



PASTORALIST FORUM ETHIOPIA (PFE)
AND
MINISTRY OF FEDERAL AFFAIRS

10th Ethiopian Pastoralist Day (EPD) Celebration
Report

(January 26 – 27, 2008, Adama/Nathret)

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Executive Summary

The Ethiopian Pastoralists Day (EPD) is a multifaceted advocacy instrument and a common platform for the pastoralists and their partners to converge their collective voice to better heard, to enhance and build pastoral solidarity, and to share cumulated experiences, cultures, living customs and environment. Since its first commemoration on 25th Jan 1999, EPD has been celebrated every year using different venues.

PFE jointly with the Ministry of Federal Affairs (MoFA), and the Pastoralist Affairs Standing Committee (PASC) in the EFDR House of Peoples' Representatives organized the 10th EPD celebration on 26th January 2008 in the *Geda* Assembly Hall in Adama, Oromia Region. The overall objectives of the 10th EPD were to consolidate encouraging achievements obtained in pastoral development and in recognition of the pastoralists; and to influence the policy-makers and all pastoral actors to renew their commitment. That is the reason why the supreme organizing committee selected the theme of the day to be *More Commitment for Good Governance and Sustainable Pastoral Development in the New Ethiopian Millennium*.

The celebrants of the 10th EPD were more than 1038 representing pastoralist communities from all pastoral regions, senior officials from federal and regional governments, donor communities, NGOs, academic and research institutions, private sector representatives, etc.

The celebration of the 10th EPD was undertaken successfully as per the schedule and celebration modalities. All planned activities of the event were delivered effectively and efficiently. The celebration of the 10th EPD was well organized and more colorful than similar events in the past years; and able to attract the attention of Gos, NGOs, donors and policy makers. The contributions of various stakeholders in organizing the celebration, especially the role of Ministry of Federal Affairs, Pastoralist Forum Ethiopia, Oromia regional Government (Oromia Pastoral Area Development Commission) and the pastoral regional governments and NGOs working in pastoral regions, were immense.

The following bullet points summarize the key advocacy processes and achievements obtained in the 10th EPD

- **The pastoral advocacy works to realize the right for development for the pastoralists, recognition of pastoralism as way of life and source of livelihood, have been moved into a new chapter**
 - ✓ *PFE and partners systematically lobbied for higher decision makers' to officiate the event and participate in the celebration; and played a central role in planning and execution of the event. This includes drafting a project proposal, raising fund, strategizing and framing the activities of the event, monitoring, etc*
 - ✓ *The key message of the Day was "More Commitment for Good Governance and Sustainable Pastoral Development in the New Ethiopian Millennium". The*

message was conveyed to the policy makers and public through various tools. The Day was celebrated magnificently in Afar, Somali, SNNP, Oromia, and Gambella Regional States. The decentralized mode of celebration has raised the plight of the pastoralists at the regional level and had incremental value to address voice poverty at the national level

- ✓ *H.E Prime Minister Meles Zenawi officiate the opening ceremony while members of his cabinet were accompanying him. In his opening speech the PM declared the resilience of Ethiopia in the new millennium would not be possible without participation of pastoralists*
- ✓ *Elder pastoralist from Oromia, Afar, Somali and SNNP regions made blessings and forwarded a key message of the day. The elder pastoralist has emphasized the pastoral actors should renew their commitment to work with the pastoralist in the new millennium*
- ✓ *The PM awarded more than 126 hero pastoralists and partners with medals and certificates*
- ✓ *Pastoralists and partners held panel discussion on key pastoral issues and passed a ten - point resolution. Pastoralists and decision-makers and stakeholders came together, discussed and debated on key pastoral issues. That is, the cumulated advocacy result has put pressure on the decision-makers and the public to recognize pastoralism as a viable source of livelihood and a way of life*
- **The status of pastoral development in the country known and importance of pastoralists' integration into national socio-economy emphasized**
 - ✓ *The Minister of MoFA and four officials from four pastoral regions (Somali, Afar, Oromia, and SNNP regions) have presented progress reports and lesson learnt vis-à-vis the resolutions passed in the 9th EPD. In gross, the reports revealed the slight progress in social development as compared to the previous years*
- **Pastoral solidarity through promotion of multiculturalism/cultural pluralism under the pastoral context enhanced**
 - ✓ *Pastoralists coming from different areas have showed their cultural songs, costumes, their living environment, etc. This can be taken as an ideal stage that the pastoralists strengthen their solidarity to voice together.*
- **Public Domain reached out and the profile of pastoralists and pastoralism raised in the country. The overall process and implementation of the 10th EPD has got wider media coverage before, during and after the actual date of celebration.**
 - ✓ *Ethiopian Radio and Ethiopian television (ETV) have developed documentary film on success stories of socio economic development effort in pastoral regions (Afar, Somali, Oromia and SNNP) and broadcasted using various languages*
 - ✓ *H. E Ato Siraj Fegessa, Minister of MoFA, has delivered press conference for journalists of different media in the country*
 - ✓ *MoFA higher officials and PFE executive directors delivered several interview in Radio*

and on Television as well as Newspapers to address the public on the progress and objective of the EPD

- ✓ *There was series of ETV NEWS SPOTS on ETV promoting the DAY*
- ✓ ETV and Radio were transmitting the ceremony of the event live in different languages, while the print media gave good coverage
- ✓ A program on the process and activities achieved during the event was prepared and transmitted by ETV and Ethiopian Radio using different languages
- ✓ *Promotional materials reflecting the key message of the event prepared and distributed: Four big Digital Billboards and eleven big banners were posted in Addis Ababa and Adama; 45 regional government flags prepared and posted in different places of Adama town; 2000 copies of magazine, 2000 copies of brochures, 1500 copies posters, 1500 T-Shirts, and 2000 Capes depicting key issues of 10th EPD prepared and distributed to GOs and NGOs, regions, donors and other pastoral friends*
- ✓ *Representatives' of Civil Society Organizations and other non-state actors mobilized to participate in the event*
- ✓ *PFE has distributed 700 copies Brochure and 50 copies of posters depicting Camel Diseases and Livestock marketing*
- **The whole process and outcomes of the 10th EPD documented and disseminated: Video, photographs, and a magazine on the event prepared and reached users**
 - ✓ *The whole process of celebrating the event was photographed and documented through video cassette.*
 - ✓ *The report on the whole process and achievements prepared and ready for circulation*
 - ✓ *All organizers accompanied by the Minister and State Minister of MoFA gathered together to evaluate the event and discuss the way forward.*
 - ✓ *The resolutions of the 10th EPD were compiled and ready to be circulated by MoFA*

1 Background

Ethiopia is considered pastoral populous country in the globe. There are 12-15 million pastoralists residing in more than 130 Woredas of the country. Since recent years, pastoralists and pastoralism have received attention of many in the development process and in culmination of the age-old marginalization.

The Ethiopian Pastoralist Day (EPD), which is marked on Tir 17 (25th or 26 January) and commemorated annually, is an important event that brings together almost all pastoral actors in the country for common goal - sustainable pastoral development and promoting good governance.

EPD is a unique and a multifaceted advocacy instrument for the pastoralists and partners. It raises the pastoral profile and to enhance their solidarity to influence decision makers in order to give attention to pastoralists and pastoralism. Since its inception in 1999 in Filtu area¹, EPD has been celebrated consecutively for the last 9 years. PCAE had managed and supported overall activities of the first three celebrations. Since 2002, in order to take the EPD into new horizons and heights the pastoral communities, Pastoralist Forum Ethiopia (PFE), a local umbrella NGO, the Government (Ministry of Federal Affairs & regional governments), and House of Peoples' Representatives Pastoral Affairs Standing Committee have jointly organized and facilitated the event at different avenues. That is, the 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, and 9th EPDs in the National Regional States of the Afar, the SNNP, the Oromia, in the Dire Dawa City Government, and Addis Ababa, respectively. The change in perception towards pastoralism and the space created as a result of the EPD has an incremental value in recognition of pastoralists and pastoralism, and enhancing sustainable pastoral development. The pastoral issues have been flagged up at the national development arena. In the 8th EPD celebrated in Addis Ababa in 2006, our Prime Minister has assured that the Government would continue supporting the pastoral livelihoods. The Government recognizing and officially endorsing the EPD as a national day can witness the political will of the Government to support pastoralism.

Although the outcomes of the subsequent deliberations are encouraging, there is still an up hill struggle ahead of the pastoralists and partners/stakeholders to address the age-old pastoral issues. For instance, absence of land use policy in the context of pastoral livelihoods, mechanism to use livestock as collateral to get loan from bank, and micro finance institution are among few. Therefore, it was imperative to commemorate the 10th EPD in limelight of all pastoral actors renew their commitment and converge their efforts to take extra steps to support pastoral livelihood in the New Ethiopian Millennium.

As per the delegation of the Ethiopian pastoralists during the 9th EPD, the Pastoralist Affairs Standing Committee (PASC) in the FDRE House of Peoples' Representatives, Ministry of Federal Affairs (MoFA), and Pastoralist Forum Ethiopia (PFE) with full support of the Oromia regional government have jointly organized the 10th EPD from January 25 – 26, 2008. The event was celebrated in Nazereth/Adama in **GALMA ABA GEDA CONFERENCE HALL**. **The motto of the day is “More Commitment for Good Governance and Sustainable Pastoralist Development in the New Ethiopian Millennium”.**

¹ Following to the Somali and Borena elder pastoralists recommendation of the EPD, Pastoralist Concern Association Ethiopia (PCAE), a local NGO, organized the first EPD in 1999 in Filtu Town in Liben Zone of the Somali Regional State.

The overall objectives of the 10th EPD were to consolidate encouraging achievements obtained in pastoral development and in recognition of the pastoralists; and to influence the policy-makers and all pastoral actors to renew their commitment. This was the reason for selecting the theme of the day to be “***More Commitment for Good Governance and Sustainable Pastoral Development in the New Ethiopian Millennium***”.

The event was attended by more than 1038 celebrants drawn from representatives of pastoralist of all pastoral regions (appx. 50% of the total), various levels government institutions, donor community, NGOs/ CSOs, researchers and academics, private sector, journalists, and guests from Neighbouring countries.

This report describes the overall processes, contents, and outcomes of the celebration. The report is organized in to seven major parts, the first three parts deal with the back ground information, objectives and expected outcomes. The fourth part described the setting and organization of the event. Part five summarize the major achievements of the celebration. Part – six and part - seven present major lesson and Appendixes respectively.

2 Goal and Objective

The overall objectives of the 10th EPD are to consolidate encouraging achievements obtained so far in pastoral development and recognition of pastoralists; to enhance pastoral solidarity and amplifying pastoralists’ voice to be heard; and, to influence policy makers and all pastoral actors to renew their commitment for the overarching goal- *enhancing good governance and sustainable pastoralist development in the New Ethiopian Millennium*.

The specific objectives are to:

- Create a stage for the decision makers and other actors to present/reflect on what have been done so far vis-à-vis the resolutions passed during the 9th EPD and before;
- Discuss and debate on selected pastoral related policy/strategy/programs developed and implemented so far in the country to narrow development gaps between the nation and the pastoral regions;
- Enhance pastoral solidarity through promotion of *multiculturalism/cultural pluralism* under the pastoral context;
- Keep momentum of realization of *right for development* enshrined in our Constitution and ensure pastoralists’ integration into the national socio-economy
- Ensuring sustainability of pastoralism through provision of special awards to successful pastoralists and partners;
- Leverage direction of pastoral development in the new Ethiopian Millennium; and,
- Document and disseminate the process and resolutions of the Day.

3 Expected Result/Output

- **OUTCOME ONE: Momentum of pastoral advocacy on realizing right for development enshrined in our Constitution Kept on and pastoralists’ integration in national socio-economy ensured**

✓ *The Head of the State/the Government officiate the EPD and passes key message*

ensuring Government's renewed to support pastoral livelihoods

- ✓ *Blessings and messages from all representatives of pastoralists from pastoral regions pass during the opening ceremony*
 - ✓ *Pastoralists hold panel discussion and pass resolutions*
 - ✓ *Pastoralists and partners awarded with various awards*
 - ✓ *The Head of State/Government makes a special reception for the pastoralists??*
- **OUTCOME TWO: The status of pastoral development in the country known and gaps discussed**
 - ✓ *Senior official from MOFA presents the achievement attained so far on pastoral development by the Government vis-à-vis the resolutions passed during the 9th EPD and before*
 - ✓ *Representatives from each pastoral regions present regional best lessons*
 - ✓ *Research institutions deliberate their best findings*
 - **OUTCOME THREE: pastoral solidarity through promotion of multiculturalism/ cultural pluralism under the pastoral context enhanced: pastoralists coming from different area show their culture through songs, shows, their living environment, etc**
 - **OUTCOME FOUR: The Public Domain reached out and the profile of pastoralists and pastoralism raised**
 - ✓ *The federal and regional senior Officials give statements through media ahead, during, and after the event.*
 - ✓ *The members of the main committee, two participants each from MoFA, PASC, and PFE, address the public through ETV and other media two weeks ahead of the event*
 - ✓ *Preparation of promotional materials reflecting the key message of the event prepared: 2000 copies of Newsletter in English/Amharic, four Billboards, 1500 T-Shirts and 1500 Capes prepared and distributed*
 - ✓ *ETV and Radio transmit ceremony of the event live for half-a-day, while the print media will give good coverage*
 - **OUTCOME FIVE: The whole process and outcomes of the 10th EPD documented and disseminated: Video, photographs, and a magazine on the event prepared and reach users**

4 The settings)

Since the Federal government has declared EPD as a national day, the 10th EPD was celebrated both at Federal and the Regional levels. At the Federal level, the EPD was commemorated representing the whole country, while the regional level celebration treats regional affairs. **The federal level celebration was held in Nazereth / Adama in GALMA ABA GEDA CONFERENCE HALL on Saturday, 26th Jan. to Sunday, 27th Jan 2008. The motto of the day was “More Commitment for Good Governance and Sustainable Pastoralist Development in the New Ethiopian Millennium.”**

The 10th EPD celebration encompasses different sessions. These were Press conference; opening ceremony; presentation of report and panel discussion for pastoral actors; pastoralist award; symposium; experience sharing among regions; and drawing the resolution of the day.

5 Achievements

5.1 Preparation and promotion

a. Organizing committee

The overall management of organizing the 10th EPD (planning, preparation, coordination) was done by organizing a supreme committee of 9 members supported by sub-committees. Under the auspicious of the main committee there were three sub-committees established having specific roles and responsibilities. Terms of Reference was developed for both supreme and sub committee to guide and monitor their day to day activities. The committee had regular meeting to monitor the progress of the preparation tasks.

The main committee is composed of 9 persons drawn from four institutions - under MOFA, State Minister (Chairperson), Heads of the Afar and the Somali Coordination Offices (members), PCDP (member), Head of Public Relation (member), of Pastoral Affairs Standing Committee in the House of Peoples' Representative (member), Director of Pastoralist Forum Ethiopia/PFE (General Secretary), a representative from Ministry of Information (member), and a representative from National Millennium Secretariat (member). The main committee had the following responsibilities:

- The main committee was the leading organ in designing, directing and monitoring the overall activities of the 10th EPD
- Establish sub-committees, review and approve action plans, give directions and undertake M&E
- Decide on motto and venue of the event, type and number of participants, and dispatches the letter of invitation on time
- Prepare a consolidated report based on the resolutions made in the 9th EPD
- Raise fund and decide on budgetary matters
- Facilitate for enough coverage of media
- Decide on all additional activities deem necessary for the good of the event

b. Celebration modality

As per the decision of the federal and regional governments, the 10th EPD was celebrated both at federal and regional level. The day was magnificently celebrated in Afar, Somali, SNNP, Oromia, and Gambella Regional States. The decentralized mode of celebration has raised the plight of the pastoralists at the regional level and had incremental value to address voice poverty at the national level.

The key message of the Day was “More Commitment for Good Governance and Sustainable Pastoral Development in the New Ethiopian Millennium”. The message was conveyed to the policy makers and public through various tools.

c. Proposal writing and fund raising

A draft project proposal on celebrating the 10th EPD was prepared by Pastoralist Forum Ethiopia, Commented, enriched and approved by the Supreme organizing committee led by the state minister, H.E. Ato Mearegu Hailemariam. The total cost of celebrating the event was estimated as 2,005,834 ETB. Out of the total, ETB 300,000 was contributed by Pastoralist Forum Ethiopia (covered from Japan Social Development Fund), ETB 231,320 covered by Oromia Regional government where as the rest was covered from PCDP and government contribution.

d. Lobbying higher decision makers

The supreme organizing committee has systematically lobbied for higher decision makers’ to officiate the event and participate in the celebration. Accordingly higher decision makers including H.E Prime minister Meles Zenawi and his cabinet attended the event.

e. Participant selection and invitation

The supreme organizing committee identified/decided the list and the total number of the participants and forwarded it to the documentation and public relation sub committee for facilitating the invitation 21 days before the actual date of the event. Accordingly the sub committee has facilitated the distribution of invitation letter for most of the participants through post office, fax and through all other possible means. The invitation letter for NGOs was distributed through Pastoralist Forum Ethiopia. PFE member organizations in all pastoral regions have supported in organizing regional level celebrations, in mobilization of pastoral community representatives and facilitated invitation of other participants. The total number of the federal level 10th EPD participants were more than 1038 (including facilitators, Musical bands, Awardees pastoralists and journalists) drawn from representatives of pastoralist of all pastoral regions (appx. 50% of the total), various levels government institutions, donor community, NGOs/ CSOs, researchers and academics, private sector, journalists, and guests from Neighbouring countries.

f. Preparation and distribution of promotion materials

Promotional materials reflecting the existing situations of Ethiopian pastoralists and key message of the event were prepared, printed in adequate copy, and distributed to the celebrants of the day. The preparation of the promotional materials was done by “*documentation and public relation sub committee*” which was organized by the supreme committee. The following is the major achievements made with regard to promotional materials:

- Four big Digital Billboards prepared and posted in key public gathering areas in Addis

Ababa and Adama towns. One bill board was posted at *Meskel Square* in Addis Ababa, two were posted in two key areas of Adama town and one posted at the gate of **GALMA ABA GEDA CONFERENCE HALL in Adama.**

- 2000 copies of magazine and 2000 copies of brochures reflecting existing situation of Ethiopian pastoralists and key issues of EPD were prepared, printed and distributed to the participants
- Eleven big Banners were prepared and posted in different places in Adama town and in the compounds of **GALMA ABA GEDA CONFERENCE HALL**
- 1500 T-Shirts and 2000 Capes prepared and distributed to the celebrants of the day
- 1500 posters depicting key issues of 10th EPD prepared and distributed to GOs and NGOs, regions, donors and other pastoral friends. Some of the posters were posted in different places in Adama town and in the compounds of **GALMA ABA GEDA CONFERENCE HALL**
- 45 regional government flags prepared and posted in different places of Adama town
- PFE has distributed 700 copies Brochure on EPD (English version) and 50 copies of posters depicting Camel Diseases and Livestock marketing

g. Media coverage

The overall process and implementation of the 10th EPD has got wider media coverage before, during and after the actual date of celebration. Media related activities were coordinated and facilitated by the documentation and public relation sub committee of which one of its member was represented from ministry of information. The sub committee has prepared detail action plan to guide its work. The following are the major achievements with regard to media activities:

Before the event

- Ethiopian Radio and Ethiopian television (ETV) have developed documentary film on success stories of socio economic development effort in pastoral regions (Afar, Somali, Oromia and SNNP) and broadcasted using various languages.
- H. E Ato Siraj Fegessa, Minster of MoFA, has delivered press conference for journalists of different media in the country
- MoFA higher officials and PFE executive directors delivered several interview in Radio and on Television as well as Newspapers to address the public on the progress and objective of the EPD
- There was series of ETV NEWS Spots on ETV promoting the DAY

During the event (January 26, 2008)

- ETV and Radio were transmitting the ceremony of the event live in different languages, while the print media gave good coverage

After the event

- A program on the process and activities achieved during the event was prepared and transmitted by ETV and Ethiopian Radio using different languages.

5.2 Celebrating the event

5.2.1 Opening

a. Opening Speech by H.E state minister Mearegu Haile mariam

The program was started on January 25, 2008 at 9:00 am in the morning through brief introduction of the history and objectives of EPD in general and 10th EPD in particular; and tentative programs of the 10th EPD celebration by H.E state Minister Mearegu Haile mariam, Ministry of federal Affairs. That was followed by invitation of Pastoral elders by Aba Dulla Gemedra, President of Oromia regional state to deliver traditional blessing

b. Elders blessing

As per the invitation of Aba Dulla Gemedra, President of Oromia regional state, Elder pastoralist from Oromia, Afar, Somali and SNNP region made blessings one after another in their own language and forwarded a key message of the day. The elder pastoralists have emphasized that the pastoral actors should renew their commitment to work with the pastoralist in the new millennium

c. Well come speech and candle light by H.E Prime minister Meles Zenawi

Right after the ceremony of traditional blessing, Aba Dulla Gemedra, President of Oromia regional state, has invited H.E Prime Minister Melese zenawi to officially open the celebration. Accordingly, the prime minister of FDRE, being accompanied by his cabinet, had officially opened the ceremony of the 10th EPD. In his opening speech, the PM declared that the **resilience of Ethiopia in the new millennium would not be possible without participation of pastoralists**. The PM has lighted candles to officially declare the opening of the 10th EPD ceremony.

d. Presentation of Cultural show/Music

Cultural and traditional music teams from Somali, Afar, SNNP and Oromya regional states have showed their *cultural songs, costumes, their living environment, etc* in their own languages one after another. The music teams from all regions wear their traditional wear with some of them having painted their body with different colors (SNNP). This can be taken as an ideal stage that the pastoralists strengthen their solidarity to voice together.

5.2.2 Presentation of Government report

The Minister of MoFA and four officials from four pastoral regions (Somali, Afar, Oromia, and SNNP regions) have presented progress reports and lesson learnt vis-à-vis the resolutions passed in the 9th EPD. In gross, the reports revealed the slight progress in social development as compared to the previous years.

Presentation of Minister of Federal Affairs Ministry

The Minister of Federal Affairs Ministry, Mr. Siraj Fegessa, has presented detail reports on the responses the Ethiopian government for the resolution passed during the 9th EPDs. During his speech, the Minister has pointed out that in the past one year a remarkable progress has been achieved in socio economic development of pastoral region through coordinated effort of the pastoral regional governments, federal government and neighboring regional state. The

following were the major plans and achievements made in pastoral regions since celebrating the 9th EPD:

- In Afar and Somali regions various capacity building program focusing on training, consultancy service and material procurement have been under implementation with a total estimated cost of 45.6 million ETB.
- The implementation of Civil Service and woreda decentralization program was assessed in pastoral context. Major problems identified, to address the problem, experience from other region shared and basic capacity building training conducted
- As to realize the full fledged woreda decentralization in pastoral regions, preparation draft good governance package has been finalized and ready for discussion
- With regard to the issues of pastoral land use and administration, in Oromia region land suitability study has been underway in most of the pastoral areas. In Afar region land use and administration policy has been developed and approved by the regional government
- Pastoral extension package has been developed in pastoral context and pastoralist have been provided with action oriented technical support
- As to improve the production and productivity of livestock sector, establishment of pasture seed duplication centers, implementation various pasture improvement action and demonstration on improved apiculture are underway
- In the year 1999/2000 EC, vaccination was given for more than 7 million livestock in all the pastoral regions
- In Oromia region pastoral vocational college has been established and under preparation to start the yraining. One regional animal laboratory has been built at central places.
- National livestock marketing information system has been established. This has been started as a pilot in Afar (Aysaita, chifra and Warer) and Somali (Gode, Chereti and Jijiga)
- The provision of social and economic services were remarkably improved in pastoral areas (Water, road ,Alternative education, Irrigation development, Animal and human health, Telecommunication, electricity, post office)

5.2.3 Hero pastoralists award ceremony

a. Pastoralist award

The PM awarded 126 hero pastoralists (30 from Afar, 52 from Somali,,32 from oromia, and 11 from SNNP regions) with medals and certificates. In addition to these more than 24 model kebeles & Woredas, Development agents, civic Associations and pastoral cooperatives were awarded with medals and certificates.

According to the briefing of head of Oromia Millennium Office, the awardees were selected from their community based on their remarkable achievement in improving their life and livelihood through own individual efforts and government extension support. The following were the major criteria are used to select the awardees:

- Those pastoralists who were able to accumulate higher number of livestock wealth through there own individual effort and which can be taken as exemplary pastoralist for others.
- Those who easily adopt, apply and transfer to others modern livestock production extension methods, livestock market information, and best practices

- Those who used to sale their livestock a head of drought and change in to money before they lose their asset because of drought
- Those pastoralists who earn additional income from crop cultivation and scored tangible improvement their living
- Those who started settling around river banks, practice small scale irrigation (produce crop, vegetables and fruits) and transformed to permanent settler

b. Message of H.E Prime Minister Meles zenawi

H.E Prime Minister Meles Zenawi, after awarding hero pastoralists, made short speech and delivered key messages to the participants. In his speech, the PM pointed out that for the last 10 years EPD being celebrated annually helped significantly the Ethiopian pastoralists, who were marginalized for century, to raise their voice and attract the attention of policy makers. The celebration of the 10th EPD has got special peculiarities from the past similar events in that hero pastoralists were awarded in response of their remarkable achievement in their occupation. The PM disclosed that the Ethiopian government has adequately understood the age old problems of Ethiopian pastoralist and their marginalization in all aspects. As to narrow the development gap between the pastoral region and other agrarian regions, the Ethiopian government has designed special program for pastoralists and has been implementing since some years back. The PM has also emphasized that the government is giving special privileges for the pastoralist taking in to account their marginalization:

- ✓ The federal government has given due emphasis in expanding basic socioeconomic infrastructure such as road, power and telecommunication services in pastoral regions
- ✓ The federal government is strongly working to build the capacity of the pastoral region through assigning technical staff and full time consultant
- ✓ The pastoral regions were also benefited from technical support from relatively better neighboring region in the country.

As the result of this coordinated effort the socio economic development status of the pastoral communities has been improving from time to time. The PM has added that the efforts of pastoral communities in improving live stock production and their orientation towards market is encouraging. The pastoral communities have also started to diversify their livelihood including small scale agriculture. This is also another encouraging efforts made by the pastoral communities. Finally, the PM concluded his speech by delivering the following key message to the awarded hero pastoralists:

“You hero pastoralist who were awarded today, have done exemplary job and the whole pastoral community need to be proud of your effort and results. However, the sustainability of your today’s result is ensured if and only if other community members followed your foot and achieved the same. Therefore I strongly insist you to train and help others to accompany your effort”.

c. Memorial Gift

With the prime objective of strengthening friendship and culture of supporting each other between regional government, H.E. Abadulla Gameda, President of Oromia Region, presented memorial gifts to Afar, Somali and SNNP regional governments. The president has also presented gift for Ministry of Federal Affair for its significant contribution made in supporting pastoral development and ensuring good governance in pastoral regions. Ato Ismael Ali Sero,

the president of Afar Regional State has also presented (Lucy's Picture) to Prime Minister Meles Zenawi.

d. Memorial photograph

As part of the celebration processes of the day, the Prime Minister has taken out door memorial group photograph with the pastoralists of each region.

5.2.4 Experience sharing among regions

The government representatives of the four pastoral regions (Afar, Somali, SNNP and Oromia) have shared their experiences and best practices to celebrants of 10th EPD. The major issues raised are summarized below region by region.

a. Afar region

- Reaching political consensus among various political groups is quite helpful for enhancing pastoral development.
- As the Afar regional government lacks capability to effectively and efficiently implement development program to the benefit of the community, it has adequately utilized the technical support provided from Federal government, and regional governments (Tigray and Ahmara). Currently it has reached to the level that it can perform development works by its own
- Small scale irrigation can supplement pastoral livelihood. The pastoral community (both men and women) can participate and produce both crop and forage if mobilized and assisted genuinely
- Mobile health service can be effectively delivered through training health extension worker from the community (both men and women), assigning one extension worker for 2000 people, and using camel for trans[porting drugs and medical equipments
- During drought implementing animal slaughtering action has multi dimension advantage and save pastoral assets. Animals will be bought with fair price from the community, medically investigated, slaughtered, the meat distributed to the community, skin and hides will be sold

b. Somali region

- Ensuring community participation (in problem identification, designing solution) and assigning socially respected community member to take the facilitation lead at community level works can improve community level health service delivery and child vaccination coverage in traditional community such as Somali pastoralists
- As part of development cooperation initiatives between Somali and Oromia region, Development and cooperation board composed of representatives of both region was established and functionalized. The board has worked for five years and contributed significantly in conflict management, good governance, socioeconomic infrastructure development, and in capacity building in bordering woredas of both regions. The board has its own organizational structure

c. SNNP Region

The best experiences presented from SNNP region is related to harmful traditional practices eradication. The following were the major step they followed to eradicate some of harmful traditional practices in their region.

- The region focused in one community (Bena community) to pilot its campaign of eradicating harmful traditional practices.
 - ✓ Select and employ influential person (both women and men) from each community and train them
 - ✓ Identify list of list of harmful traditional practices in each community at woredas level. Encourage Community health Workers to discuss with their community at grass root level
 - ✓ As the result of discussion agree on harmful practice to be avoided and enforce the local community to keep their promise of eradication through traditional beliefs
 - ✓ Once succeeded in some villages of Bena community different awards were given for traditional leaders / influential persons or social groups contributing positively for the success of the campaign

- The experience of Bena community was documented and used as key tool to sensitize and train other community

d. Oromia region

The issues presented as the best experiences by Oromia region is related to the newly established regional and local level structural arrangements to support pastoral developments with in the region. Pastoral areas cover 37% of the Oromia region. The new structural arrangement considers the pastoral way of life.

5.2.5 Presentation of best experience of regional research centers

H.E Dr. Abera Deressa, State Minister of Agriculture & Rural Development Ministry, facilitated the experience sharing program of pastoral research institutes. The representatives of the three pastoral regions research institutes (Afar, Somali, and Oromia) have shared their experiences and best practices to the participants of the 10th EPD. The major issues raised are summarized below region by region.

a. Oromia Pastoral Areas research Institute best experience

There are four pastoral research institute which established in pastoral areas of Oromia regions. These are Adami Tulu Research Institute in East shoa zone, Metehara Research Institute in West Harrerghe zone, Adami yesinana Research Institute in Bale zone, and Yabello Research Institute in Borena zone.

The major research focus areas of pastoral research institutes are:

- ✓ Range land improvement, protection and utilization
- ✓ Livestock production value Addition and Market Integration
- ✓ Income and Asset diversification

Best research work experiences presented by Oromia Pastoral research Institute was the ongoing research work on protection of Borena cattle breed (Breed characterization; mapping key ecological resource; conflict mapping and management; livestock & livestock product marketing; and improved apiculture)

b. Somali Pastoral Research Institute best experience

There is one pastoral & agro pastoral research institute which established recently in Somali region, Jijiga town. The institute is working in close collaboration with Haromaya University and with Ethiopian Agricultural Research Institute. The Somali Research Institute has established four zonal and two sub-regional research Institutes in the region. The institutes are working on selecting relevant technologies, forage development, camel disease and feed. Best research work experiences presented by Somali Pastoral research Institute was the ongoing research work on participatory improved rice seed selection.

c. Afar Pastoral Research Institute best experience

There is one pastoral & agro pastoral research institute which established recently in Afar region, Semara town. The construction work of its building is not completed. The institute is working in close collaboration with Melkassa & Werer Agricultural Research Institute. The institutes are working on selecting relevant technologies, improving livestock production, oil crops & vegetables, forage development and improvement, Pastoral mobility pattern forage condition, and selection highly productive crop variety.

5.2.6 Formulating and approving of the resolution of the day

Pastoralists and partners held panel discussion on key pastoral issues and passed a ten - point resolution. Pastoralists and decision-makers and stakeholders came together, discussed and debated on key pastoral issues. The following is the resolution of the 10th EPD:

- We strongly ask the federal governments, pastoral regional governments and other partners work with more commitment on improving pastoral development and achieving MDG
- As repeatedly requested in the resolutions of past EPD's, clearly defined land use and administration policy should be developed for pastoral areas.
- Recognition of those already established and those to be stabilized Pastoral councils
- Promote infrastructure development, social service delivery, good governance and conflict management intervention ensuring the participation and involvement of pastoral communities
- Improving budget allocation for pastoral areas taking in to account the age old marginalization, backwardness and complexity of pastoral problems
- The existing grant program being implemented in pastoral region should be in line with the pastoral life style and focus on the existing key and multi dimensional pastoral problems
- Continuing the existing government effort to wards expansion of small scale irrigation development to improve the income source of the pastoral communities
- Promoting and strengthening research and extension on livestock
- Strengthening and continuing the existing government special support for pastoral areas
- The celebration of the up coming EPDs should be facilitated by MoFA

6 Lessen learnt

7 Appendix