



# ESAP Newsletter

Issue No. 17, 2007

## Ethiopian Society of Animal Production

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### IMPERATIVES FOR PROMOTING PRIVATE COMMERCIAL LIVESTOCK RANCHES IN ETHIOPIA

Workneh Ayalew ([workneh.ayalew@nari.org.pg](mailto:workneh.ayalew@nari.org.pg))

Contrary to expectations, improved animal health and extension services in Ethiopia in the past decades did not lead to improved off take of marketable livestock products. This was explained by lack of market infrastructure, very low level of investment into the sector and cautious involvement of the private sector. In recent years, these constraints are being addressed to a certain extent both directly and indirectly.



Expansion of the economy, urbanization and growth of the middle class are fuelling a sharp rise in demand of livestock products, particularly meat, as demonstrated by the dramatic price hikes of livestock products. Official policies for export promotion have also attracted the private sector to explore opportunities

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### EDITORIAL

*Dear ESAP Family and readers,*

Wishing you all a prosperous and peaceful year, we came with the first issue of ESAP newsletter for the year 2008. The future seems and should be so bright and promising for the livestock farmers in the field of agriculture. Producing more than what's consumed in the household, market chain, commercialization and globalization, are all being focused by professionals and societies from all walks of life. Taking this into consideration, ESAP is focusing on different issues of livestock commercialization through publishing a quarterly newsletter on current issues and Amharic manuals on improved livestock agriculture; and undertaking panel discussions and different activities related to livestock commercialization.

All members and readers are invited to contribute articles, or any valuable information relevant and useful to help improve the Ethiopian livestock agriculture.

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# ACACIA

## IMPORTANT MULTIPLE PURPOSE TREE IN THE GREAT RIFT VALLEY

Alemayehu Mengistu ([alemayhumengistu@yahoo.com](mailto:alemayhumengistu@yahoo.com))

**A** **Acacia** is a large genus of mainly tropical and sub-tropical trees and shrubs containing about 1100 species. The majority of these are Australian but about 130 occur in Africa. Ethiopia has 49 native species and 10 exotic species present (originating from Australia) that occur from sea level to 2600m elevation.

Acacias are the dominant trees and shrubs in much of the drier medium and lower altitude areas of Ethiopia. In recent years, however, with increasing population pressures in these regions, the trees are rapidly being cleared to open the land for farming, for fuel, for charcoal manufacture and to some extent, for construction.

Acacias were probably once important in some of the medium altitude areas of the country as well, for remnant mature trees can still be seen in the fields, cut back (pollarded) for dry season fodder and construction material. In drier areas little farming is normally done due to the unreliability of the rainfall and livestock are grazed under these trees. In the dry season herdsmen are seen with long sticks knocking the pods of the trees for their livestock to eat.

However, the role of **Acacia** in livestock production apparently extends beyond the use of the trees as a direct source of fodder. In low rainfall areas if one walks in **Acacia** woodland after the rains have ceased, it is very noticeable that the grass is taller, and greener under the trees than the grass outside the circles of the tree canopies. Frequently there is little or no grass beyond the shadow of the tree, and what there is, is brown and dry long before that under the trees. This is a somewhat surprising observation as one does not expect grass to grow better in shade, or under the canopy of trees most of which require a great deal of water for transpiration.

The main reason for the better growth of the grass is mainly due to **Acacia** being leguminous. Bacteria (*Rhizobium*) exist in nodules on their roots and fix nitrogen. The leaves, thus, have high protein content year-round. A close inspection of the canopy of an **Acacia** will show that there is a large population of insects, which depend directly or indirectly upon **Acacia** leaves for their food. Birds are also abundant on the

**Acacia**, feeding on the insects. The **Acacia** micro-environment is in great contrast to the canopies of other genera, particularly non-leguminous ones which have almost no insect populations, resulting in a rapid cycling of nutrients from the tree to the soil in the form of dead insects, insect parts, and bird droppings. As well, most **Acacia** lose part of all of their leaves in the dry season, adding Nitrogen to the soil below.

Organic matter, and nutrients from the leaves improve and maintain the soil fertility, permeability, organic matter content, and thus the water holding capacity beneath the canopy. The shade helps conserve moisture by reducing the evapo-transpiration of the grasses and evaporation from the soil.

The feeding roots of the tree will help hold soil from erosion and perhaps supply nutrients directly to the grass at the onset of the dry season when nodules are sloughed.

Local herdsmen know the value of the **Acacia** and pas-



toralists and agro pastoralists whom I have spoken to say the grass grows much better under the **Acacia** and that the **Acacia** is a critically important part of this natural pasture.

A walk through the Great Rift Valley in which Acacias are thinned is quite educational. More grasses are still seen under the trees, despite cattle doing most of their grazing there. On the other hand the decline in grass production can be clearly seen in areas where trees have been cut for charcoal production. Barely a year after the removal of a tree there is greatly reduced

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## THE 15<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF ESAP

Fanos Mekonnen ([fanos\\_mekonnen@yahoo.com](mailto:fanos_mekonnen@yahoo.com))

Aftermath the Ethiopian new millennium celebration, ESAP held its 15<sup>th</sup> annual conference with a theme on 'pastoral livestock systems: opportunities and challenges as a livelihood strategy' from October 4-6 2007, sponsored by several NGOs working with pastorals under different capacities and circumstances.

accompanied by live violin music and some very surprising talents of ESAP members!

Among many interesting papers presented, and speeches made, during the three day conference, a speech made by a pastoral from Gambella invited by Oxfam- America:



Members and invited guests on the 15<sup>th</sup> annual conference of ESAP

The conference was officially opened on October 4<sup>th</sup> by the Director General of EIAR Dr Solomon Assefa, and then continued presentation of plannery paper by scholars from livestock agriculture and inauguration of Amharic booklets published by ESAP and USAID. Later on the same day, on a reception prepared in honor of ESAP members, medals and certificates were awarded for individuals, institutions and organizations who contributed to the Ethiopian livestock agriculture in General and to ESAP in particular. Among the many rewarded; gash Alemayehu Mengistu, Dr Azage Tegene, and Dr Getachew Gebru are to be mentioned from individuals and EIAR, Haremaya University and ILRI from institutions and organizations which was ac-

The pastoral said 'Love us first, that's were it all begins'! I believe he has a big point. Knowing the science, technology and procedures is not enough to make a difference in the lives of the pastorals and in bring sustainable improvement in their livelihoods.

On the third day, after all the technical papers were presented and critically reviewed, the business session report started. Dr Markos presented the annual work performance of EJAP. From his report, EJAP had gone through a rough year and was only able to publish only one journal. Then followed the annual financial transaction by Dr Nuru, and the overall annual activity report of ESAP by Dr Tadelles. Ac-

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## THE RIGHT TO FOOD

Tadelle Dessie ([t.dessie@cgiar.org](mailto:t.dessie@cgiar.org))

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations celebrates World Food Day each year on 16 October, the day on which the Organization was founded in 1945. The World Food Day and TeleFood theme for 2007 is "The Right to Food". The right to food is the inherent human right of every woman, man, girl and boy, wherever they live on this planet. More than 150 countries around the world celebrated (including Ethiopia) World Food Day this year, organizing special events, conferences, contests, sports activities and a global candlelight vigil on "The Right to Food".

The choice of The Right to Food as the theme for 2007 World Food Day and TeleFood demonstrates increasing recognition by the international community of the important role of human rights in eradicating hunger and poverty, and hastening and deepening the sustainable development process.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948 first recognized the right to food as a human right. It was then incorporated in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Article 11) adopted in 1966 and ratified by 156 states, which are today legally bound by its provisions. The expert interpretation and more refined definition of this right are contained in General Comment 12 of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1999). The Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security – the Right to Food Guidelines – were adopted-- by the FAO Council in 2004 and provide practical recommendations on concrete steps for the implementation of the right to food. This year's World Food Day theme, "The Right to Food," highlights a basic human right that is often ignored as severe food insecurity continues to afflict more than 850 million people.

The right to food, according to international law, is the right of every person to have regular access to sufficient, nutritionally adequate and culturally acceptable food for an active, healthy life. It is the

right to feed oneself in dignity, rather than the right to be fed. The right to food is the inherent human right of every woman, man, girl and boy, wherever they live on this planet. Ensuring that every girl, boy, woman and man enjoys adequate food on a permanent basis is not only a moral imperative and an investment with high economic returns: it is the realization of a fundamental human right.

In Ethiopia, despite the progress made in economic development in general and agricultural development in particular, in the past years, putting the right to food into practice still remains a challenge for the country and development practitioners, we still have millions of girls, boys, women and men that goes to bed with out adequate food.

Ethiopia has a long and dismal record of chronic hunger, poverty and famine. Depending on the measure used, 50 percent or more of Ethiopia's population is food insecure. With the great majority of food insecure area located in rural areas, there is also a growing problem of food insecurity among the lowest strata of urban dwellers, many of whom are recent migrants to the cities.

It is not unusual at present to hear estimates that over half of the Ethiopian population may in fact be chronically food insecure. Those mainly affected are households suffering from land scarcity or shortage of drought animals/ cash to buy inputs and a significant percentage of the landless, elderly, disabled, female-headed, poor pastoral and newly established households.

More recently, attention is being drawn to the fact that in several areas of the country, the majority of the population are sliding from middle wealth status to the lowest categories of well-being. Per capita assets are declining. Emergency aid may ameliorate the symptoms of food insecurity but does little or nothing to address its root causes.

Despite the pro-poor intentions of the Government's strategy of Agricultural Development Lead Industrialization (ADLI), certain key constraints to

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## News

### ESAP WORK PLAN 2007-2008

The members of the executive committee of ESAP has revealed their work plan for the year 2007-2008. According to the plan and work distribution among the 10 members, ESAP is to continue its aggressive progress towards knowledge dissemination and capacity building in livestock agriculture in Ethiopia. More repackaging of simplified Amharic manuals, policy recommendations, panel discussions on poultry, fish, honey and meat commercialization are planned. Other issues like finalizing the SPM, solving the office problem of ESAP, CD- ROM preparations, quarterly newsletter publications are among the plan.

The committee also discussed and assigned a responsible person to solve the problem with the ESAP website, and hopefully it will be resolved once and for all.



### IMPERATIVES FOR...

*Continued from page 1*

for export of live animals and chilled meat. However, the predominantly subsistent livestock sector was not prepared to meet the sudden surge in demand of meat animals. On the other hand, the average density of livestock numbers in many areas, more notably in the peripheral pastoral rangelands, continues to grow to unhealthy proportions.

The country has untapped potential to double or even triple livestock production both in the highlands and lowlands. Inherently, development of the livestock sector presents two challenges: it requires substantial investment, and the rate of return on investment may be relatively low and at times slow, as in the case of cattle production, for instance. This can mean that the sector losses out to competition from other sectors (e.g. crops, vegetables, flowers, manufacturing industry) in attracting large investment. This partly explains why large private commercial livestock ranches do not exist in Ethiopia to date.

There are economic imperatives to actively encourage private commercial ranches in marginal and low fertility areas for large scale cattle, goat and sheep production. The fast growing demand for quality meat both for the domestic and export markets in one major reason. Second, large expanses of marginal and low fertility areas in the mid to lowland areas as well as some pockets in the highlands, need to be revived and put to more productive use through adaptive livestock. Much of these areas are

constrained by lack of road and communications infrastructure, and socio-economic services.

The third major reason is the need to lay the foundation for long-term genetic improvement of the diverse livestock genetic resources in the country. The public sector has neither the capacity nor the resources to implement long-term genetic improvement programmes, as amply demonstrated by literally all existing government livestock ranches in the country (see for instance, research reports on the Proc. of the 2006 ESAP Annual Conf.). Apart from creating substantial employment and market opportunities, these ranches can be designed to provide vital market outlets for smallholder livestock keepers who wish to get engaged in contractual out grower arrangements.

The other, but equally important, imperative is the need to set up and manage sustainable resource utilization strategies in such marginal and vulnerable areas. Livestock, soil, rangeland, water, and forest resources in these areas are highly vulnerable to wasteful utilization and degradation at the time when population pressure in more resourceful areas is pushing poor rural families to migrate and resettle in these unexplored areas.

On fertile soils of the high and mid altitude areas, livestock ranches are less efficient in nutrient conversion than crop production. Crop residues and industrial by-products alone cannot support large commercial ranches. Intensive pasture improvement may also be economically less attractive than crop-

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**ACACIA...***Continued from page 2*

grass cover and commonly, the beginnings of soil erosion.

Abernosa Ranch, in the Great Rift Valley has a good cover of **Acacia** trees. The animals on the ranch do almost as well in live weight gain in the dry season as they do in the wet. As the natural value of the grass vegetation is considerably lower in the dry season than in the wet, the additional nutrition must come from the consumption of **Acacia** pods and, perhaps, leaves.

The leaves, which are dropped in the dry season un-

doubtedly, add to the diet of the animals as they are probably picked up off the ground.

**Acacia** trees are thus an extremely important natural resource, particularly in the Great Rift Valley. They promote grass growth under uncontrolled grazing, provide dry season fodder, maintain soil structure and fertility and prevent soil erosion. All concerned stakeholders should be well aware of the culture of these multipurpose trees and do all the necessary intervention for its improved utilization as well as conservation.

**Scholarships**

☞ Beekeeping for Poverty Alleviation (1 April 2008 – 31 July 2008)  
<http://www.zoofysiologie.ugent.be/> Belgium

☞ Dairy Technology: From Rural to Industrial Level (1 August 2008 – 31 October 2008)  
<http://www.itpdairytechnology.ugent.be/> Belgium

**THE 15<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL ...***Continued from page 3*

According to Dr Tadelle's report ESAP's gross income at the end of September 2007 has hit six digit numbers for the first time in 15 plus years. Way to go ESAP!

Election of EC committee for the upcoming two terms was next in line after the reports. It would be difficult for me to appreciate some of the speeches made by a senior member on the accomplishments of the outgoing committee, and the great ambitions they had, for ESAP, which I believe convinced the rest of the members to elect the same committee. The existing committee agreed to continue also, and nominated Dr Zelalem Yilma to work with the group replacing Dr Reta Duguma. Finally closing of the conference was made by W/o Meberat Alem from Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Livestock team leader, which brought the end of the three day conference.

From my view, the 15<sup>th</sup> annual conference of ESAP ended quiet successfully, of course having in mind

that nothing can be perfect and mistakes are inevitable. And the existing executive committee was highly praised for the achievements and progress of ESAP for the last two years. And of course all these achievements are worth celebrating! When we cele-



*Tadelle Dessie awarding medal to Getachew Gebru for his prominent contribution to ESAP*

brate we also remind ourselves to aim higher and remain focused on the vision ahead of us, that is: to be a society that is nationally and internationally recognized for excellence, development, and the advancement of knowledge.

☪ ☪ ☪

**IMPERATIVES FOR...**

*Continued from page 5*

ping. Marginal and low fertility areas can however be considered for large-scale efficient livestock production to provide the necessary incentives for large investments that can accept relatively low profit margins.

Large scale producers, like livestock ranchers, are by definition dependent on a secure market for their produce. It is believed that there exists strong demand for livestock products, including high-quality breeding stock for both smallholder and medium scale farmers.

Currently marginal and low fertility areas are on common property and are being used for communal grazing and occasionally cropping. Land tenure is indeed a severe limiting factor to such long-term investments like pasture improvement. Almost all grazing lands in Ethiopia are open to common grazing by privately owned livestock herds. This system works well with low human population pressures and therefore low animal numbers. However, as human and animal populations increase so does the pressure on the land and, since individuals are not responsible for the control of the grazing or for the maintenance of the land, everybody tries to maximise their return from the communal resource by increasing their herd sizes. This leads to severe overgrazing, low productivity and exposes the soil for erosion. When land is owned or leased by large-scale ranchers and farmers, there is the economic incentive as well as legal mechanism for matching

stocking rates with the carrying capacities in order to maintain and improve grazing and to replenish soil fertility. The chance of achieving a sustainable production system is less with communal than with privately owned grazing lands.

Studies by ILCA in the 1980's (Brumby and Trail, 1986; ILCA Bull. No. 23: 23-27) showed that large-scale ranching on the Ethiopian Borana cattle can indeed remarkably increase reproductive and productive performance of cattle, and beef cattle can reach live weight of 265kg at 2 years of age and 420 kg at 4 years of age. These are similar to those of the established commercial ranches in Africa (Botswana, South Africa) and Australia.

The potential negative effects of private commercial ranches to local livestock keeping communities and the environment can be averted by harmonious planning of developments in which local communities take active part whereby their livestock keeping enterprises are integrated with ranching operations so that ranching does not conflict with, or compromise traditional livestock keeping. Simple grow-out models and market outlet arrangements are just two ways of integrating traditional communities with commercial ranches.

It is therefore high time that private commercial ranches are actively promoted in Ethiopia not only as viable economic development opportunities but also as avenues for sustainable management of natural resources while supporting livelihoods of poor livestock keepers.

**ANNOUNCEMENT!**

Theme of 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of ESAP will be on  
**COMMERCIALIZATION OF LIVESTOCK AGRICULTURE IN ETHIOPIA.**

Everyone is invited to submit preliminary papers for presentation and posters to the ESAP office.

**CORRECTION**

Please read the following corrections on the last issue of ESAP Newsletter (issue No 16, 2007) on, the article, 'My one year Experience with ESAP' paragraph 2 line 9-15:

Livestock Policy recommendations were prepared and presented to the concerned bodies at MoARD and other stakeholder; Together with League of Pastoral People (LPP), IELD, Life Network, IBC and PFE, ESAP was able to organize a workshop on Animal Genetic resources in Africa at Institute of Biodiversity Conservation (IBC).

## 20 YEARS VETERINARY MEDICINE IN DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION (DIO): SYMPOSIUM "THE WORLD ON YOUR PLATE – LIVESTOCK IN A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE"

Getachew Gebru and Katrien Van't Hooft<sup>1</sup>

Endogenous Livestock Development (ELD) Network<sup>2</sup>

In honor of the twentieth anniversary of DIO this international one-day symposium was organized together with the global Endogenous Livestock Development network (ELD), on Wednesday November 7<sup>th</sup>, at the veterinary faculty in Utrecht, The Netherlands. This symposium focused on addressing the effects of globalization in livestock development, and present initiatives that strengthen local (marketing); and North-South exchange.

This workshop was attended by various professionals (close to a hundred), coming from universities, research institutions, international centers, NGOs, and farmer organizations from the North and South), and graduate students. Several countries were represented including Ethiopia, Germany, Ghana, India, Cameroon, Kenya, Mozambique, Netherlands, UK, Italy, Portugal, Mexico, Peru, and USA. Dr. Getachew Gebru of GL-CRSP of PARIMA attended the symposium and presented an invited paper on the PARIMA intervention model in pastoral marketing. Dr. Getachew is also one of the coordinators of the ELD Network.

Opening speeches were given by Dr. Mariska Leeflang of Netherlands (former president of DIO Foundation); and Professor David Millar, Vice Chancellor of UDS University, Ghana, and mem-

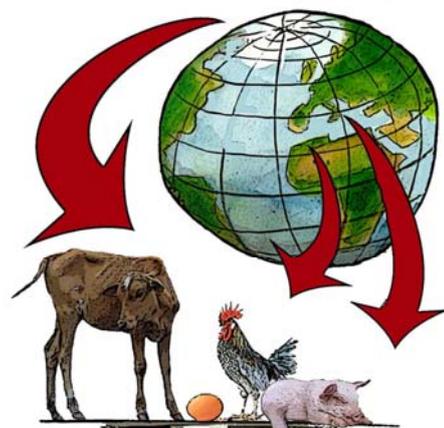
ber of the ELD advisory board. Dr. Leeflang, in her speech, gave an overview of the Dutch Agriculture during the past 60 years, and talked on agricultural subsidies to farmers and the implication of this on the export of agricultural goods to outside Europe.

Professor Millar underlined the need to re-think the conventional approach towards agricultural productivity and emphasized the potential for optimizing local animal production systems, within the context of people's own criteria and strategies.

The focus was then on several specific themes: the effect of control of Avian Influenza, the effects of dairy subsidies, and the effects of trading frozen poultry parts. During the session on the control of Avian Influenza (AI), the effects of controls through mass-destruction of sick and healthy birds were discussed. These may well lead to increased risk of human death through malnutrition, which well passes the risk of death through infection with AI. The epidemiology of AI was discussed and this was followed by the experiences so far with control measures and their effects in two countries:

Thailand and Indonesia. A presentation on Cameroon experience with AI indicated the effects of elimination of whole flocks without compensation; the collapse of the local poultry market, and increased gap between government and farmers.

The  
World on your Plate  
Livestock in a global perspective



www.dio.nl



# Symposium

Wednesday 7 November 2007

Veterinary Faculty Utrecht,  
lecture hall gezelschapsdieren,  
Münsterlaan 7, De Ulthof, the Netherlands

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**20 YEARS ...***Continued from page 8*

Several issues were raised around the control of AI: **compensation** (does cash compensation help restocking; what would be a good form of compensation, why compensate only farmers-why not others who depend on income from poultry? Should the consumer also contribute toward the compensation?); and **production systems** vs. AI (promoting backyard poultry; evidence to support local chicken resistance to virus, etc). It was noted that more and more organizations are taking advantage of the 'fear' on AI, and use it to promote industrialized poultry production systems.

Interesting presentations (Netherlands and India) were also made on the effects of subsidies on dairy products. The Netherlands paper focused on supporting the continued presence of the EU Milk Quota System, although it did have adverse effects for dairy producers outside Europe. Building on the Indian experience, presentation by ANTHRA on "implication of trade liberalization on the Indian Dairy sector" indicated that since 1994 the lifting of the restriction on imports and foreign trade, and the big influence of private business in Indian dairy market coupled with the import of the EU highly subsidized skim milk powder and butter oil, amongst many, led to the decline in number of cooperatives; destruction of the mixed cropping systems; and increased reliance of farmers on market for feed and fodder.

A case study from Mozambique showed how the growth of the poultry sector is greatly being affected by imports of frozen chickens from Brazil. These also pose a health hazard to the consumers, as chicken near shelf-life expiration and of unknown origin are sold in local super-markets. There is a strong case for the government to guarantee strict control on imports, and challenge international trade agreements that could have negative effects on local poultry population.

In the afternoon, several alternatives were presented based on local organisation and marketing in both developed and developing world. The presentation on the experiences of the Dutch dairy farming (by

ETC-Netherlands and by a biodynamic dairy farmer) focused on reducing the feed nitrogen that is excreted and removed from the farm to increase efficiency and save money. The organic dairy farmer also shared his experience from the perspective of "Nature always wins, so better adapt your farm to nature than do the other way round".

Experiences of successful local livestock -related initiatives from Ethiopia and Mexico focused on women, and stood as examples of collective action where local communities can be empowered, and their capacity built to be change movers through the use of local resources and experiences; multi-stakeholders participation; and non-conventional extension approaches. Two other presentations by the Farmers Foundation (Boerengroep) and the X-Y Foundation related to the North and South linkages. The movie "We feed the world" (shocking to some and familiar to others) was shown by Boerengroep. Large scale production and marketing has led to many problems in the North, and southern countries need not repeat these mistakes. There is a lot the North could learn from the South and vice versa. X-Y foundation presentation focused on the EU policy change on market regulation and the demand on developing countries to open up borders; and the strong need for import regulations by the south, so as to promote sustainable imports.

All in all it was a very inspiring day, in which new ideas and insights emerged. The critical issues related to globalization and livestock were directly linked to possible alternatives based on local organization and marketing. The take home message was that North and South needs to increase the process of learning from each other in finding sustainable ways of development based on local initiatives and marketing. The symposium was a clear step in that direction.



<sup>1</sup> Katrien Van't Hooft, Evelyn Mathias, and Getachew Gebru are coordinators of the ELD network

<sup>2</sup> The ELD net work aims to strengthen exchange at the grassroots level as well as between support organizations. If you want to join the mailing list subscribe to ELDev mailing list by sending a blank message from your e-mail address to: [ELDev-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:ELDev-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

**THE RIGHT...** *Continued from page 4*

agricultural growth appear to persist. In particular, diminishing farm size and lack of tenure security have been recently singled out as serious structural constraints without the resolution of which we cannot expect significant improvement in the sector in the foreseeable future.

That crop production figures have increased substantially since the mid-1990s which cannot be disputed. That this is mainly related to increased yields per hectare is less obvious, even in good years.

Surely Ethiopia deserves a more coherent and innovative government/ donor approach - one that is people centered, holistic, dynamic, market based and linked to an appropriate policy framework.

Empirical studies of famine invariably conclude that food itself is rarely the key to reducing vulnerability. Interventions that occur early on in the development of the "famine" process and build upon existing, largely cash-based coping strategies stand a better chance of being effective as long as local initiatives are fully understood and supported.

What will also be required is the strengthening of a political will to fight food insecurity at all levels. It has been suggested that "the best possibility for

achieving a sustainable improvement in livelihoods policy is to focus on increasing civil society and stakeholder participation in the policy process".

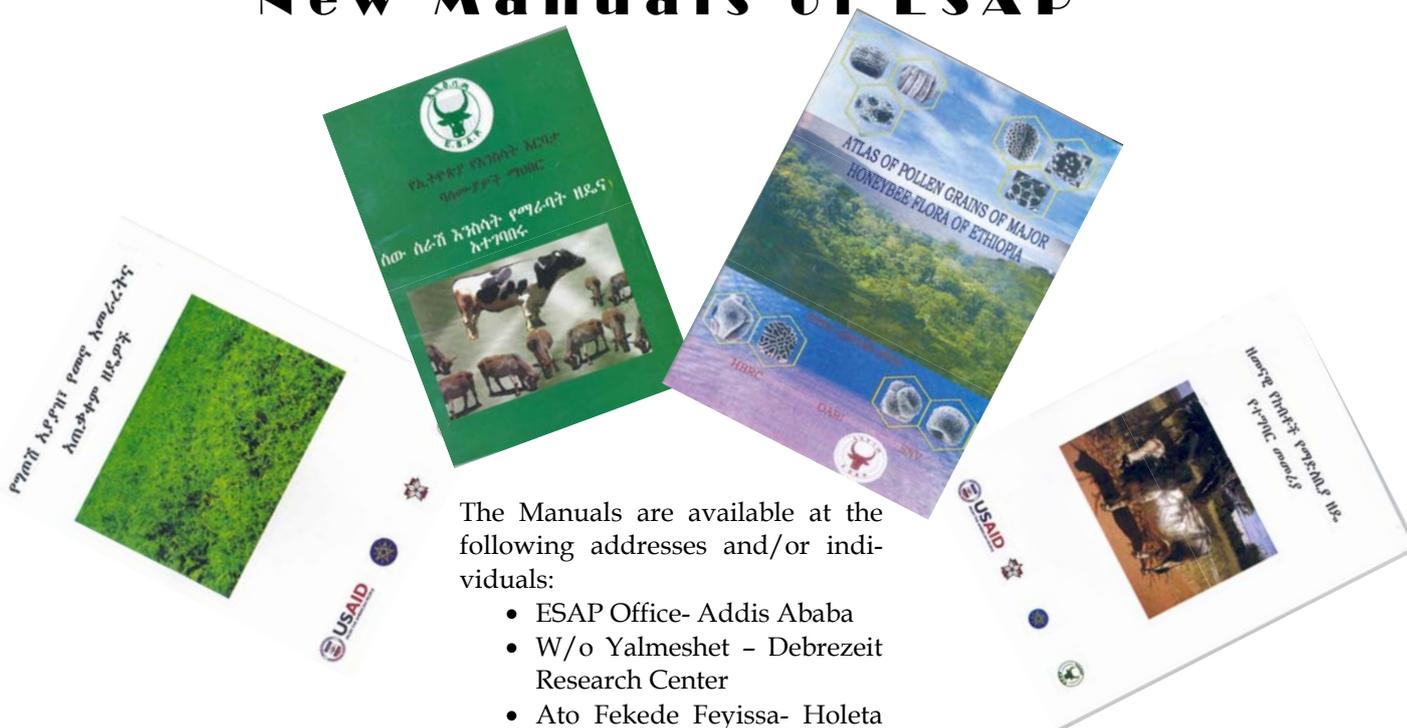
This also implies accepting the extent to which natural and external factors cannot be scapegoats for the needs millions of people in Ethiopia today. Multi-sectoral and decentralized planning will not be easily institutionalized. The challenge of building partnerships and collaborative approaches to understanding the complexity of food security issues among disparate stakeholders so as to integrate the efforts of all into a common livelihoods framework is one which we should be committed to support.

Above all, it is imperative that in-depth, continuous research into local perspectives and struggles is intensified. The current and alarming food insecurity situation in Ethiopia demands the attentions of every body and sends a wakeup call to each and every able citizen of this country to make a life time commitment to fight for the Right of every citizen for food!

Finally let me stop by sharing my strong and life time wish of seeing that this unfortunate chapter of Ethiopian history closed and every citizen's right for food ensured.



**New Manuals of ESAP**



The Manuals are available at the following addresses and/or individuals:

- ESAP Office- Addis Ababa
- W/o Yalmeshet - Debrezeit Research Center
- Ato Fekede Feyissa- Holeta Research Center