



DREAM Event

16 June 2021, 1000-1200 Ethiopian Time

Pre-Conference Event:

Strengthening Woreda Level Planning and Coordination in Lowland Development

Background

The aim of the DREAM Conferences and Pre-Conferences is to share / cooperate and coordinate in lowland development and to support the development of these special areas.

Following the Development of Resilience Empowering Alternative Measures in Arid and Semi-arid Lowlands of Ethiopia conference (DREAM- I) held in Afar, September 2019, three Pre-conferences were executed: (i) Coordination Pre-Conference held on 3rd November 2020, (ii) Co-operation Pre-Conference held on 12th November 2020 and (iii) Capacitation held on 26th November 2020 as well as a number of Learning Events: (1) Fodder and Rangeland Nexus on 9 March 2021 and (2) Educational Institutionalization on 28 April 2021 . These Pre-Events offered good opportunities to develop coalitions along the topic of strengthening drought resilience and provided a platform for bringing together different stakeholders such as federal and regional government partners, national and international NGOs, research institutions and international development partners active in the lowlands of Ethiopia. There is a large interest to share experiences and approaches on topics of common interest as well to strengthen more formal cooperation through the development of the Task Force, for which discussion is going on. It is planned that in the run-up to the large DREAM-II Conference (currently planned to be held in Jigjiga 20-24 September 2021), a number of pre-events will be organized on topics of common interest too support and set the base for the Task Force. The DREAM pre-events are meant to create connections between different organizations working in lowland development, share experience and developing common thinking on topic of interest.

The Pre-Event of 16 June on Strengthening Woreda Level Planning and Coordination in Lowland Development will also feed into this work, as there is a consensus that woreda-level coordination of lowland development is essential, whilst at the same time it is realized that there are many shortcoming. The Pre-Event will take stock of the current policies and arrangement for woreda-level planning and coordination and how on the ground this can be strengthened so as to practical first steps to overcome these.

Pre-conference

The new Pre-Conference is planned on 16 June 2021. Due to the upcoming elections it will be shorter duration (2 hours). It will more in particular discuss the planning and development coordination at woreda level. There is a consensus that for lowland development to succeed coordination at the woreda administrative level is highly necessary. This in principle can align the different development efforts with local/ community priorities, create coordination and added value between the program in different sectors and can help build up a longer term perspective and vision on the development of the woreda. There are however also weaknesses to be addressed (capacity, staff turn-over, local ownership, transparency) and threats that need to be overcome (budget control, lack of connect in regional/ federal programs, changing strategies).

The pre-event will take stock of the different developments at woreda level and the immediate and medium term opportunities to strengthen planning and coordination at woreda level and the facilitation to the woreda offices in this regard. The event will identify current bottlenecks in effective coordination and planning at woreda level, looking at local programming, financing, interlinkage with lower level government and communities, supervision capacity.

The event will be last two hours and will be ‘hybrid’: with participants attending on line or in meetings in Jigjiga and Semara. It will consist of four presentations of 10-15 minutes each and three parallel discussions. The results will be placed on the DREAM website and proceedings will be produced.

1000-1015	Opening, introduction to the program	Introduction to the program of the day, and expectation Moderator (Prof. Degefa)
1015-1030	Presentation 1	View from the field (Bureau of Economic Development Somali Region - Ahmed) – opportunities and current challenges in woreda level coordination and planning After the speaker, there can be room for a plenary discussion in Semera, which can be followed online. Quick response/ Q&A
1030-1045	Presentation 2	View from the field (Bureau of Economic Development Afar Region <i>tbc</i>) – opportunities and current challenges in woreda level coordination and planning If speaker is not confirmed in advance, we will have a plenary discussion in Afar, which can be followed online Quick response/ Q&A
1045-1055	Presentation 3	Strengthen participatory land use planning – experience from GIZ-SDR – Paul Roden Quick response/ Q&A
1055-1105	Presentation 4	Supporting woreda level planning – experience and plans from USAID & Mercy Corps – Dubale Admasu/Mahlet Seifu Quick response/ Q&A
1105-1135	Moderated discussion - Virtual - Jigjiga - Semara	What are immediate current challenges in woreda level planning? What is the situation with respect to coordination between different federal and regional programs; development of local plans; engagement of communities; control over budget and monitoring and supervision? What are the priorities to strengthen woreda level planning? What are next steps?
1135-1150	- Reporting back from the groups and discussion	
1150-1200	Wrapping up	