

Dear participants,

It is my pleasure to have you in this remarkable event that will contribute for the development of our population living in the lowlands. This event is in line with our newly formulated pastoral Development policy and strategy. Such events will help professionals and decision maker to share their experiences, discuss on the bottlenecks and opportunities in lowland areas whereby the community is suffering with flood during rainy season and drought during dry seasons.

In this event, you will share local and global experiences on dry valley rehabilitation for productive uses. The flood in the valley can be harvested and used for different purposes. Among those:-

- It is used to grow different varieties of fodder development that can be used both for livestock feed as well as soil water conservation purposes
- Crop production
- Water harvesting for human being and livestock
- Used for small scale irrigation
- Maintain the temperature of the area
- The water that percolate in the ground improve the water table content
- Improve the water discharge rate at the down stream
- For truism purpose
- etc

However, such interventions need community engagement to have their view, their practices and preferences, researchers have to contribute for which types of crops or fodders the areas are suitable to grow. In addition, such event will also help to raise awareness on the policy and strategy of the government towards pastoral area development.

In today's event there are many professional from universities, research institutes, sector offices, NGOs and others. So, the discussion will be multidimensional and help us to clearly understand and develop our resources in the lowlands.

Wishing you good discussion and declare the event is officially opened.