



## **Hybrid DREAM Event 29 September 2022**

### **Farming Systems for the Dry Valley Rehabilitation and Productive Use systems**

The lowland development policy of Ethiopia encourages farming as alternative development practice in the lowlands of the country. Though it has been practiced for ages farming in the lowlands faces many challenges ranging from soil fertility to extreme water problems (drought in one season and flood in the other). Besides the existing severe natural resource problems community members and experts living in relatively wet areas have attitudes that hinder the upscaling of farming practices in pastoral communities. They consider agriculture as highlander practices.

Various development actors tried numerous development models and research to improve the livelihoods of pastoralists and agropastoral communities in the lowlands of Ethiopia. Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of irrigation and lowlands in collaboration with development organizations, universities, and research institutes researched farming practices, including identifying suitable crop types, fodder production, and water management. In addition, the government of Ethiopia is declaring the success of cluster wheat farming in the country, including similar farming practices in the Somali region.

This hybrid event will focus on the following main topics. The current good farming practices, challenges, and proposed solutions will also be discussed.

- Suitable crop type selection based on the soil type, weather condition, and water/moisture availability
- Fodder production, introducing potential new fodder plants i.e Guar,
- Flood based farming

The objectives of this hybrid event are to join efforts and discuss on how to upscale the tested good farming practices for sustainable development in the lowlands. The event will also help to share experiences among the development organizations and other stakeholders in the country and to learn successful experiences from other countries.

This event takes place in the larger program for Coordination, Cooperation and Capacity Building for Lowland Development under DREAM. The most recent event was the DREAMII Conference from 15-18 March 2022 in Adama, that brought together 180 participants and galvanized coordination and cooperation around the lowland programs and worked on integrated capacity building. During this DREAMII event the mapping of development programs in the lowlands was started as well, on which this event builds.

### Final Program

Time (EAT)	Topic	Presenter
9:30	Welcoming note	Bureau of Agriculture Afar
9:40	Opening remarks	University Jigjiga
9:50	Policy directions on lowland development, with a focus on cropping	Ministry of Irrigation and Lowlands
10:00	Introduction of the Dry Valley Rehabilitation and Productive Use systems and the event	GIZ
10:10	Flood-based farming experiences from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sudan &amp; Eritrea</li> <li>• Eritrea (clip)</li> <li>• Pakistan, including Guar farming</li> </ul> Focus on most suitable crops & varieties	Flood-based farming experience of Pakistan and Sudan
10:50	Q&A and reflections	Participants
11:00	Farming practices: current good practices, challenges, extension service experiences, setting the scene for Ethiopia. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crop type selection</li> <li>• Flood based farming</li> </ul>	BoA agricultural extension department representatives from Afar and Somali regions and Research University
11:30	Q&A and reflections	Participants
11:45	Discussion, online and Semera/Jigjiga.	Online participants + 2 venues

12:15	Reflection on Group Discussion	
12:25	Way forward and closing	GIZ
12:30	End of event	

Moderator: Dr. Frank van Steenbergen

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