



DREAM II Conference

Adama, Ethiopia

15 -18 March 2022

Coordination, Cooperatin and Capacitation in Lowland
Development: Addressing the Challenges

Summary – Day One

16/03/2022

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Opening

- The programme started with prayers and blessings
 - Particularly mentioning the current severe drought conditions in the lowland areas

DREAM I and Pre-events

- introduction to the dream II conference and expectations
- the outcome of DREAM I conference and pre-events
 - addressing the challenges and potentials of lowland development
 - commitment to work together
 - establishment of the 6 working groups with action plans
 - joint declaration signed by several organizations
- challenges faced after DREAM I
 - Covid 19, conflict
- DREAM II did not take place as initially planned and the action plans not implemented
- However, effective subsequent virtual/hybrid events

Challenges of lowland development

- Multifaceted challenges in the lowland areas
 - Climate variability
 - Recurring droughts
 - Land degradation
 - Floods
 - Population growth
 - Unemployment
 - Conflicts
- Uncertain futures due to global and local situation
 - energy crises,
 - Rising food prices

Opportunities for lowland development

- There are prospects and potentials in the lowland areas
- Mostly we talk the limitations, not the resource potentials
- Huge and untapped resources
 - landmass of lowland area covers about 65% of Ethiopia
 - large tract of cultivable land with fertile soil
 - vast rangeland and livestock population
 - good potential of water resources (rivers, groundwater, flood water)
 - **people** with all its systems,
- Large number of development partners working in the lowland areas
- Huge finance mobilized by government and development partners
- Limitation: All working without alignment, focusing on small challenges, not holistic approach

Way Ahead

- Developing and transforming lowland areas: great caution between the existing livelihood vs. transformation
- Develop resilience – and pastoralism is resilience
- Overcome challenges and make use of opportunities, holistic approach
- Effective coordination, cooperation and capacity development
- DREAM is for this and relevant for policy and strategy formulation
- Work together, create new systems
- Comprehensive development plan for the lowland development areas
- Who should be on the driving seat: ownership is critical (government, task forec?)

Way ahead: participants

- empowering the people
- capacity building, particularly developing human mind and human resources.
- making use of indigenous knowledge that is capable of bringing fundamental change in the lowland areas.
- creating enabling environment (institutional set up)
- not limiting mobility of pastoralists, while thinking about development and transformation
- land tenure system of pastoralists requires great caution
 - mostly we focus on development, not on land administration aspect
 - you can give away as a gift domestic animals, but not land
- ensuring women's participation and empowerment

Afternoon Session

DREAM I & Afterwards

- More in detail on DREAM I, action plans and the six themes
- Only very few activities were implemented from the action plan
- The rest have been not materialized due to several reasons

➤ **Lesson from DREAM I and recommendations for next**

- questions by participants on:
 - Participatory planning approach
 - Prosopis issues

Gully development around Jigjiga area

- Zooming into the challenges of gully development around Jigjiga
- already destroying infrastructures and grazing & farm lands
- posing risks on the Jigjiga town itself
- Some efforts to mitigate, but fragmented and weak coordination
- Promote practical problem solving cooperation and combine available resources
- **the state minister's commitment to visit the area and take appropriate action**
- **area for immediate and practical cooperation**

Coordination and Cooperation

- Defintions
- How it works or not in Ethiopian context
- How can we make it work and effective
- **Group exercise: economic and political interest**
 - ✓ Improving the livelihood of pastoral and agropastoral communities
 - ✓ Ensuring peace and stability
 - ✓ Develop resilience

Break out session: what organizations can do better?

- Skilled manpower and dedicated professionals
- Coordination taskforce
- Organizational structure that functions well
- More commitment and accountability
- identify common interests, categorize accordingly
- Improved communication mechanism
- Comprehensive development plan, common goal, sectorial harmonization, demarcate roles and responsibilities
- Inventory of ongoing plans and activities

Breakout Session: what organizations can do better?

- Change perception on pastoral livelihood, good knowledge about pastoralism, accepting pastoralism as resilience system
- Specific needs of the lowland community should be taken into account
- M&E systems, platforms, forums at all levels
- Time management
- Adequate resource allocation (finance, human, material)
- Clear goal and leadership
- **Comprehensive plan and synchronization**

Breakout sessions: external support?

- Funding line for coordination and cooperation, knowledge and skill
 - More training on coordination and cooperation, capacity building
 - Policy and Guidelines
 - Support for community collective actions
 - Skilled masons to establish cooperatives, technical support
 - Specific needs of the lowland community should be taken into account (right need)
 - Support should be based on partnership mode
- **technical, financial and capacity building support**