

Summary Proceedings Second DREAM-2 Pre-Conference

12 November 2020

‘Cooperation for pastoral and agro-pastoral communities in lowland areas’

The Second DREAM-2 Pre-Conference was organized by Ministry of Agriculture and GiZ-SDR on 12 November 2020. Whereas the first Pre-Conference discussed the coordination in lowland programs, the second Pre-Conference on 12 November focused on cooperation and operationalizing coordination. The hybrid Pre-Conference was attended by 34 people present in meetings in Jijjiga and Semara, and 45 participant on-line.

The Pre-Conference was opened by Dr. Elisabeth van den Akker of GiZ-SDR who invited all not to only discuss and reflect, but also to take serious action on how to install a strong and well-coordinated cooperation under the guidance of the Ethiopian government. In the Keynote Speech by HE Ato Fikri Regassa (State Minister of Agriculture) it was emphasized that the future does not happen, but that we all create it. Strong coordination and effective cooperation are among the underlying foundations to use the many opportunities in the lowland areas for the well-being of its population. HE State Minister would like to set up task forces which will elaborate an action plan, based on ideas brought up in the Pre-Conference, on how to reach coordinated cooperation. The implementation of such actions will be one of the topics of the 3rd webinar of, which will be held in two weeks' time 26th of November.

The Ministry of Peace presented the Pastoral Development Policy and Strategy, an overarching framework to “create a pastoralist that is resilient to man-made and natural disasters; that has an improved and sustainable livelihood basis, environment, and institutions; where democracy and good governance are ensured; and peaceful and accommodating development is realized.”

Next different main programs were presented. The Regional Government of Afar implements the GiZ-SDR program – focusing in improved participatory planning, land rehabilitation, rangeland management, livelihood development (including flood-based farming, water utilization and disaster risk management and competence development. The Afar Government is aligning it with other programs such as PSNP. The presentation of the Somali Government the LLRP program with the Ministry of Peace was highlighted that aims to enhance rangeland management, livelihood improvement and diversification, and improved market development to promote livelihood resilience. USAID has started the RiPA program concentrating on disaster risk management, improved alternative employment opportunities, improve livestock and crop productivity and market systems and nutrition, sanitation and hygiene. The European Union focuses on improved veterinary health in the HEARD program. KfW funds the SDR program aiming at conservation and more productive use of water, soil and pastureland, including the management of prosopis. Alliance2015 – a cooperation of eight NGOs – works on sustainable natural resource management, access and quality education for out of schoolgirls, and livestock insurance for pastoralist resilience building and integrated emergency response for improved IDP living conditions. All programs acknowledged the need for larger coordination to contribute to effectiveness and deeper impact.

In breakout groups what networks and platforms already exist for fostering coordination and cooperation? And their mandates? Which functioning cooperation models exist at the different implementation levels? What are the roles and responsibilities for efficient horizontal and vertical

coordination? What is needed for an efficient cooperation between stakeholders involved in the same region or on same topics?

In the break-out groups many existing coordination and cooperation structures were listed and reviewed. The main conclusion was that we need to strengthen coordination and cooperation on the basis of the existing structures. These structures need to function better and be more inclusive. At the same time there is need to connect all the different mechanisms. The recommendation from the Pre-Conference was to establish a team, representing donors community, the implementing partners, the government key institutions, like Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Peace and NGOs. This team should do the mapping of all the existing coordination platforms at a national as well as regional level, as well as Woreda level because that is actually where things are happening. At the higher-level different steering committees of different programs may be combined into a single steering unit. Specific task forces are helpful in figuring out specific issues and presenting them to the wider community. It is also important to provide resources for coordination: it does not happen automatically. Coordination requires commitment, leadership, accountability and dedicated effort. So as to coordinate each of these initiatives we need to plan together, we need to share the work, we need to build capacities together, we need to bring together our knowledge, skills, initiatives, technologies, ideas, to coordinate our own and other efforts and be more effective and efficient. This will actually give us the synergy. Right now, a large segment of the lowland population lives under the current poverty line: this should provoke us to do our best to cooperate.