

Closing Speech

H.E. Ato Sani Redi

Dear distinguished guests, dear representatives from the international organizations, development cooperation organizations, the regional government representatives, NGOs, ladies and gentlemen, all protocol observed.

It was a pleasure for me to follow your discussions during the 3rd Pre-conference of DREAM II - “Capacitation for pastoralist and agro-pastoralist communities in the lowland areas of Ethiopia”.

I highly appreciate the engagement of you all to bring forward this important initiative, with the involvement of the stakeholders that play such a key role in the lowlands.

I perceive a sense of high energy and willingness for active engagement, especially to mention the initiative group members, with all participants showing inspiring examples and potentials for scaling, and research organizations disclosing their abilities to also play a larger role in a coming task force.

As mentioned at the end of the 1st Preconference:

‘we need to have commitment – we owe it to the people of the lowlands.

Every milestone on the road will be rewarding, though it will take effort to realize it. And the Ministry of Agriculture does not stand alone

- especially to mention the initiative of USAID and the Ministry of Peace.

To achieve our targets along the road map outlined today, I would like to highlight important aspects for the next part of the process:

- A broad task force strengthening effective and inspiring coordination;
- A review of the different coordination arrangements narrowing the focus on what platforms are probably most effective to use.

Saying this I would ask you not to wait - start with exchanges between you and the different programmes in a common task force. Utilize the DREAM vehicle for linking between all actors at all levels.

The Ministry of Agriculture is prepared to commit itself to take over leading responsibilities, with the following guiding principles:

- Using the rules of good coordination;
- Treating all involved platforms and organizations as allies;
- Not going alone – we understand the world of others;
- Give and take – working within overall framework and goals;
- Get going quickly – we will be active in continuous DREAM meetings, heading for the next physical conference in Jijiga in September 2021;

- Giving the Task Force all support and wish them to very much succeed.

Let me finish with some thoughts on DREAM(s), which is the conferences title and inspiration at the same time.

How do you we now transfer DREAMs into practice?

To achieve a big dream you need to believe in yourself - you all proofed this by joining here. Furthermore, dreaming is nothing without action. If we have a look on our today's achievements, we are on a very good way to realize our 'dreams', and therefore I want to close with the following recommendations:

- Make it concrete and touchable
- Put a Time Frame to It
- Dream Big and Vividly
- Ignore the Naysayers
- Share Your Dream with Others.

I therefore wish the participants of the webinar to keep this spirit during the following DREAM and task force activities, on behalf of our ministry and the government of Ethiopia.