Dear ladies and gentlemen, dear representatives of distinguished organizations

I am pleased to deliver this keynote speech on today's Hybrid DREAM Event on capacity building. I am a long time advocate and a senior advisor on pastoralism and pastoral development with three decades plus experiences, and the founder and Executive Director of Pastoralist Forum Ethiopia (PFE). The Forum has worked tirelessly to bring positive changes in the lives and livelihoods of pastoralist through capacity building, promoting commercialization and entrepreneurship, research and technology transfer, networking and partnership, good governance and climate change adaptation. The objective of the Forum is to promote potentials of pastoralism and lowland dwellers at large – in particular the natural, social, and human capitals - for the sustainable and transformative pastoral development.

I am closely engaged in lowland development and have been a regular contributor to the GiZ supported DREAM events that aim to foster coordination and cooperation in lowland development. Capacity building is an integral part of lowland development. To develop the opportunities of the lowlands we need a new set of capacities – at many different levels, for women and men as well as youth. Think of skills to facilitate water and land management, skills in veterinary care, skills in agriculture, skills in construction. Without such skills it will not be possible to achieve what we want to achieve: to develop the lowland potential for the well-being and economic self-development of the lowland population. I was a team member of researchers developed *"Comprehensive Youth and Workforce Development Assessment in Rural Ethiopia" in June 2012.* The core findings from the pastoral setting were lack of skill to diversify their livelihoods. Thus, your intervention on capacity building is paramount in the lowlands of Ethiopia,

We have witnessed in the last 5 to 10 years how many young people in Africa feel demoted out of the system they used to support their livelihoods. This has fueled discontent and sometimes been at the root of many disturbances. I consulted the Afar youth, women, men, elders and government officials in 2018 during the study of *Poverty and Vulnerability in the Ethiopian Lowlands: Building a More Resilient Future.* The Research team has found out the capacity of TVETs were challenging and recommended overwhelming capacity building program for the collages as well as the potential students and families of the students.

In the past DREAM Conference (15 December) I have come to understand encouraging developments in three Agricultural Colleges in Afar and Somali Regions, i.e Gode, Gewani and Adadale. These colleges have started changing their education approach. They are giving standard courses not necessarily related to demand, but they provide courses against payment either of trainees or their sponsors. In this case they have invested in the quality and sustainability of their services and can increase their contribution in capacity building in the lowlands.

I encourage the distinguished participants of this hybrid conference to adopt this model and consider placing groups of students for demand-based training with the colleges.

If we are ambitious in lowland development we need to be ambitious in capacity development. Moreover we need to be creative, smart and put all pieces together. We must not have trainings as one-off-event instead we need to strengthen the educational systems. We have to make sure that the education system is strong enough and attractive. It must prepare young generations with the necessary technical skills, but also with the spirit to self organize and be entrepreneurial. Moreover we need to match the overall 'production' of graduates with the demand for talented young people in the development projects, in the private sector and also as self-employed business people.

To create this bigger picture, in my view, we need to work together. We need to connect the large ongoing lowland development programs of government and CSOs with the capacity building centre, making sure trainees of the right orientation graduate and find a good place in these programs – either as staff or as local entrepreneurs. We need to use the on-going programs as training grounds and springboard for our young people. We need to better understand what is required and how young people experience training and work. This is a palatable agenda for the DREAM event.

We need to develop a strong interface between demand and supply, between usefulness and talent. As the title of this event goes we need to promote skill development and employability for a new generation of pastoralist and agro-pastoralist youth. For the agenda for this learning event wants to discuss how we can better cooperate, better strategize, create a total picture on lowland development capacity building that is consistent and in which all our efforts fit together.

Myself I am in favour of creating a Capacity Building Consortium where all of this comes together and hope the DREAM event aligns us and helps us develop common goals. It is also imperative to closely work and grab opportunities of the newly established ministry-Ministry of Irrigation and Lowlands (MoILL) and regional pastoral bureaus, Furthermore; I advise the organizers to approach the Core Advisory Team (CAT) and Pastoral Multi-actors initiative under the MoILL.

I wish you a productive DREAM session!

Thank You!!

Tezera Getahun

Executive Director

Pastoralist Forum Ethiopia (PFE)

02 Feb 2022

Addis Ababa

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Refrence

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3. DREAM Conferences info website