

Report on 15th Ethiopian Pastoralist Day (EPD) Celebration (23rd – 25th January 2015, Semera/Afar Regional State)



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PASTORALIST FORUM ETHIOPIA

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Executive Summary

The Ethiopian Pastoralist Day (EPD) is marked *Tir 17* (25th January). EPD has been commemorated at the national and the regional levels for the past 14 years in Ethiopia. The EPD is a multifaceted advocacy instrument, which is serving a common platform for pastoralists and partners to converge their efforts to influence the power holders at various levels and their plight addressed. EPD also enhances and builds pastoral solidarity and leverage an opportunity to share cumulative experiences, culture, living customs and environment. The EPD has been replicated in neighboring countries such as in Kenya and in Tanzania. Since 2008, Government of the FDRE acknowledged officially EPD as a national day. This historic day is therefore a milestone in recognizing pastoralism as livelihood system and a way of life in the country. EPD has got two celebration modalities-*the Federal/national level and the Regional level celebrations*. At the Federal level, the EPD is celebrated representing the whole country, while the regional level celebration is held at the regional level treating regional pastoral issues.

The 15th EPD was celebrated at national level in the Afar Regional State in Semera Town on 23rd - 25th January 2015 under the leading motto ***Enhanced Participation and Benefit of Pastoral Communities for Our Renaissance***. The FDRE House of Peoples' Representatives Pastoralist Affairs Standing Committee (PASC), the Ministry of Federal Affairs (MoFA), and the Pastoralist Forum Ethiopia (PFE) jointly with the Afar Regional State organized the 15th EPD.

The actual celebration day was marked by assortments of three intermingled *Pillars*. **The First Pillar is the Ceremonial Session** which includes awarding the hero pastoralists and partners, and incredible festivities including cultural shows, Baseband, music and mass sport. The festivity has been started during the eve of the EPD. **The Second Pillar is referred as Core Policy Session**. This included report hearing from the Federal Government based on the previous year's EPD resolutions, deliberation of policy statement by the Prime Minister of the FDRE, H.E Hailemariam Desalegn and the President of the Afar Regional State, H.E. Ismael Ali Sero (representing the hosting Region) on pastoralism and pastoral developments; and, face-to-face discussion of representatives of pastoralist from all pastoral regions and partners with PM Hailemariam on the plight of the pastoralists. **The Third Pillar is referred as Innovation Session** that included best practice and experience sharing through field visit to development sites and best practice presentation session. The EPD was also accompanied by **Innovative Exhibition** that showed the national and regional efforts being undertaken to support and enhances livelihoods of pastoralist communities and boosting technology transfer.

The 15th EPD has also been accompanied by various core activities including press conference, workshops, panel discussion/symposium, production of promotion materials, and questions and answers session in the domain of pastoralism on the Ethiopian Television, and exhibition. The ceremony and the core policy sessions have been covered live by the Ethiopian Television and Radio. There were also various core activities proposed and implemented as integral part of the 15th EPD such as development activities in the Afar region.

The invited celebrants were more than one thousand representing the pastoralist from all pastoral regions, dignitaries of the FDRE and Regional Governments, donors, IGAD, religious organs, embassies, NGOs/CSOs, research and academia, etc. Thousands of pastoralists coming from different Woredas of the Afar region, and urban dwellers from Semera and logia Towns and surrounding localities commemorated the day.

The EPD should not be considered as an event but it is perceived as process composed of many intermingled activities implemented across months 2014/15. The following bullet points can summarize key achievements of the 15th EPD:

1. The celebration of the 15th EPD has assured it is the oldest and unique pastoral advocacy instrument that served pastoralists and partners uninterruptedly for 15 years. It is acknowledged and recognized by the Federal and Regional Governments. The late Prime Minister of the FDRE, H.E Meles Zenawi officiated and attended the EPD for six consecutive years and H.E Hailemariam Desalegn, the Prime Minister FDRE, officiated and attended the 14th and the 15th EPD. The EPD brings pastoralist and partners together for a common overarching goal- *sustainable pastoral development promoting good governance*.
2. PM Hailemariam and the pastoralists representing all pastoral regions held face-to-face discussions and the pastoralist democratically voiced their concerns without any hesitation. The MoFA disseminated the directions given by PM Hailemariam to the office of the PM, the regional governments and key organs of the federal government.
3. IGAD representatives attended the 15th EPD for the first time and promised to adopt this experience to the regional level. This goes with IGAD principles and helps a lot in promoting the efforts of IGAD in the regional economic integration and boosting peace and stability in the region. PM Hailemariam has already promised to support scaling up of EPD to the regional level.
4. The EPD has been instrumental contributing positively towards raising the awareness of the general public in order to bring positive change on pastoralism and pastoral development in Ethiopia which has been an overlooked issue for the past many years. The live transmission of core sessions of the EPD has definitely contributed in reaching the public and decision makers. In addition, PFE has produced a 30 minutes documentary film depicting the process, achievements and future direction of EPD. This video is expected to add values in raising the profile of pastoralist and deepen understanding of power holders and public that pastoralism is livelihood system and a way of life.
5. The experience sharing session has initiated adoption of local technologies and best practices from respective regions. The Date Palm research activities being held in Afar will soon replicate in other regions. The breed conservation in Borana (Oromia) and participatory rangeland management practices were highly appreciated by participants. The Ethiopian Somali milk conservation was admirable local technology. The SNNPR also did excellent work in Saving and Credit System
6. The Afar regional government, the hosting region of the Federal 15th EPD, has enhanced its development agenda. The region renovated infrastructure, social services and promoted pastoralism as livelihood system and a way of life.
7. The briefing workshop organized for the members of FDRE House of Peoples' Representatives Pastoral Affairs Standing Committee (PASC) was key advocacy instrument to influence the policy makers to advance pastoralism in Ethiopia vis-à-vis the international/regional policy frameworks and the Constitution of FDRE. In addition, the Monitoring Mechanism of the EPD resolutions was set forward to safeguard pastoralism and address the concern of pastoralist. It has also helped a lot to renew the partnership of PFE and PASC and MoFA.

8. The members of the three pastoral councils functioning as interface between policy/decision makers and the pastoralists on advancing pastoral issues have gotten a platform to share experiences and boost collective leadership on pastoralism. They identified and articulated their basic issues and discussed them with head of the government in the EPD. They also got chance to increase their visibility and informed contemporary pastoralist on the status of pastoralism in Ethiopia.
9. The CSOs visibility has been increased as they have participated in the exhibition accompanying the EPD and in the various sessions. The exhibition helped a lot to disseminate the CSOs' contributions to pastoral development and thereby creating/increasing the public awareness. In addition, some of the members of the counsels were among the awarded pastoralists by the PM. Four CSO representatives, each one from four regions, have been also awarded by the PM. The award given to CSOs has contributed to improve image of the sector in the eyes of the general public.
10. The 15th EPD will definitely influence the federal government to establish pastoral institution at the ministerial level and to give more attention in the Growth and Transformation (GTP II).

Best Quotes

“Marking Pastoralist Day has been playing a significant role in creating a forum for discussion and consultation among stakeholders, thereby addressing challenges facing our pastoralists.” Prime Minister of the FDRE, H.E. Hailemariam Desalegn in his statement at the 15th EPD Celebration.

“Transforming the pastoralists to farmers is not our government policy or position. The government policy in relation to pastoralist is transforming the traditional livestock production system in to modern and improved production system!!” H.E. Addisu Legesse in his speech at the 15th EPD Celebration.

1 Introduction

The Ethiopian Pastoralist Day (EPD)¹ is an important process bringing together almost all pastoral actors in the country under one platform for realization of an overarching goal- *sustainable pastoral development and promoting good governance*. Since its first commemoration on 25th Jan 1999, the EPD has been magnificently celebrated annually using different avenues in the presence of dignitaries from the Federal and Regional Governments, representatives of pastoralist from all pastoral regions/zones, donor representatives, NGO communities, research and academia, and media as well as public.

The first four EPDs were commemorated at the regional level. Since 2005, the Pastoralist Forum Ethiopia (PFE), the FDRE Ministry of Federal Affairs (MoFA), the FDRE the House of Peoples' Representatives Pastoralist Affairs Standing Committee (PASC) in partnership with respective Regional States (national EPD hosting) have been organizing the EPD at national level at different avenues. The pastoral regional states celebrate own EPD before the commencement of the national one and joined the national/federal EPD.

The purposes of EPD are consolidation of encouraging achievements obtained so far on development of pastoralists; influencing decision makers to address plight of pastoralists; enhancing pastoral solidarity and sharing experiences; and, reckon on all pastoral actors to renew their commitment for the overarching goal- sustainable pastoralist development and enhancing good governance. The change in perception towards pastoralism and the space created as a result of EPD has induced incremental values in defining position of the pastoral agenda in the policy process and enhancing sustainable pastoral development in Ethiopia.

The Federal and Regional Governments and Non-State Actors are committed to develop the pastoralists. Besides unique provisions stated in our constitution regarding pastoralism, the changes so far attested include recognition of EPD as a national day; improvement of social development in pastoral areas; presence of huge infrastructure development; and, Food Security Programs including the Productive Safety Net (PSNP) etc. In terms of institutional development, the establishment of Pastoral Affairs Standing Committee (PASC) in the Federal Parliament; presence of the Inter-Ministerial Board of six Ministries to coordinate pastoral activities in the country; establishment of Pastoral Directorate under Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), and establishments of pastoral commissions and/or formulation of pastoral institutions at the regional levels are among few. In addition, subsequent Poverty Reduction Strategies (PRSP) has included the plight of pastoralists.

However, the growing attention towards pastoralism and pastoral development has still policy hurdles. For instance, lack of mechanism to use livestock as collateral to get loan from bank, inadequate micro-finance institutions, quality and coverage of social services, rudimentary investment opportunist to absorb labour in the pastoral areas, haphazardly erupting conflict in pastoral areas and lack of clear strategy to linking mega projects and investments run in pastoral areas with the pastoral system, and lack of executive body at ministerial/commission level executing pastoral policies and strategies at the national level are among few. These challenges are emanated from the complexity and depth of pastoral problems inherited and consequence of denied rights for development for more than half-a-century. The knowledge gaps and myths towards pastoralism and pastoral development have not been yet totally faded away.

¹ Following to the Somali and Borana elder pastoralist' recommendation of the EPD, Pastoralist Concern (PC), a local NGO, organized the first EPD in 1999 in Filitu Town in Lien Zone of the Somali Regional State.

Rather, the challenges are still part of the inherited pastoral problems that contravening efforts of the Government and multi-actors. Therefore, it is imperative to commemorate the 15th EPD to leverage the renewal of commitment of all pastoral actors to take additional steps to support pastoral livelihoods and to build renaissance of Ethiopia in strong bases as well as success of the Growth and Transformation-Five-Year National Plan in the coming years.

To this effect, the Afar regional government jointly with Ministry of Federal Affairs (MoFA), Pastoralist Forum Ethiopia (PFE) and the Pastoralist Affairs Standing Committee (PASC) in the FDRE House of Peoples' Representatives, organized the 15thEPD from January 23rd - 25th, 2015 in Semera town of the Afar region. The motto of the day was **“Enhanced Participation and Benefit of Pastoral Communities for Our Renaissance”**.

This report is documented by PFE and designed to inform readers about the overall processes and achievements/outcomes of the 15th EPD. The report is organized in to Five Parts, the first three parts deal with the introduction, objectives and approaches. The Fourth Part described the implemented activities, and Part Five summarize outcomes/achievements of the celebration. The English version of H.E Hailemariam Desalegn, Prime Minister of the FDRE, directions on questions of the pastoralist is found in Annex.

1.1 Identity and experience of Pastoralist Forum Ethiopia

Pastoralist Forum Ethiopia (PFE) is an Ethiopian Residents and Foreign Charities Consortium with a mission statement of bringing positive changes in the livelihood of pastoralist through pastoral capacity building, empowerment, commercialization and entrepreneurship in Ethiopia. The Forum was established in 1998 and re-registered by the Charities and Societies Agency (CSA) with certificate number 1354. The Forum is a pioneer pastoral oriented consortium in Ethiopia which has brought about remarkable positive changes in raising the profile of pastoralist and the issues addressed. PFE has accumulated experience in working on various pastoral issues. The organization has been one of the key actors in organizing the past 15 EPDs in Ethiopia. PFE has successfully coordinated and managed the implementation of a number of projects including organizing pastoral development conferences, research projects, capacity building projects. It has also extensive experiences in undertaking community resilience to climate change, knowledge management and innovation, Pastoral land tenure and administration projects. The Forum has been celebrating the EPD since 2002 (4th EPD) until the 15th EPD and has accumulated tremendous experiences in organizing and coordinating the EPD. The PFE has well established governance system, accounting and financial management system and committed and experienced staff and leadership.

2 Goal and Objective

The goal of the 15th EPD are to consolidate more on the encouraging achievements obtained so far in pastoral development and pastoralism; to enhance pastoral solidarity and amplifying pastoralist' voice and addressed; 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 Ethiopia*.

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 14th 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 promoting pastoral potentials and deal with climate change consequences;
- Pave the way to shift the paradigm of pastoral limitations to pastoral potentials through various exhibitions and organizing best practice forum;
- Ensuring sustainability of pastoralism through provision of special awards to successful hero pastoralist and partners;
- Advocate and lobby for scaling up Pastoralist Day at the Eastern African level under the IGAD leadership; and,
- Document and disseminate the processes and resolutions of the Day to policy makers and public.

3 Approaches and Celebration Modality

The 15th EPD was organized both at national and regional level. At national level it was organized for three days (23rd -25th January 2015) in Semera and organized jointly by the Afar regional government, Ministry of Federal Affairs (MoFA), Pastoralist Forum Ethiopia (PFE) and the Pastoralist Affairs Standing Committee (PASC) in the FDRE House of Peoples' Representatives. The day was also celebrated at regional level in most of the pastoral regions (Oromia, Afar, SNNP and Afar) through the coordination and leadership of the regional governments. The decentralized mode of celebration has raised the plight of the pastoralists at all level and had incremental value to address voice poverty at the national level. For the national level celebration, the Federal government and Pastoralist Forum Ethiopia covered cost of all pastoral invitees, promotional materials, invitation (the national guests). The regional level organizer covers all the rest cost of the EPD including accommodation and food, field visit, hall etc.

3.1 National EPD Organizing Committee

The National EPD committee is already exists and the first step was re-setting and revitalizing this committee. A supreme committee composed of 9 members drawn from three different organizations (MOFA, PFE, and PASC) and three subcommittees have been organized. Under MoFA, the State Minister (Chairperson), Senior Advisor to the Minister of MoFA, Director of Equitable Development Directorate, Head of PCDP, Director of Public Relation Directorate, Director of Finance and property Management Directorate, and Director of Human Resource Directorate; Pastoral Affairs Standing Committee in the House of Peoples' Representative (member), the Executive Director of PFE.

The main committee had the following responsibilities:

- The main committee is the leading organ in designing, directing and monitoring the overall activities of the 15th 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 15th EPD
- Raise fund and decide on budgetary matters
- Facilitate for attainment of enough coverage of media
- Decide on all additional activities deem necessary for the good of the event

Terms of Reference was developed for both supreme and subcommittees to guide and monitor their day to day activities. The committee had regular meeting to monitor the progress of the preparation tasks and backstopping the Afar region committees.

3.2 Proposal Writing and Fund raising

The total cost of organizing 15th EPD was covered by MoFA, Afar regional government and PFE. The MoFA has used current budget allocated by the Federal Government and support from Pastoralist Community Development Project (PCDP) that amount in total about Birr 4m. The Afar region government and stakeholders contributed Birr 16.5million (84% Afar government) and has used it for the activities held in the region (food and accommodation cost of all participants, costs associated with school children mass sport, preparation of celebration venue, question and answers session on ETV, police musical band etc). The budget from MoFA was meant to cover major costs like transportation and perdiem of pastoralist, t-shirt and capes and live TV transmission, etc.

PFE prepared draft project proposal to raise fund and the project was commented, enriched and approved by the Supreme organizing committee. The PFE was able to raise around ETB 1.8m that was contributed by its partners: CORDAID (Euro 50,000), CSSP (Euro 14, 900), IGAD (USD 10,000). This fund is meant to cover all costs of the organizing committee, workshops, major promotional materials, documentary film, invitation letter, etc. PFE is grateful for its partners who supported EPD both financially and technically.

3.3 Participant Selection and Invitation

The federal committee identified and decided the list and number of the participants. The invitation letter was prepared and signed by Minister of MoFA and the President of the Afar Regional State and distributed through post office, fax and through all other possible means. The invitation letter for NGOs was distributed through PFE. The total number of the federal level participants were more than 1000 (including facilitators, Musical bands, Awardees pastoralists and journalists) drawn from representatives of pastoralist of all pastoral regions, various levels government institutions, IGAD, donor community, NGOs/ CSOs, researchers and academics, private sector, and journalists.

4 Description of Implemented Key Activities

4.1 Organizing Experience Sharing Workshop for Members of Pastoralist Councils

Three pastoral councils (Afar, Ethiopian Somali and Oromia regional state) have been established with the purpose functioning as interface between policy/decision makers and the pastoralists on advancing pastoral. These pastoral councils have been representing and voicing the concerns of their respective communities in different forum including Ethiopian Pastoralist Days. A day experience sharing workshop has been organized for 45 board members of the three pastoral councils ahead of 15th EPD celebration. The purpose of the workshop was to review their governance system, share their experience and articulate key issues to be raised during the discussion session with PM on the actual day of EPD celebration.



(Clockwise) Chairperson of the Pastoral Council of Somali, Afar and Oromia regions facilitating the workshop

A total of 49 participants (four support staff included) attended the workshop in which the members of the councils accounted for 45. The workshop was organized and facilitated by the Oromia Pastoralist Association (OPA) in collaboration with Afar and Somali Regions Pastoral Councils and financially supported by CSSP via PFE. A brief presentation, group discussion and feedback as well as plenary discussions were among some of the methods used during the workshop. Following presentations by each council, participants discussed and identified and articulated key issues of all pastoralists in the country and raised same issues successfully in the 15th EPD during the face to discussion with PM and other discussions. They also got chance to increase their visibility and overwhelmed by informing their contemporary pastoralist on the plight of pastoralist.



Partial view of members of the councils participating in the workshop

4.2 Organizing Consultative Workshop for Federal Parliamentarians (PASC)

A tailor-made consultative workshop on current status of pastoralism and EPD issues was conducted ahead of the EPD. The purposes of the workshop were to inform the status of pastoralism for the members of the Pastoral Affairs Standing Committee (PASC) in the FDRE HPR, and to discuss, enrich and endorse the document prepared on EPD Monitoring Mechanism. The monitoring mechanism and the issues identified for monitoring were based on the resolutions passed during the EPDs celebrated since 2008 (8th EPD). PASC is the supreme body in the Federal Parliament over sighting pastoralism in Ethiopia. The PFE management has planned this workshop with the PASC while the Ministry of Federal Affairs (MoFA) has taken the major roles in facilitating the workshop. The participants of the workshop were 26 composed of parliamentarian, director generals and a senior advisor from MoFA and PFE. The female participants were five. In the workshop, a presentation on Epic note on Pastoralism and Pastoralist Development in Ethiopia by PFE Director, and the second presentation entitled Pastoral Development Critical Interventions and the M & E Checklist and Result Indicators by the Senior Advisor to the Minister of MoFA were presented and discussed. After the presentation, the PASC member discussed deeply on the current status and issues of pastoralism and commented and enriched the draft monitoring tools.

4.3 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 subcommittee*” which was organized by the supreme committee. The following are the major achievements made with regard to promotional materials:

- Four big Digital Billboards prepared and posted in key public gathering areas.
- 2000 copies of magazine in Amharic reflecting existing situation of Ethiopian pastoralists and key issues of EPD were prepared, printed and distributed to the participants
- 20 big Banners were prepared and posted in different places in Semera town and in the compounds of Semera Stadium where the day was celebrated
- 2000 T-Shirts and 2000 Capes prepared and distributed to the celebrants of the day
- 2000 posters depicting key issues of 15thEPD prepared and distributed to GOs and NGOs, regions, donors and other pastoral friends. Some of the posters were posted in different places in Semera town and in the compounds of Semera Stadium where the day was celebrated
- Many regional government flags and national flag prepared and posted in different places of Semera town
- 1500 invitation cards prepared to be shared between Federal and Regional EPD committees

4.4 Review of the status of pastoralism in Ethiopia

A brief review of the status of pastoralism in Ethiopia has been documented. The board of directors of PFE was engaged in the review.

4.5 Media Works

The overall process and implementation of the 15thEPD has got wider media coverage before, during and after the actual date of celebration. The following are the major media activities:

Before the event

- Ethiopian Radio and Ethiopian television (ETV) have broadcasted a program on success stories of socio economic development effort in pastoral regions (Somali, Afar, Oromia and SNNP) and broadcasted using various languages.
- H.E Dr. Shiferaw Teklemariam, Minister of MoFA delivered press conference for journalists of different media in the country
- The Main committee delivered interviews 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 25, 2015)

- Ethiopian Television, Ethiopian Radio and Radio Fana have adequately transmitted 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.
 - A program has been developed on the discussion of the Pastoralists with PM and disseminated in different languages
 - Similarly a program has been developed on the field visit of the participants to two areas of Afar region and broadcasted in different languages

4.6 Documentary film on EPDs domain

PFE produced a documentary film on the impact of EPD in 2007 based on the celebrations held from the first to sixth EPDs and disseminated the videos to policy makers and a wider range of stakeholders. However, despite of EPD's visible contributions in voicing pastoralism and boosting pastoral development there has been little effort was made since then to systematically document the process and contributions of EPD in to a documentary film. The film targets the policy makers and stakeholders and the public. Thus, based on a general consensus reached with EPD main committee (specifically the documentation subcommittee) PFE hired a firm to prepare a professional documentary film. The film is at its last stage and will be completed in a month time.

Content of the envisaged documentary film include:

- Reflect the extent to which EPD has raised their profile and create a common platform for the pastoralist to enable them to share experiences, both among themselves and with partners;

- Highlight the extent to which EPD has promoted the concern of pastoralist and create enabling policy environment for pastoral development at local, regional and national levels;
- Document the lesson learned and its relevance to other pastoral community outside Ethiopia;
- Recommend the ways in which the impact of EPD could be strengthened in the future.

4.7 Celebrating the event (January 23rd – 25th, 2015)

The celebration of 15th EPD at national level was organized for three consecutive days (23rd – 25th January 2015). On the first day (23rd of January 2015) all the participants went to field in Afambo and Aysaita Woredas. The second day (24th of January 2015) was allocated for best practice sharing among all region while the actual celebration of the day was held on 25th of January 2015. All the participants arrived Semera Town on the 22nd January, 2015 to take part in the actual celebration of the day. The participants have taken part in each of the events which were undertaken from 23rd to 25th January. The details are discussed below:

4.7.1 Experience Sharing Session

i. Field visit on best practices at community level

All participants took part in the experience sharing field visit which organized on January 23, 2015. They visited two sites in the Afar region (Afambo and Aysaita Woredas) where *pastoralist role models* have presented and shared their experiences how they were striving attaining food security and sustainable livelihood. The participants were divided in to two groups. Group 1 went to Berga Kebeles of Aysaita Woreda and Group 2 went to Humodoita Kebeles of Afambo Woreda. Both group visited community based development activities including improved fodder production based fattening and dairy production, date palm production practice, homestead fruit and vegetable production by women, ongoing research on date palm and various community based cooperatives.

ii. Exhibition

The Afar regional government organized exhibition and bazar where the government organizations, NGOs, development partner and private sectors display their work and visited by the participants and urban dwellers. The exhibition and the bazar was made open since the afternoon of January 23, 2015 and lasted till January 25th, 2015. The exhibition was organized in the newly constructed Semera bus station. Up on the opening of the exhibition, the bus station was officially inaugurated.

iii. Best Practice sharing meeting by all pastoral regions

A day long experience sharing workshop organized on January 24, 2015. The workshop was attended by more than 500 participants representing pastoralists, government, research and academic institution, higher government official, NGOs, Donors, journalist. Etc..... H.E Mulugeta Wuletaw, state minister of MoFA and H.E Ismael Ali Siro, President of Afar region, welcomed the participants and introduced the agenda for the day. The workshop was facilitated by H.E Addisu Legesse, at ministerial level the board chair of developing region special support committee.

During the meeting all pastoral region have shared their experiences and best practices to celebrants of the day. Discussion also made on each presentation and recommendations made at the end. The following are the summery of best practices presented by Afar, Somali, Oromia and SNNP regions.

a. Afar region

A representative of Afar region has briefly presented on date palm production practices of the Afar community. Date palm is marginal dry land crop which has an integral relationship with the life of the Afar pastoralist for long period of time. The date palm is known by the community with its multiple Benefits. It has excellent potential of contributing to the economic, social and cultural aspects of the areas. It is a multipurpose tree providing various primary and secondary products which quit important to the economic and social security of the people. Date palm cultivation helps generate considerable opportunities for employment, ensures livelihood and food security of the community and facilitates eco-restoration. It can be one of the best alternatives to act as a catalyst for the development of the region if supported in systematic manner.

Date palm is produced in Aysaita, Afambo and Gewane areas in Afar region. The production system is traditional and based on indigenous tree. The existing production system is dominated by male and it will take 6 years to identify the sex of the plant. The existing plant gives first production after 7 years. Werer Agricultural Research Institute (WARI) in close collaboration of Afar Pastoral and Agro Pastoral research Institute (APARI) and Woreda and regional Pastoral and Agricultural Development Bureaus have been implementing three research activities on date focusing on collection and characterization of local variety; introduction of tissue cultured improved variety; and collection of local variety off shoots. As the result of introducing the improved variety, the period of identifying sex of plant shortened to 2 years and the period of first production reduced to 3 - 4 years.

b. Ethiopian Somali region

A representative of the Ethiopian Somali Regional state has presented two best practices. These are traditional way of fresh milk preservation in Afdere zone and traditional treatment of CBB cattle disease.

Traditional way of fresh milk preservation in Afdere zone: The communities of Afdere zone have a lot of camels and they produce a lot of milk. These communities are very far from the market. Their milk easily spoiled by the hot temperature while they took the milk to markets which normally located far from their place. As there are no supportive technologies in the area, the members of the community came up with an innovative solution to extend the shelf life of camel milk. They cut a branch/stem of an indigenous tree (Olive tree) and smoked the milk container before putting the milk in it. By doing so, they are able to take *fresh milk* to the market at distant areas. This increased women income contributing for the household security and women empowerment. Tthis is one of the best practices that government would like to scale up in other areas.

Traditional treatment of CBB cattle disease: CBB is one the major livestock diseases affecting cattle in region. The communities use traditional healer to treat the diseased animal. The traditional healers kill the diseased animal, take the lung and put it on the face of other diseased animal. This was effective and the government needs to support researchers further to prove it scientifically before deciding it to scale up in other areas.

c. Oromia region

Oromia regional government shared three best practices which were *Water shade management in Belda Gudina, Bale zone; rangeland development; and Borana cattle breed improvement.*

Water shade management in Belda Gudina, Bale zone: Before 40 years, a Belda Gudina area of Bale zone was known for its very good forest resource, grazing resource, spring and rivers. However, these have been lost and the areas highly degraded in the past years and the communities' life deteriorated and they became food insecure. According to the study conducted by Oromia region, the reason is mainly related to lack of awareness and system on management of the natural resources. The Oromia government discussed with the community, organized them and created awareness for the community. And then the government jointly with the community developed and implemented water shade management plan. The major activities implemented were construction of various physical structures, plantation of various plantations, clearing of more than 600 ha of invasive plants. The communities organized in one to five community group models and involved fully on the work. As the result of these activities, the areas have now become fully recovered. The amount of dry season grazing resource increased and fodder availability improved and this resulted in to improved livestock productivity. The awareness of the community improved and their income increased. In the rehabilitated area women and youth have been organized in business group and started improved apiculture.

Range land management in Liben Woreda, Borana zone: Liben Woreda was known for its huge grazing resources. However, these has been lost and the areas became highly degraded in the past years and the communities became highly vulnerable to drought and became food insecure. Some households, the government and NGOs used to supply animal feed during the drought and dry seasons. The Oromia government discussed with the community, organized them and created awareness for the community. And then the government jointly with the community developed and implemented rangeland management plan.

The major activities implemented were clearing of invasive plants and bushes using community labor; developed participatory grazing management and use law. As the result, the areas have now fully recovered and the amount of dry season grazing resources increased and fodder availability improved. This resulted in to improved livestock productivity. The communities produce hay and store it for dry season/drought period use. They also started to sale hay to other communities having fed their livestock. Women have been organized in business group and started soap production from aloe plant. The awareness of the community improved and their income increased. The communities now are resilient to drought and they don't have any problem of animal feed for dry season/drought period. Tourism also increased as the result of increased wild life in the area. Income of women has also increased.

Improving Borana cattle breed: The quality of Borana cattle breed is deteriorating because of inter breeding with other breeds. This would lead to a complete loss of Borana breed if no action is taken. Therefore, the Oromia government discussed the issue with the community, organized them and created awareness for the community. And then the government jointly with the community developed and implemented a plan to protect the breed. The communities organized in group and supported to rehabilitate and developed 10,000 ha of grazing land. The communities also contributed money in addition to labor. In the developed rangeland, livestock permanent water supply developed. The communities told to bring selected heifer and put in the developed rangeland for some period. At the same time the government brought selected pure Borana bull and in the rangeland. Accordingly, many heifers got conceived on continuous bases. As the result of this action, the communities awareness improved, and community based breed improvement

practice was found effective and successful, 851 calves born, 903 households benefited, grazing and water sources have been developed.

d. SNNP region

The SNNP region presented **Community Based Saving and Credit System**. Through support of the government and NGO partner a number of saving and credit cooperative established and functionalized. As the result of these actions the saving culture of the communities increased. The communities have also access to credit facilities in the near places. Many households took credit, started various small business and able to improve their income and living. Some of the changes observed are 12 households constructed improved house, one person constructed house in urban areas with estimated cost of 45,000 birr, many people bought share from existing gold production share company, some households started motor pump supported small scale irrigation and many people are educating their children in the town.

e. Discussion and comment on the presentation of all best practices

After the presentations, the participants raised questions and comments. The presenters have also given further information. Finally, the issues have been summarized and concluded by the chairperson of the meeting, H.E Adisu Legesse. The following were the summary of the comments and direction given by the government:

Comments by participants

- (1) Best practices have been presented and discussed every year. But it is not known how far these practices taken and implemented by the regions. Therefore, it is quite important to report on these along with the presentation of new practices.
- (2) The Somali region has a number of best practices which are note presented here. These include mobile livestock health team and camel milk processing. Other region should learn and take them in their areas. Thus, the Somali region need to document them and communicate other regions
- (3) All best practices are about livestock, agriculture and livelihood. All sectors (education, health, energy etc.... should be considered for the coming EPD.
- (4) Putting a lung of diseased animal on other (presented from Somali region) is not a best practice of animal health. This should be avoided as it further transmit disease

Concluding remark by Ato Adissu legesse

- (5) **Transforming the pastoralist to farmers is not the government policy or position. The government policy in relation to pastoralist is transforming the traditional livestock production system in to modern and improved production system**
- (6) Breed improvement practice of Oromia region should be scaled up in Afar and Somali region
- (7) The Afar region should also take camel milk processing practices of Somali region
- (8) We should give more emphasis to benefit women as women are the most burden taker at household level in pastoral areas. All development activities in pastoral areas should ensure the equal participation and benefit of women.

- (9) The sugarcane out grower practices of SNNP region should be scaled up in Afar and other areas
- (10) Small scale beneficiaries of all region should produce more than three season and the communities should be motivated and encouraged by the government and development partners
- (11) Focus also should be given to education
- (12) Finally he concluded that all actors should work hard to register better performance of the pastoral/agricultural production in the next five years and all agreed points above should be implemented and hoped that these will be evaluated in the next EPD and other events

4.7.2 Report on Actual Celebration of the day (January 25th 2015)

The actual celebration of 15th EPD was held on the final day, January 25th 2015. The celebration was held at the Semera stadium in the presence of the Prime Minister with his members of cabinet addressing the celebrants. It was attended by more than 1000 officially invited guest and more than 10,000 populations of semera, Logiya and Dubti towns.

a. Opening Speech by officials from MoFA

The program was started on January 25, 2015 at 9:00 am through brief introduction of the history and objectives of EPD in general and 15th EPD in particular; and tentative programs of the 15thEPD celebration by H.E Mulugeta Wuletaw, state minister, MoFA.

b. Welcome speech Hon. Ato Ismael Ali Sero, President of Afar region

President of Afar regional state delivered welcoming speech. In his speech he mentioned the development spectrum of pastoralism and settlement.

c. Presentation of Cultural show/Music

Cultural and traditional music teams from Afar, Afar, SNNP and Oromia 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.

d. School children Mass sport and show

School children trained by professional decorated the celebration through mass sport and various colorful shows.



e. Federal Police Music band Marsh show

Federal Police music marsh band also gave special tone and image of the day.



4.7.3 Presentation of Government report

H.E Dr Shiferaw Teklemariam, Minister of MoFA, presented detail reports on the responses of the Ethiopian government for the resolution passed during the 14th EPDs and the progresses made in socio economic development efforts in pastoral areas. In gross, the reports revealed there is a progress in social development as compared to the previous years. However, the quality of service still at rudimentary stage and these need the attention of government and partner organization in the coming period

4.7.4 Award ceremony

a. Pastoralist award

The PM awarded 229 pastoralists and partners with medals and certificates. The major criteria for the pastoralist awardees selection were level of income generation, educating children, etc.

b. Memorial Gift

With the prime objective of strengthening friendship and culture of supporting each other, H.E Ismael presented memorial gifts to the PM, Ministry of Federal Affairs and all regional governments. The gift embedded with Afar culture and tourist resources and pastoral development.

4.7.5 Statement of the Prime Minister

The Minister of Federal Affairs Ministry, Dr Shiferaw Tekelemariam invited H.E Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn to deliver speech for the participants. The prime minister of FDRE started his speech through voicing the motto of the day and through welcoming of the participants. In his speech he praised EPD saying **Marking Pastoralists Day has been playing a significant role in creating a forum for discussion and consultation among stakeholders, thereby addressing challenges facing our pastoralists.**

He also expressed the commitment of his government for the lasting improvement of the life of pastoralists in peace and good governance. Premier also stressed on the occasion that the government has been giving special attention to problems facing the pastoralist communities. Among the various development activities being undertaken by the government, enabling the pastoralist to improve their production system is crucial. The PM also mentioned that the federal government has given special attention to pastoral areas as these areas are relatively less developed parts of the country. The federal government, in addition to providing budget and technical support to pastoral regions, has performed a remarkable achievement in terms of expanding telecommunication, electricity and rural infrastructure in pastoral areas. He added also these efforts will continue in the coming period.

The PM added that the awardees of hero pastoralist are the indicator of our achievement in pastoral development and congratulated the awardees pastoralists. In his speech the PM called for all pastoral actors to explore and scale up best pastoral development practice. Finally the PM promised that the Federal government will continue supporting pastoral development.

4.7.6 Pastoralist Elders discussion with PM

The pastoral representatives held a panel discussion with the Head of the Government (H.E. Hailemariam Desalegn, Prime Minister of FDRE). The key points discussed are summaries as follow during the discussion they held with Premier, pastoralists raised various questions to which the Premier responded. Appreciating the relevance and appropriateness of the questions raised by the pastoralists, the Prime Minister responded with detailed elaboration. The following is the summarized version of the questions raised by participants of each region and the responses given by the Prime Minister.

The representatives of pastoralist's of all region asked the PM various questions reflecting their specific situations. They also appreciated the government for addressing many of their questions in the past. They said that we were asking for Ethiopian pastoralist Day and the government accepted that and decided January 25th as EPD national day. The pastoralist are recognized in the constitution EFDRE. Pastoral Standing Committee in the people representatives of Ethiopian parliament has been established and pastoral specific institution at regional level have also been established. The government and other development partner's initiated mega pastoral oriented project such as PCDP to develop pastoral region. These are happening in response our repeated questions and we thank the government for the positive questions. However, we have still many problems which need to be addressed by the government. The following are the priority issues of Ethiopian pastoralist's by the region:



Question raised by pastoralist's from Afar region

- (1) As we all know Afar region is one of the least developed and forgotten region in the past regimes. Although a lot of changes are there with this government, still there are many issues that people are suffering of them. To mention some of them, although electricity service has been supplied for many kebeles and small towns, the quality of the service is poor. There is no continuity in power supply. Although many roads are constructed in the region, the number of all-weather roads is limited. The people are suffering during the rainy seasons where all dry rivers are full with flood coming from high land areas
- (2) The Awash River is one of the most important resources to Afar people. There are two major problems with it. During the dry season, the water is going down and agro pastoralist suffers from shortage of water to irrigate their land. On the other hand, during rainy season the flood from the river damages all farm lands, crops on the field, livestock grazing, residence areas and socio-economic infrastructures. There is Awash Watershed Administration Authority which supposed to regulate the flow of the water. We are not clear what this organization is doing. We ask the construction of dam to protect us from flooding.
- (3) It is well known that the priority problem of Afar community is water. The people move in search of water and grazing. The government is trying to settle the people without providing water and other social services. The government developed under ground water in Zone four of the region. This is really a big achievement and showed us that the government has the capacity to solve water problem. We ask the government expand the water development works in Zone four to other areas of the region suffering from lack of water.
- (4) The agro pastoralists around Awash River are producing crop and vegetables. They lack market for their product especially for vegetable. We ask the government to link us with market. The people are also lack potable water and they ask for the development of clean water
- (5) Although the government constructed many roads, still all-weather roads are limited. We face big problem especially during the rainy seasons as we can't cross rivers
- (6) Most of our people are new to farming. We started farming recently. We plough our land with oxen, but this has many problems. First ploughing is difficult for oxen. We ask the government to support us in tractor ploughing.

Question raised by pastoralist's from Somali region

- (7) There are a number of development projects implemented in Somali region through support of the federal government. We thank the Federal government for these supports. Our priority problem in Somali region is water. We ask the federal government to support us in water development for the people and livestock.
- (8) We appreciate the effort of the government in constructing road network connecting zones to region, Woredas to zone and kebeles to Woredas in many places of Somali region. However, still many areas are not accessible or accessed through long distance. We ask the federal government to construct bridges on main perennial and dry rivers. If the bridges are constructed, the others will be constructed with community labor or with minimum cost by the regional government.

- (9) Women are the most affected one by the problem of lack of water and lack of access road. The Somali women travel long distance to fetch water and usually die at delivery due to lack of access road or lack short cut to reach health stations. Therefore, the development of water and construction of bridge on rivers are our priority issues which we want the federal government to support us. We can get other development support from the regional government and we ask the government to focus on water development and bridge construction along rivers
- (10) We ask the Federal government to establish quarantine service within Somali region to improve livestock marketing to outside markets.

Question raised by pastoralist's from Oromia region

- (11) We need pastoral land policy. The lands for various uses such as crop cultivation, livestock grazing, natural reserve and other uses should be delineated. Communal ownership certificate should be issued for communal grazing land. The pastoralist will take responsibility of managing the grazing land through maintain balance between the range land capacity and livestock number. The pastoral household will also improve the production system.
- (12) We need fair and regular market to our product including livestock and livestock product. The current marketing system is not favoring the pastoralist. The majority of the benefit goes to the middle men and trader.
- (13) Camel is one of the big assets of pastoral household. However, the veterinary service didn't give focus on camel health. There is a camel disease which doesn't have vaccine or treatment so far. This disease killed many camels every year. We ask the government to look for vaccine or treatment for such camel disease
- (14) There are many places without access roads in pastoral areas whereas most of existing roads are damaged. We ask for construction of more access road and maintenance of existing damaged one
- (15) Mobile telephone has been provided in most of pastoral areas in response of our previous question. However, still there are some places where by the antenna is installed but no service. Similarly, electricity has been provided in many areas, but still there are many areas where the line are in place but no power. In general the quality of the mobile service and electricity are poor and we ask the government to improve the situation
- (16) Schools are constructed and started functioning in all areas, but the quality of education service is poor and we ask the government to improve the quality of education. In addition, we need additional universities in pastoral areas
- (17) The water development work in Fentalle and Borana areas were an exemplary work of the government in which other pastoral region wanted to learn and replicate n their specific situation. The communities of Fentalle and Borana areas had a big hope on the final result. However, most of the work either not completed or not covered many people. We ask the government to finalize the work in Borana areas and make expansion to benefit more kebeles and the people in Fentalle Woreda
- (18) We ask the establishment pastoral areas development Minister at federal level

- (19) We ask the government to provide us a mechanized machine or other means to eradicate invasive plants or bush prosopis from our range land or other productive land
- (20) We ask the government to look mechanism whereby the pastoralist's access sugar cane by products to feed their livestock during critical drought period or dry season
- (21) We ask the government to establish referral hospital in Borana area
- (22) We ask for establishment of meat processing factory in Borana areas as we have many livestock including cattle, shoat and camel

Question raised by pastoralist's from SNNP Region

- (23) The Dasenech people have critical conflicts with Turkana. The Turkanas are attacking the Dasenech. They kill people, loot their animals. Dasenech can't defend themselves. The Kenya government is also not taking action. We ask the government to support Dasenech to defend themselves
- (24) The villagization program is good for the people, but there are many problems in its implementation. The program is not well coordinated and implemented to benefit the people. The government should further investigate and take remedial actions
- (25) The Sugarcane factory and sugar development work is limited in some areas. We have seen people in Salamago benefiting from the interventions. We ask the government to scale up this development work in other areas too
- (26) We ask the government to introduce Borana breeds to our areas
- (27) We ask the government to construct dam on Waito and Omorati river to use for irrigation agriculture
- (28) There is access road problem in Bench Maji zone Woredas. The construction of one road which has been started in the past years is not finalized properly. We ask the government to give attention in this regard
- (29) There is a border conflict with Ethnic groups in south Sudan. We ask the government to look for long lasting solution for this problem
- (30) We have three rivers in Bench Maji zone. We ask the government to support us in developing small scale irrigation along these rivers
- (31) We a big problem with regard to animal health service in south omo and Bench maji zone. We ask the government to provide us with better services
- (32) We have huge gold resources in our areas. Some people are benefiting through mining these resource. But the majority of the people are not benefiting. The major problem is lack of education and capacity building support to the people. We ask the government in expanding education and building the capacity of the local people so as they can utilize local resources to improve their living
- (33) We ask the government introduce basic adult education program

Responds of PM to all questions

- (1) Addressing the question raised in relation to shortage of water in pastoral areas, the Premier explained that pastoralist development activities should be implemented putting water at the center. There is no pastoral development without water. In pastoralist areas, water is significant for fodder development apart from serving the basic needs of humans and livestock. Fortunately in areas inhabited by the pastoralist community, there is enough surface and ground water. There are many perennial rivers crossing pastoralist areas. We have very good experience in some pocket areas like Fentalle and Zone four of Afar region. We need to expand and scale up these best practices to other areas. For this to happen we need to build the capacity of regional water works authority in terms of human power and machinery. Once the capacity is built, the regional water works authority can develop the water. Once the water is ready, the pastoral communities should be ready to transform their traditional livestock production system into an improved production system. Thus, they should produce improved forage, keep improved breeds and keep the health of their animals.
- (2) The government is also committed to improve livestock and crop production in pastoral areas of the country through developing mega irrigation schemes using big rivers.
- (3) With regard to the question raised in relation to the delay of the Borana water development project, the federal government jointly with the regional government investigate further and take immediate action. This will be immediate action of the government. With regard to Fentalle irrigation development project, it is true that all communities are not benefited from the project. The regional government will develop and implement an expansion plan to benefit more people.
- (4) The delay in construction of an irrigation scheme in Bench Maji zone was due to problems related to design. Now, the problem is solved and the construction will be started soon. The construction of the irrigation scheme will be done through linking with government mega agricultural/sugarcane development projects. In the meantime, it is possible to undertake small scale irrigation on the three rivers.
- (5) We need to work also strongly to protect and preserve the Borana breed before disseminating to other areas. In Borana areas, the priority issues will be finalising the already started water development project, then improving the rangeland through controlling invasive species and then protecting the indigenous Borana breeds. We will build up on what has been started by the regional government in relation to protecting the breed.
- (6) The government will take the issues of camel disease and vaccine development as a priority issue.
- (7) The government has conducted a study on how to manage flood problems and water shortage of the Awash River. As per the recommendation of the study, the government has developed a plan to construct an additional dam. Through constructing the dam it is possible to regulate the flow of water. Excess flood water will be stored during the rainy season and this will be released based on the actual need of water in downstream users including small scale irrigation users. This activity demands a huge amount of financial and technical resources. The government is committed to spend this huge money. But we need to be sure that how far the Afar communities benefited so far from our grower sugarcane production opportunities created. As part of the development of government owned mega sugarcane

production and processing project, the communities are allocated with land to produce sugarcane and supply to the factory as out grower. This has not been practiced so far. We need to be very clear why the communities didn't utilize this opportunity before going to construct new dam.

- (8) There is very good practice in Salamago areas of South Omo zone of SNNP region. The communities started to produce sugarcane as out grower and supplying to the factory. By doing so, they benefited a lot. Other people in South Omo are also asking for similar opportunities. This practice should be expanded to Afar areas. The Afar people should produce sugarcane and supply the Tendaho sugar factory. The pastoralists should create wealth in this way. When we meet in the next pastoralist day event (16th EPD), We need to make sure that the Afar people started producing sugarcane and supply to the factory and earning money and improve their living. For this to happen, the government official at all level should work hard in supporting the people.
- (9) With regard to the questions raised in relation to road, it is interesting that the pastoralist asked for construction of bridge across the river, not for the whole road. The understanding is that if the government constructed bridges, the communities will work on the rest through labour. The government is committed to assess the need and conduct feasibility and put plan to implement in the coming period. The government will look on the possible technologies whether to uses concrete or temporary metal bridges.
- (10) The federal government is working aggressively in building large networks, and installing of electric and telephone lines in pastoralist areas. The government managed to supply most of the pastoral towns, Woredas and some kebeles with electricity. However, we need to improve the capacity of electric line to carry more power and reach all places. We will work on this as a priority issues in the coming period. In addition to the power problem, there are also problem of getting shortly transformer or other equipment to distribute the power to household level. There are also management problem in some areas to distribute the power to user due to bad governance. We are taking immediate measure on the bad governance issues. We need support of regional, zonal and Woreda level government authority and the community in this regard. It is my hope that all problems in relation to power supply and management will be solved in the coming two three years.
- (11) The government is able to expand mobile and fixed line to all pastoral regions, zones, Woredas and kebele level. But the quality is poor in most of the cases. As a solution, the government up graded the system in Northern and Eastern Ethiopia. In this areas, the quality has been improved. However, in southern Ethiopia, up grading and expansion work is not performed and the quality is still poor. This will be done in the coming period.
- (12) The government believed that voluntary settlement of pastoralist is the bottom line of ensuring pastoral development and improvement of pastoralist life and livelihood. The government initiated voluntary pastoral villagaization program and the regional governments are responsible to implement the program. This program is effective in most areas, but there are some areas where the program is poorly implemented. Before settling the people water and other social services including health and education should be fulfilled. Settling pastoralist without water and irrigation land is not possible. We came to know, there are problems in availing these services so far. The regional government will take immediate measure to make sure that all these problems are solved and the federal government will follow on its achievement.

- (13) With regard to land use and administration policy in pastoral areas, most of the regions have developed the policy. The problem is that the policy is not implemented so far. The federal government will support the regional government to implement the policy through fully involving the people and various land users. In implementing the policy, farming and grazing land will be clearly delineated. The government will also look on possibilities of communal land certification.
- (14) The government fully agree and support the ideas of using tractor instead of oxen. The interest of the government is to use oxen for meat, hide and live export to generate foreign currency. Therefore, the government fully support the people in providing tractor in cheap prices and extended payment schedule. If the agro pastoral households organize themselves in group, contribute some amount of money and come up with formal request, the government will link them the government owned tractor factory. The government is also highly interested to support pastoral youths to be engaged in irrigation based farming or livestock production. The government have special subsidy and incentive mechanism to motive pastoral youths on irrigation farming.
- (15) The problem raised in relation to market is complicated. We need to work very hard to address these issues. It is anticipated that there will be an increase of crop production (cereals, vegetables and fruits) and livestock products as the result of the ongoing irrigation development projects. The producers should be linked with fair and regular market to continue in the production cycles. He told the pastoralists that major problem of existing abattoirs established in the country is lack of adequate supply of livestock (shoats and cattle) and as a result some abattoirs were closed. Whereas, there is huge livestock resource in pastoral areas. There is no link between pastoralist and the abattoirs. Therefore, the pastoralists need to organize themselves in to marketing cooperatives. The cooperatives help them to bring their cattle to the market in sufficient supply. In the absence of this, it will collect livestock from pastoralist and supply to the abattoir or find other reliable market at local, national and international markets. Establishing cooperatives alone will not guarantee to improve marketing. The cooperatives should be capacitated and supported until they are able to function effectively. In this regard, the federal and regional government will work on organizing and capacitating marketing cooperatives in all pastoral regions as soon as possible.
- (16) In connection to the question of establishing meat processing abattoirs in pastoral regions, the government is motivating and pushing private sector to invest on it in pastoral regions. However, if the communities organized in marketing cooperative, it is possible for them to be linked with existing abattoirs irrespective of their location. Through establishing and capacitating marketing cooperative it is possible to control illegal livestock marketing to neighbouring countries and meeting the demand of local abattoirs.
- (17) The question of establishing Pastoral Ministry is not timely. In relation to pastoralism, the important structure is those of the regional structures. At the regional level, pastoral specific government structures are already there and the only thing that we need is capacitating them. Establishing an independent ministry at federal level has a big implication on administrative cost. There are many high level government structures in Ministry of Agriculture and others. These structures are managing the pastoral issues for the time being. In the future, we will think of it if it demands us independent structure.

- (18) With regard to establishment of referral hospital at local level, the health policy will not allow us. The health policy of the country focuses on prevention. The health service starts from health post, health center, Woreda hospital and goes to the higher level referral hospitals. There are only one or two referral hospital at regional level. Referral hospitals respond to those issues beyond the capacity of lower level health institutions.
- (19) The federal government is working to settle the border conflict in South omo and at the border of south Sudan in collaboration with Kenyan and south Sudan government. We ask the patience of the Dasenech and Nynagatom community from our side.
- (20) Finally the PM promised that the government of Ethiopia will work aggressively to address all the questions raised by the community. He added also that each of the issues raised will be directed to the responsible ministry and the regional governments for immediate action. The PM office will follow-up on its implementation. He added also the major responsible organs are the regional governments. The pastoral people should ask their government for all the development issues as these are the mandate of the regional governments.

5 Summary Outcomes/achievements of the 15th EPD

- **OUTCOME ONE: The status of pastoral development in the country known and gaps discussed**
 - ✓ H.E Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn officiated the opening ceremony while members of his cabinet were accompanying him. In his key note address the PM called for all pastoral actors to explore and scale up best pastoral development practice through convincing and mobilizing pastoral communities at large.
 - ✓ The Minister of MoFA, H.E. Dr. Sheferaw Teklemariam, presented the achievement attained so far on pastoral development by the Government vis-à-vis the resolutions passed during the 14th EPD and before. The report showed that there is a progress in basic service coverage and availability of other services such as electricity, telecommunication and road.
 - ✓ The pastoral representatives held a panel discussion with the Head of the Government (H.E. Hailemariam Desalegn, Prime Minister of FDRE). The key points raised were water problem, livestock health, human health, settlement, land matters, education, infrastructure development, and market and conflict issues. The PM gave directions on these issues and the official document circulated.
 - ✓ The Afar, Ethiopian Somali, Oromia and SNNP regions celebrated own pastoralist day that was led by senior government organs including the president and discussed pastoral issues while the pastoralist and partners got stage for voicing concerns
 - ✓ High-level panel discussion on federalism and pastoral development held in Semera town in the eve of EPD and a senior government official assured there is no intention from the government side to convert all pastoralists to farmers.
 - ✓ Representatives from each pastoral regions have presented regional development best practice and lessons
 - ✓ Exhibitions and demonstrations on various pastoral issues as main and side event have been organized
- **OUTCOME TWO: Momentum of pastoral advocacy moved on and pastoralist' more integration in the national and regional socio-economy domains sought for**
 - ✓ PM Hailemariam awarded 229 hero pastoralists and partners with Smart mobile phones and trophies.
 - ✓ The IGAD leadership were convinced with the importance of Pastoralist Day for regional economic integration and promoting peace and stability in the region and promised to discuss at higher-level how to take the lead in organizing the Regional Pastoralist Day in the future.
 - ✓ PM Hailemariam promised (in separate interview held with him and published in the EPD Special Magazine) that he would promote the Regional (African) Pastoralist Day as it is a proven instrument to advance pastoral development in the region.
 - ✓ All members of the FDRE HR Pastoralist Affairs Standing Committee (PASC) and representatives of MoFA discussed and got updated the fundamental issues of pastoralist,

designed Monitoring and Evaluation Strategy on how to monitor the implementation of EPD resolutions that enrich the existing strategy in the PASC.

- ✓ All board members of the three Pastoralist Elders Councils (Afar, Ethiopian Somali, and Oromia) held a consultative workshop on how to boost pastoralist awareness on the current status of pastoralism and to articulate their voices in the EPD and reviewed the councils' governance.
 - ✓ Promotional materials reflecting the key message of the event prepared and distributed: Four Billboard stood in Semera; regional government flags and 1000 national flag prepared and posted in different places of Semera town; 20 big banners with various mottos/messages, 2000 copies of Newsletter in Amharic depicting key issues of 15thEPD, 2000 copies posters, 2000 T-Shirts, and 2000 Capes prepared and distributed to celebrants during the EPD and to various organs of government and NGOs, donors and other pastoral friends
- **OUTCOME THREE: The Afar region government development boosted and people-to-people tie strengthened**
- ✓ The Semera University, the power house of knowledge, has got a big generator (800kv), upgraded the water system, several staff houses start functioning, the students the campus community as a whole motivated to understand and support pastoralism
 - ✓ The Grand Semera Stadium renovated and start functioning
 - ✓ Semera Town got around 1.2 km asphalt road
 - ✓ Semera Town linked with the Dubti Woreda where a big government owned Sugarcane plantation and sugar factory operating with 13.4km asphalt
 - ✓ The highway crossing Logia town renovated and side ditches constructed
 - ✓ Electric poles and road clearance expansion done
 - ✓ The region media promoted pastoralism for months including highlighting the regional development potential and tourism
- **OUTCOME FOUR: Pastoral solidarity through promotion of multiculturalism/cultural pluralism under the Ethiopian and the Eastern African 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.
 - ✓ The Head of State/Government of Afar region has arranged accommodation and food in group for participants for all the days whereby the pastoralists got an opportunity to discuss and share their practices and culture among each other.
 - ✓ Peace and stability across pastoral region promoted and many pastoralists got similar development and inclusiveness agenda. The Issa Somali pastoralist which recently fell under the Afar region administration showed their identity for the first in the EPD celebrated in Afar.

- **OUTCOME FIVE: The Public Domain reached out and the profile of pastoralists and pastoralism raised**
 - ✓ H.E Dr. Shiferaw Teklemariam, Minister of MoFA, has delivered press conference for journalists coming from different local media
 - ✓ The EPD main committee delivered interview in media to address the public on the progress and objective of the EPD
 - ✓ Ethiopian Radio and Ethiopian television (ETV) and the regional media (Afar, Ethiopian Somali, Oromia and SNNP) broadcasted various programs for months in various local languages.
 - ✓ Ethiopian Television, Ethiopian Radio and Radio Fana have transmitted live the ceremonial part of EPD in different languages, while the print media gave good coverage
 - A program has been developed on the discussion of the Pastoralists with PM and disseminated in different languages
 - Similarly a program has been developed on the field visit of the participants to two areas of Afar region and broadcasted in different languages
 - ✓ There was series of ETV NEWS Spots on ETV promoting the EPD

- **OUTCOME SIX: The whole processes and outcomes of the 15th EPD documented and disseminated by DVD, photographs, and a magazine and reached users**
 - ✓ The whole process of celebrating the event was documented by photo albums DVD and distributed to key the four pastoral regions, MoFA, PASC, and IGAD. Part of this documentation is posted in PFE website
 - ✓ 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 and evaluated the effectiveness and efficiency of celebrating the EPD and passed the way forward.

6 To be reported separately as some activities are not yet accomplished

7 Annex . English version (non-official) of the directions given by the FDRE Prime Minister, H.E Hailemariam Desalegn, on pastoral development

Logo of FDRE
Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
Ministry of Federal Affairs

Ref no: HI-820/001/07-50
date: 20 Yekatit 2007

All addresses listed below
where their office is

Subject:- Official notification of major directives agreed upon on issues raised on the meeting of representatives of Ethiopian pastoral communities with His Excellency Ato Hailemariam Desalegn, Prime Minister of FDRE during the 15th Ethiopia Pastoral day Celebration.

In the presence of His Excellency Ato Hailemariam Desalegn, Prime Minister of F.D.R.E, significant number of higher federal and regional government officials, delegates of donor organizations as well as local and international NGOs, the 15th Ethiopian Pastoral Day was colorfully celebrated from January 23-25/2015 in Semera Town, Afar region.

At the end of the celebration, plenary discussion was conducted between representatives of Ethiopian pastoral communities with His Excellency Ato Hailemariam Desalegn, Prime Minister of F.D.R.E., on the meeting, several issues were raised by pastoral communities and answer, explanations and contextual directives were given by Prime Minister.

Accordingly, we hereby are sending the summarized the major directives and directions by sector hoping that all of concerned federal and government leadership will give due attention and coordinate all stakeholders to expedite the ongoing development efforts in pastoral areas for achievement of developmental goals and objectives.

Finally, we are requesting with homage performance report from each sector for planned monitoring and evaluation endeavors of our Ministry.

with compliments
Signed by
Dr. Shiferaw Teklemariam
Minister
OFFICIAL SEAL
Ministry of Federal Affairs

Carbon Copies:-

- **Office of Prime Minister**
- **Pastoral Affairs Standing Committee- House of People Representatives**
- **Pastoralist Forum Ethiopia (with attachment 4pp)**
Addis Ababa
- **Office of State Minister (with attachment 4pp)**
- **Office of Equitable Development Directorate General (with attachment 4pp)**
- **Office of Public Relations (with attachment 4pp)**
Ministry of Federal Affairs

Addressees list

- **Honorable Ato Demeke Mekonnen**
Deputy Prime Minister, F.D.R.E
 - **Honorable Dr. Debretsion G/Michael**
With stature of Deputy Minister, Coordinator of Finance and Economy cluster and Minister, Ministry of Information and Communication Technology
 - **Honorable W/o Aster Mamo**
With status of Deputy Minister, Coordinator of Good Governance and Reforms cluster and Minister, Ministry of Civil Service
 - **Honorable Ato Tefera Deribew**
Minister, Ministry of Agriculture
 - **Honorable Ato Alemayehu Tegenu**
Minister, Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Energy
 - **Honorable Ato Shiferaw Shigute**
Minister, Ministry of Education
 - **Honorable Dr. Leteberhan Admassu**
Minister, Ministry of Health
 - **Honorable Ato Workineh Gebeyehu**
Minister, Ministry of Transport
- Addis Ababa
- **Honorable Ato Ismael Ali Sero**
President, Afar National Regional State
- Semera
- **Honorable Ato Muktar Kedir**
President, Oromia National Regional State
- Addis Ababa
- **Honorable Ato Abdi Mehammed Umar**
President, Somali National Regional State
- Ijjiga
- **Honorable Ato Dese Dalike**
President, SNNP National Regional State
- Hawasa

OFFICIAL SEAL

Major directives and directions by sector given by His Excellency Ato Hailemariam Desalegn, Prime Minister of F.D.R.E. on the meeting of representatives of Ethiopian pastoral communities during the 15th annual pastoral day celebration from January 23-25/2015 in Semera city, Afar region.

Preamble

With joint planning and preparation efforts exerted by Ministry of Federal Affairs (MoFA), Pastoralist Affairs Standing Committee (PASC) and Pastoralist Forum Ethiopia (PFE) coupled with hospitality of the host region government and people, the 15th annual pastoral day was colorfully celebrated from January 23-25/2015 in Semera city, Afar region. On the occasion, His Excellency Ato Hailemariam Desalegn, Prime Minister of F.D.R.E, significant number of higher federal and regional government officials, delegates of donor organizations as well as local and international NGOs as well invited guests and thousands of people from Semera, Logiya and Dubti were attending the event.

At the end of the celebration, plenary discussion was conducted between representatives of Ethiopian pastoral communities with His Excellency Ato Hailemariam Desalegn, Prime Minister of F.D.R.E., on the meeting, several issues were raised by pastoral communities and answer, explanations and contextual directives were given by Prime Minister. Major directives and directions by sector given by His Excellency Ato Hailemariam Desalegn, Prime Minister of F.D.R.E are summarized as follows. Moreover, each sector is expected to submit performance report to Ministry of Federal Affairs.

1. Livestock production and productivity

To benefit pastoral communities from their livestock resources, major directions which due attention are:

a. Livestock production and productivity

- Agro-processing structures such as quarantine and abattoirs which are under construction
- Breed improvement and feed and forage production technologies which are contextually selected for pastoral setting
- Close attention to veterinary posts and clinics, making them operational and construction of new ones as deemed necessary
- Research institutions should pay close attention on overall research on camel health and nutrition
- furnishing the necessary medical inputs and human resources for veterinary service centers

b. Input supply, markets and marketing system

- with regard to agricultural input supply, due attention should be given on appropriate technologies such as ox ploughing, small holder farming and increased supply of improved varieties
- livestock markets under construction in all regions should be completed and furnished with facilities including market information system

- The livestock marketing system should be integrated with country and international markets
- Promotion of pastoral cooperatives should be taken as main strategy as it helps pastorals to earn direct benefits from their livestock resources by avoiding illegal marketing and brokers

2. Pastoral land use planning

- Based on the constitution and popular participation and consultation of communities, the land administration policies, proclamations, rules and regulations should be implementation in each region and challenges of land certification should be studied
- Priority should be given to study and differentiate land suitable for rangeland, arable land, etc with close consultation with pastoral setting at different levels of governance in all regions
- Any kind investments in pastoral settings should be friendly with pastoral areas context as well as the consent and ensuring the direct benefits of surrounding communities

3. Watershed based development and small scale irrigation schemes

- Close attention and monitoring of processes such as surface and ground water resources development activities started in connection with achievement of MDGs based on context of each region
- Scaling up of participatory small scale irrigation schemes that makes communities on “the-driver-seat” and complimentary irrigation packages and capacity building trainings should be planned
- Studies and pilot project started on the eradication of alien plants like *Prosopis Juliflora* should be completed and integrated action should be done to protect the rangeland of pastorals

4. Villagization

- With close consultation of pastorals and provision of social services such as education, health and water sanitation, water centered villagization program should be given top priority
- The villages established and scale up of new ones will only be successful with direct participation and real benefits of communities in the village. Accordingly, village level councils as well as groups should be established equipped with the necessary capacity building trainings
- On villagization program implementation, priority should be given to semi-sedentary and agro pastoral settings. Accordingly, all necessary conditions should be

complimented through town plan and ensuring ownership security system for each household.

5. Water resources development

- Water resources development activities should further be strengthened and above all close monitoring is crucial for ensuring communities are benefiting from these resources
- Necessary authority should be established which monitors and resolves sporadic conflicts on water use and mitigates river flooding especially on Awash river in Afar region
- Mega projects in the pastoral areas should be implemented with ownership consent of people in the surroundings. For instance, pastorals should be involved as out-growers on sugar cane plantations as well as the right to use by-products of sugarcane and molasses for livestock feed. Accordingly, organizational structure should be established among relevant stakeholders

6. Education and health services

- Due attention should be given to increase education coverage and further activities to improve quality of education. Through participation of students as well as adult education
- With regard to public health similarly efforts to increase coverage with increased input supply especially to tackle mothers' and children mortality and morbidity

7. Infrastructure development (roads, telecom, electricity, airports...)

- On going road constructions started both regional and federal government should be completed and additional efforts should be commenced to construct roads that inter connect zones, Woredas and kebeles
- Those efforts started by federal government on electricity, air ports and telecom should be completed and for this close monitoring of processes should be installed

8. Peace and security

- Scaling up of efforts to resolve conflicts within the region and neighboring regions, strengthening cultural and community based conflict mitigation efforts should get due attention