



DREAM II Conference

Joint Declaration of Commitment

Development of Resilience Empowering Alternative Measures for Ethiopian Lowlands

From the national DREAM II Conference, Adama, Ethiopia, March 15-17th 2022

Empowering pastoral and agro-pastoral communities through coordination, cooperation, and capacitation will significantly contribute to the socio-economic development of communities, improved livelihoods and strengthened resilience.

The urgency is now more than ever. The looming threat of drought is a reminder that we need to significantly and sincerely step up our efforts in coordination, cooperation and capacity development.

We, the participants of the DREAM II conference, support the vision of secure and prosperous communities in the lowlands, in control of their future, as captured among others in the Pastoral Development Policy and Strategy and the Ten Years Perspective Plan of our country.

Inspirational practices that demonstrate the common features of the lowlands with specific challenges, potentials and way forward have been discussed and shared from participants from Afar, Oromia, Somali, SNNP regions, federal government institutions and non-government organizations.

In the conference, we identified crucial issues that require due attention, such as strong, responsible and accountable coordinated mechanism, effective natural resource management, water, fodder/crop and market development, connecting drought relief and drought resilience. We acknowledge the crucial role of participation of local communities, of local ownership, decentralization of resource governance and strong roles of local government.

To create employment opportunities and to improve livelihoods, mutual increased cooperation and coordination of our programs and projects under leadership of the Government of Ethiopia is essential to achieve our vision. Our vision for lowland development; to use the specific potentials in natural resource management in the lowlands; to bring effective utilization of financial and human resources.

The conference has clearly shown that there is much to do – and much that we can implement immediately. We declare that we will continue through individual and institutional commitments to support strengthened cooperation, coordination, capacitation in a structured and effective way to empower lowland communities.

We resolve to work towards:

- Establishing a systemic and accountable coordination, that will harmonize the existing arrangements in lowland development and guide the process of increasing cooperation at different levels (communities, civil society, private sector, government and development partners);
- Increasing the direct participation of communities in our programs and projects to ensure the delivery of appropriate activities;
- Strengthening and enable the different levels of administration to coordinate development activities in their areas aligned with the priorities of the communities;
- Improving coordination of activities in Natural Resource Management, including the experiences of the Dry Valley Rehabilitation and Productive Use Approach and other programs and projects under implementation;
- Empowering pastoral communities through participation creating innovative opportunities and context specific approaches realizing the potential of the lowlands;
- Harmonizing activities in capacity development to come to a comprehensive integrated system of education and training, connecting TVETS, Universities, private sector, lowland development programs and others;

We as government, non-government, private sector and other development partners, but also as individuals are committed to the socio-economic empowerment of the pastoral and agro pastoral communities. We commit ourselves to give our best efforts, to utilize resources effectively, to coordinate and to cooperate, and to share our progress, learning experiences and outcomes.

We sincerely acknowledge, with gratitude, the full support of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Government of Ethiopia.

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