Visiting Alfa fodder and dairy farm.*

During these business visits, it is discussed how universities can serve local business and what the business community can do for the students' education. The participants at the linking training have been classified in the three segment: floriculture, horticulture and livestock.



*Visit to Holland dairy farm: preparing cheese.*



*The attendees of the linkage training dairy.*

## Impression of linkage training fruit and vegetables

by Cok Duijvestijn – Q-Point BV



The purpose of the assignment is to upgrade the skills and knowledge of the participants for initiating and obtaining contact with private sector, which will

result in for example:

- Actual knowledge regarding developments in the market, which could have impact on the curriculum;
- Increasing number of internships for students in private sector;
- Research projects for private sector;
- Private sector involved in educations as guest lectures.



*Visit to Solagrow farm: the attendees of the linkage training fruit and vegetables.*



*Pim Marijs advisor of Genesis farm shows the tunnel greenhouse with seedlings of vegetable crops.*



*Genesis Farms is a local Company specialized in production of vegetable, flowers and plants.*



*Genesis farm produces also dairy products like butter, yoghurt and eggs.*



*Jan Prins, director of Jittu farm, gave a presentation about Jittu farm.*



*The packing area of Jittu farm.*



*The packing area of Jittu farm.*



*Jan van de Haar of Solagrow farm gave an explanation about development of the Ethiopian fruit and vegetables sector. Solagrow farm produces a lot of potatoes.*



*Jan van de Haar of Solagrow farm tells about the frequently collaboration with national and international students.*

## Comparative analysis of conduct and performance of coffee value chains in Southwest Ethiopia

A way forward to enhance competitiveness and income of small-holders

By Zekarias Shumeta – Phd student Gent



### What is the reason for choosing the subject?

Coffee as a crop has a significant impact on income and employment generation for millions of Ethiopians. In addition, it is a major export crop of the country contributing for 25-30% of the foreign exchange earnings. But smallholders who produce more than 90% of coffee for export are not beneficiary from the market chain and some even started to replace it with other cash crops such as "chat". Therefore, I really need to identify the underlying problems and causes as studies made in these issue in the past are scant.



*Coffee plant with cherries.*

### Experience in Belgium

I have stayed in Gent for six months in 2012 and now came back again for another six months of stay. During my stay in Gent, I took courses and was able to frame a full-fledged proposal with the close supervision of my professor who always show a fierce courage and inviting (friendly) approach to render her assistance in every aspect of my professional game.

***My study can be used as an input for planning interventions to safeguard the marginalized poor in the region.***

I have also attended different research meeting and presented my research design/proposal from which I learned a lot from the experience of professors and other peers. In addition to the academics, my stay in Belgium has also provided me a good opportunity to meet with people from different nationals, know their cultures and lifestyle.



*Coffee berries are drying in the sun.*

### Significance of the result of the study

My study will therefore definitely contribute for the better understanding of the functioning of the different coffee chains in Southwest Ethiopia and can be used as an input for planning interventions to safeguard the marginalized poor in the region.

## Value Chain Management training

By Sebastiaan Hetterschijt – Q-Point BV

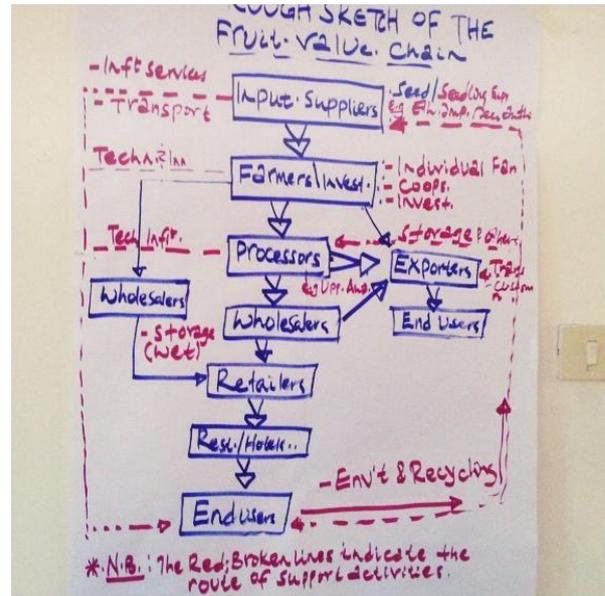


In February 2014 Sebastiaan Hetterschijt went to Ethiopia to give a Value Chain Management training. There were 70 participants from 8 universities.

The participants came from Ethiopia, but also from Mozambique, Rwanda and Kenya, from other NICHE projects.



*The participants were very enthusiastic. They found this training a good begin and now they had the information to start with the implementations at their own universities.*



*Example of the results of the workshop Fruit Value Chain.*



*The participants from Mozambique, Rwanda and Kenya and the trainers Woody Maijers and Sebastiaan Hetterschijt.*

## Successful BSc program Value Chain Management

By Getachew Nigussie – Jimma University



BSc program in Agribusiness and Value Chain Management was launched in seven Ethiopian universities namely: Jimma, Haramaya, Hawassa, Ambo, Wolita Sodo, Adama and Semera universities since September 2012. Well organized modules/teaching materials were prepared for each learning tasks/courses through collaboration of experts from northern partners, local consultants and Ethiopian universities. The modules were made available for the use of students at each university. The curriculum of this program is new in its modular approaches which developed based on ECTS. Ministries of education also use this curriculum as sample for the harmonization all other curriculums in Ethiopian universities. The first batch of the program will be expected to graduate

in June 2014 from Ambo, Jimma, Haramaya and Hawassa universities. Till now the students are very enthusiastic and also the private sector is very positive.

**The students are very enthusiastic and also the private sector is very positive.**

The curriculum of MSc program in Agribusiness and value chain management was developed in 2012. The first batch of MSc program was starting in March 2013 at Jimma University. In September 2013, Haramaya, Hawassa and Ambo universities were also begin the program. Due to the acceptance of the field of study this three universities begin the MSc program in all regular weekend and summer programs.

## Experiences with the linkage training flowers

By Yemisrach Getachew - Haramaya University, Ethiopia



I am Yemisrach Getachew, head of Agribusiness and Value chain management program, and Assistant coordinator of NICHE, Haramaya University, Ethiopia.

I participated in University-Industry (Floriculture sector) Linkage training during 26-29 August 2013. My university is planning to create and strengthen the involvement of the industry (Agribusinesses) in the teaching-learning process in different ways and to collaborate with them in conducting action research. Hence, the training was very relevant and timely. I am grateful for the training as it equipped me with the skill in how to create network with important stakeholders of the university and how to communicate with them. I came to learn

that both universities and industries' demand linkage so that both can benefit from competent graduate equipped with class room and practical knowledge, skill and attitude. Moreover, the industry is facing with lack of graduates with hands on practice, ready for job human power in the field and action research which calls for the linkage between the world of work and the universities. However, the linkage is loose. Then after, in collaboration with the Agribusiness Support Facility (ABSF) project and NICHE-019 partner universities, agribusiness companies host trainees and explain their philosophies and practical experiences on different issues of agribusiness and university instructors are now developing real cases to be used for class room case based learning.

## Partners Consortium



Support Integrated Development



## Requesting Ethiopian Universities



Ambo University



Haramaya University



Hawassa University



Jimma University



Bahir Dar University



ADAMA UNIVERSITY

WOLAITA SODO UNIVERSITY



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Wolaita Sodo University



Semera University

## Donor



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## Colophon

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