

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Conference

Ethiopia is potentially a rich agricultural country. If managed well, it is capable of feeding its people as well as exporting food items. Nevertheless, Ethiopia has been food-insecure for the past several decades. Despite having received food aid for at least four decades, the country had not made serious efforts to improve the food security, on the contrary, it continued to get worse. The recurrent famine was officially blamed on drought. However, it had been clearly demonstrated that deeply seated structural factors were responsible for recurring famine, rather than droughts.

Over the years, many NGOs have been trying to move from relief to development work in order to enhance sustainable agriculture and contribute towards achieving food self-sufficiency. Government also formulated several policies and strategies designed to address drought and famine as well as to encourage rural agriculture and guarantee food security. However, it became apparent that the measures taken to date by Government as well as NGOs did not achieve the desired goals.

In fact, drought-induced famines are being experienced within short time intervals. Moreover, the areas affected by famine are also rapidly increasing and is the number of people affected. Since 1974, Ethiopia has experienced five major humanitarian crisis. In 1974, the number of affected compatriots was 300,000; by 1981 the figure escalated to three million, and to 12.6 million in 2003.

In recognition of the disastrous situation, various conferences and workshops have been organized in the past to address issues relevant to recurrent famine in Ethiopia. However, the measures proposed in these conferences and workshops remained unattended to. They have not been translated into specific action plans with the appropriate mechanisms instituted for follow-up. To this end, Christian Aid-Ethiopia and Christian Relief and Development Association (CRDA) jointly organized a conference with specific purpose of identifying the root causes of famine and demystifying it once and for all; to identify workable measures that could be taken to incrementally enhance food security in a sustainable manner; and, to institutionalize a mechanism for follow-up of the workable measures recommended by the conference.

1.2 Objectives and Expected Outputs of the Conference

The main objective of the conference was to demystify the linkage between drought and famine and come up with concrete measures for mitigating recurrent famine. This was to be achieved by developing follow-up mechanisms for instituting positive and proactive advocacy to mobilize the political, economic and social resources in order to break the link between drought and famine in Ethiopia.

Specific objectives were:

- To bring together major stakeholders to discuss and reach consensus on practical measures to be taken to break the link between drought and famine;

- To mobilize renewed support from and to strengthen partnerships with both national and international actors to break the link between drought and famine through sustained dialogue and the provision of resources;
- To identify achievable measures that would incrementally address the problems of recurrent drought and famine;
- To identify measures and mechanisms to be taken up at the level of policy by Government and implementation by all stakeholders; and
- To establish mechanisms for subsequent follow-up action and advocacy, using strengthened partnership among GOs, NGOs, CSOs, UN agencies, donors and the private sector.

The conference was expected to:

- Identify why famines are invariably induced after droughts, and to identify other factors that amplify the consequences of drought;
- Review the measures taken for the management of drought-associated famines;
- Highlight what gaps exist in the management of the rural economy and in the mobilization of resources and propose additional and/or alternative interventions;
- Propose a framework of mechanisms for implementing agreed intervention;
- Identify advocacy themes for the promotion of the overall objectives of the conference;
- Reaffirm national and international partners' commitment to move forward in breaking the link between drought and famine, and to pursue the outcome/recommendations of the conference in a concerted manner; and
- Advocate the implementation of the recommendations ensuing from the conference at both national and international arenas, as well as, with policy makers and program implementers.

1.3 Organization of the Conference

The conference was organized in such a way that the lead issues relevant to famine were deliberated upon by experts, as presenters of papers, as discussants and as participants. The presenters were reknown experts on the issues that they addressed. The presentations as a whole had logical flow and were developed to complement one another. The major issues covered included historical perspectives of drought and famine in Ethiopia; evaluate policies, practices and institutions designed to contain them; challenges of access to resources for food security; human and natural resources management and drought-related famine prevention; assess farm technologies as famine prevention tools; challenges and opportunities for developing the financial and export sector to enhance food security; pastoral production systems, drought and famine, alternative perspectives; famine and hunger, review of foreign aid flow and its effectiveness; and the role of stakeholders in addressing the challenges of breaking the cycle of famine and hunger in Ethiopia. In order to capture both sides of the story, whenever it was possible, two experts a government official and an independent expert discussed each presentation). Each presentation was supplemented, clarified and /or commented upon from the floor.

The conference brought together about 200 participants from various sectors of the society such as government, NGOs and civil society, research institutions, donors, prominent citizens and private sector. It was held in Africa Hall of the Economic

Commission for Africa during two days, 3rd and 4th of July 2003. The opening session was officially presided by H.E. Girma W/Giorgis, President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.

2. OPENING SESSION

Ato Gabriel Galatis, the Chairman of the Executive Committee of CRDA, welcomed all the participants of the conference. He explained that the conference was organized to call attention to the throes of recurrent famine, and reiterated that the cycle of drought and famine could be broken, if the right strategies were put in place.

He stated that the organizers believed that an initial step in the right direction was to organize a conference that would bring together all stakeholders, including government, donor, civil society, private sector and other partners to renew efforts in dealing with these matters in a practical, achievable and constructive way. The ultimate purpose of the 'Way Forward' was to identify hosts and interest groups that would promote and help realise the conference outputs/resolutions through mechanisms that were to be agreed at the conference. He stated that the organizers of the conference strongly believed that gradual divorce of drought and famine in Ethiopia is possible, but if and only if, all put their acts together for a common goal.

Ato Gabriel Galatis then invited H.E. Girma W/Giorgis, President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, to officially open the conference.

H.E. Girma W/Giorgis, President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, began by stating that the Ethiopian Government was trying its level best to put in place the necessary mechanisms aimed at eradicating famine and subsequently poverty from Ethiopia. He reiterated that the restructuring of the former Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC) into the current Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Commission (DPPC) was one major step in the right direction. The Commission, on its part, he stated, has put in place an Early Warning System.

The President praised NGOs for having played a commendable role in mitigating the effects of drought and subsequently alleviating the plights of needy compatriots. He expressed his appreciation of the shift in focus of NGOs from relief aid to engaging in sustainable development activities. This was welcome development, since it aimed at addressing the root causes of the problem, he stated. Finally, H.E. Girma W/Giorgis assured the participants and the organisers of the conference that the Government of Ethiopia would positively consider the outcome of the conference and create an enabling environment for its subsequent implementation.

Professor Mesfin Wolde-Mariam, an authority on drought and famine in Ethiopia, gave the keynote address, titled 'Drought and Famine in Ethiopia: Historical Aspects'. A summary of his keynote address is presented below.

Famine was identified as the gravest human problem facing this country for over forty years and demanded the highest intellectual honesty, the highest moral rectitude and the most determined human commitment and social responsibility, he stated.

All other things remaining equal, he explained that population pressure alone will have devastating consequences, and self-defeating policies would accelerate the process. The problem was blamed, not on lack of knowledge in understanding the problem of famine, but on lack of will. He stated that the essence of vulnerability to famine lay in the undermining of the peasants' capacity to save some food or cash for hard times. As long as the Ethiopian peasants are not liberated and empowered, famine would remain with us, he reiterated.

He ascertained that the essential conditions for vulnerability to famine were the powerlessness of peasants on one hand, and their brutal oppression and exploitation, on the other. Three forces acting in concurrence create famine, namely, various forms of tax, unfavorable market forces and a set of religious and social forces. In addition, the problem of land tenure insecurity prevailed. He argued that the doubtful political benefits of the land tenure exact an enormous price in social, economic and political development. Ethiopia has the potential to become a very important exporter of agricultural produce, including food, provided sound social and economic policies for the management of its resources are put in place, it was argued.

He expressed the conviction that the way out of the quagmire was believed to be a change in land policy, a moratorium on taxation and various other contributions for peasants, a move to large-scale farming, and a liberation of the peasant.

3. DELIBERATIONS

The following overview attempts to capture the essence of deliberations from the paper presentations by re-known experts on programmed themes and issues, discussions and debates among participants. It has been emphatically agreed by all participants that natural calamities need not lead to hunger and famine. The highlight of the deliberations pull together the complex explanatory factors and structural issues that underlie the persistent food insecurity in the country.

3.1 Famine and Hunger: Policies, Practices and Institutions Designed to Contain Them

Dr. Mulat Demeke and Dr. Berhanu Nega, both highly respected economists, deliberated on these thematic issues. A summary of their deliberations is presented below.

During World War II and continuing until around 1947, Ethiopia was a major supplier of wheat to the Near East. No fertilizer, improved seeds or farm machinery was used to produce surplus for export in those early years. Shortfalls in production due to drought were less frequent and coping mechanisms were more sound. In addition livestock husbandry provided significant supplementary income.

Ethiopia's steep and rugged topography, combined with intensive use of land and some unsustainable farming practices, has contributed to high degree of land degradation (an estimated 50% of all crop land is reported to face serious soil degradation and erosion). At the same time, one major famine after another has shattered the hope of ensuring food security and the number of people dependent on food aid has been increasing.

In addition rapid population growth in recent decades has brought about far-reaching changes in the natural resource base and food security situation of the country. The Malthusian trap is rapidly entangling Ethiopia. A serious thinking on the part of experts and policy makers, among others, may indicate the path to escape the trap.

In turn rapid population growth has brought several changes in the traditional cereal farming system: Cultivation has been pushed to more marginal and fragile lowlands as well as steep slopes previously used as pasture and forest land; Farm holdings have become smaller and fragmented, reducing farmers' ability to practice crop rotation and fallowing; As crop residues become major animal feed and animal manure an important source of fuel, many farmers have resorted to chemical fertilizer to counter the problem of declining fertility; Degraded steep slopes are grazed continuously and are not allowed to regenerate; and the productivity and number of animals kept by each household declined mainly because of feed shortages.

There were ways and means for enhancing food production. For example, a rise in labor intensity of cultivation would increase output per unit of land, but output per worker (or per worker-hour) may stay unchanged. Only a rise in labor productivity would ensure a healthy and sustainable economic growth. Apart from technical change, out-migration from agriculture or new land opened for cultivation could play a major role in improving labor productivity or the welfare of the workers.

A significant rise in labor productivity in agriculture would only come about as a result of widespread adoption of scientific cultivation/farming techniques, including improved seeds and chemical fertilizers. Such an improvement has been labeled the 'Green Revolution'.

Agricultural development, it was argued, is bound to fail if it is based on only supply side intervention; markets are necessary to sell output and to ensure adequate incentives for products. Ethiopia is following agricultural development-led industrialization (ADLI) based strategy and such a strategy had worked in South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, Malaysia, China and Vietnam based on major institutional and policy reforms. Rapid expansion of the non-agricultural sector was a key factor for maintaining adequate demand for agricultural products in those countries.

In Ethiopia, very little effort was made to tackle demand constraints, since there was very limited opportunity in the non-agricultural sector, including lack of cities and towns with effective demand for food. Potential food buyers from surplus food producing areas remained to be peasants living in marginal lands who had not produced enough for themselves and who had very low purchasing power. Hence, it was apparent that the agricultural sector suffered from supply-constraint in bad and normal years and demand constraint in very good years. The market trap further compounded the Malthusian or poverty trap.

The supply constraint was aggravated by extreme degradation, which was mainly caused by population pressure and inappropriate cultural practices. Hence, it was imperative to reduce the pressure on land through enhancing out-migration, especially from densely populated and heavily degraded areas, and ensuring tenure security that would encourage and facilitated such a process. For some of the most degraded areas, only long-term rehabilitation effort that does not include extensive cereal production system could be considered to avoid further escalation of the problem. Improved livestock

husbandry based on zero-grazing and tree crops (producing forage, timber and fruits) could be given priority.

Agricultural production in relatively high-potential areas needed to be intensified using a more effective package of inputs (fertilizer, improved seeds and chemicals to control pests) and sustainable farming practices that include organic matter and crop rotation to improve soil fertility. It was important to note that farmers who have too small plots have limited capacity to undertake sustainable farming since they were too poor and subsistence-oriented to undertake long-term investment. Land policy would encourage land rentals and transfers to more productive farmers is necessary in order to pave the way for market production and long-term investment on the land.

Individual farmers, the community and the government should also invest in irrigation as part of the intensification process and the need to produce two or three harvests per year. Unfortunately, it had been noted with great dismay and distress that the Government, instead of developing both large and small-scale irrigation infrastructures, had abandoned started and near finished large-scale schemes by the previous regime. This, in turn, led to wastage through degradation and dilapidation of infrastructure outlay, which cost the country hundreds of millions of dollars.

Unlike many other countries, Ethiopia's agriculture needed an injection of a sizeable dose of external capital to avoid Malthusian or poverty trap and increase production and productivity on a sustainable basis. Previous experience has shown that smaller investment levels that could not produce significant results (to outweigh population growth and environmental degradation) have failed to overcome the vicious circle. The argument that agriculture could serve as source of growth for the rest of the economy is definitely unfounded.

The system of governance should foster self-help collective initiative that would enhance the capacity to mobilize labor and other resources for a common development goal and influence government policies and public administration. The modern attitude that the individual, either alone or in concert with others, should take actions to improve his/her own condition should be nurtured. The system of governance should appreciate the importance of ensuring public participation in planning, monitoring and evaluation of projects. Too many religious holidays and elaborate social ceremonies, such as funerals and weddings are not consistent with the need to intensify labor use and accelerate investment on small farms. Concerted efforts should be made to identify and transfer or do away with some unhelpful traditions.

It should be noted that nationwide self-help and cooperative movements have been instrumental in transforming agriculture in China, South Korea, Taiwan and many other Asian countries. A greater sense of participation in the development process, bottom-up or planning from below and fundamental social changes were achieved through genuine grass-roots organizations. Small self-help groups help poor farmers become more self-reliant and could be linked up into a network of self-sustaining rural organizations.

Investing in human capital was necessary not only to accelerate growth and escape poverty, but also to facilitate labor mobility and emigration. Easing the problem of unemployment through temporary emigration to countries where there were labor shortages would also generate valuable foreign exchanges. It is worth noting that official remittances alone were already getting more important than coffee export. Skilled and

semi-skilled Ethiopians working abroad was making significant contribution to their families and the economy. The contribution could be much higher if supported by education and targeted training.

It was reiterated that famine had become a major social, economic and political problem in the country's recent history, and its frequency is increasing drastically and its root cause is poverty. Given the alarming rate of rural population growth, the current rate of environmental degradation, the slow pace of growth of agriculture and the very low rate of urbanization, the famine crisis would be exacerbated.

It was concluded that there was an urgent and clear need to devise coherent policies, strategies addressing growth in non-agricultural economic sector, strong rural-urban linkages, effective utilization of resources, environmental rehabilitation and protection of farmers' rights and strengthening their responsibilities. There was a need for fundamental changes in the institutional configuration of agriculture, particularly land policy.

Discussants

Ato Eyessuswork Zaffu, a well known entrepreneur and Dr. Kassahun Berhanu, an academic, served as discussants. Ato Eyessuswork Zaffu emphasized on what else could have been done to improve the situation. He stated that agriculture-led industrialization was only one of the options under the broad categories of agriculture, industry and services. As the policy under agriculture was self-defeating, he suggested that studies should be conducted into what else could be done. Society was criticized for being passive and not reacting towards poor policy. He said society should become more vocal in its judgment. Currently, the private sector existed only in name, hence, it had to be nurtured, as it was the only sustainable source of income generation and employment, it was stated. Moreover, it was the private sector that could produce the capital necessary for development, hence of both the rural population and the private sector should be liberated, he stated.

Dr. Kassahun Berhanu felt that the papers should have drawn some more lessons on how other countries avoided the Malthusian trap and that various other reasons for famine could have been better examined. He criticized the presentation for being preoccupied with ADLI and neglecting other important issues, like investment and population pressure. He argued that emphasis could have also been given to causes as to why ADLI was successful in Asia. He felt that justice had been denied to the present ADLI policy where reforms had been introduced, such as hired labor, land lease contracts and sharecropping.

He finally remarked that the presenters had shied away from important political, legal and administrative matters. For instance, neither of the two presenters, he stated, and called for even-handedness in the anti-corruption crackdown. In fact, he advocated that national consensus be gained on major issues instead of individual actors preaching their views as being representative of the population at large.

The issues raised from the floor included:

- Whether or not the impact of HIV/AIDS on population growth will likely reduce the population pressure;

- Post-harvest losses in agricultural production;
- Loss of freedom of movement and the freedom to make decisions by those affected most;
- The need to address the land issue and revisit the Constitution on the matter, at the same time holding the Government accountable for policy failures;
- The need to revisit the land issues since positions on the matter are polarized; and
- The need to view people as citizens who had the right to make decisions and not to look at them as subjects was emphasized.

3.2 Access to Resources and Livelihood Insecurity

Ato Dessalegn Rahmato, who is an authority in livelihood security issues in the Ethiopian setting, addressed this thematic issue. A summary of his deliberation is presented below.

“Livelihood insecurity”, which is much wider than vulnerability, was the key word in his presentation. The term includes a variety of concepts: entitlements, access to assets, social resources, human endowments and investment, not only in physical assets but also education, health and institutional assets. In other words, livelihood subsumes food security.

He explained that rural society in Ethiopia has been experiencing erosion of its livelihood capabilities since several decades. Without a more efficient and dynamic framework for access to land, the country will continue to suffer continuing erosion of its livelihood capabilities. There were four important issues which have bearing on the erosion of livelihood capabilities, and which were a sequel of the current land tenure system: landlessness, periodic redistribution, low agricultural productivity and rural poverty. He stated that currently, the Government is trying to address the problem with resettlement program. Trying to address these issues of erosion of livelihood with resettlement programs in the absence of adequate preparation and continued support of the settlers would end in disaster.

He reiterated that resettlement in the past failed to recognize the rights of local people or the carrying capacity of the areas of settlement. Although, the present rural development policy insists that such a program must be based on voluntary participation, there are many misconceptions about it. Firstly, government authorities were convinced that there was abundant arable land sufficient to support a sizable settler population in each region. Secondly, there was an overly optimistic vision that the program would enable settlers to be self-sufficient and produce a market surplus in short time.

He argued that legalizing the land market, which existed illegally, would address the problem of overcrowding and landlessness, and would encourage investment on the land while at the same time appreciating the value of land. In this regard, facilitating use of land as collateral for bank loans that mobilize the requisite capital for investment should be considered.

He explained that the major justification government gives for the current land policy was social equity, i.e. land would be sold; and hence, could be possessed by few, that would in turn lead to the eviction of poor peasants and finally create widespread poverty. It was argued that these were unsubstantiated fears and that the policy was having negative

effects such as land fragmentation, landlessness, periodic land redistribution, poor agricultural productivity and rural poverty

He recommended that sustained and informed debate on the subject be based on research and on views of the stakeholders; tenure security remained the overriding problem of the land; therefore the duration of rights, the assurance of rights and the robustness of rights must be improved; government should lessen population pressure on the land by creating an enabling environment for the private and public sectors so that economic diversification, rapid growth in the modern sector was encouraged and rapid growth in urbanization and investments in urban services to enable growth was promoted.

Discussants

Dr. Yeraswork Admassie, who is an authority in livelihood systems as they relate to natural resources management, was the discussant of this paper. Dr Yeraswork began by stating that the presenter gave a fresh perspective of the problem at hand, especially in terms of the term livelihood and the belief that there was an abundance of resources. He also felt that there was a detailed scrutiny of the implementation of the land policy.

He noted that conditionalities relevant to conservation of land resources were being attached to encourage peasants conserve soil resources on farm plots, e.g. Tigray. He also reported that tenure period of 20-30 years was being granted.

The issues raised from the floor included:

People who are genuinely willing to settle only should be considered in resettlement programs.

Resettlement was simply postponing the problem.

Experiences in certain regions, e.g. Tigray, where peasants were provided with tenure certificates, were encouraging and ought be applied nationwide.

Policy conditionalities in land tenure ought to be minimized, the less the better.

Ato Dessalegn Rahmato responded by stating that the less conditionality was attached to any policy, the better it was for the rights of the peasants. He explained that any 'improvements' could be given in extension packages rather than holding them as a threat over the peasants' heads, at times with punishment of dispossession. He pointed out that the spontaneous resettlement that took place in the past (e.g. Wollega) actually took place over an extended period of time and that the people had the option of moving to and fro between their old homes and new ones. This allowed for a slow learning and adaptation process based on trial and error. In addition, when resettlement programs were carried in time of hunger, they could not be considered voluntary.

3.3 Natural Resources Management and Drought-Related Famine Prevention

Ato Gedion Asfaw, one of the architects of the 'Ethiopian Conservation Strategy' addressed the above issue. His presentation is summarised below.

He stated that 50% of the population is below the poverty line. To make matters worse, 49 million people did not have access to potable water while the country's undisturbed high forest had dwindled to 2.4%. This was partly due to the ever-worsening state of the

environment that was caught in a self-propelling downward vicious cycle of: degradation of natural resources-declining of crop yields-expansion of cultivated lands-further degradation of natural resources-further decline of crop yields, which substantially contributes to rural poverty and vulnerability to famine.

Nevertheless, he argued that Ethiopia was endowed with extensive land area, varied topography and soil, climatic and water resources, plant and animal bio-diversity and underground resources. The underlying causes to the sorry state of affairs were by and large policy and institutional issues, he argued. These included poor governance, violent change of governments, lack of continuity of long-term programs, inappropriate policies, minimal influence of professionals on government policies, frequently changing and ineffective legal and institutional framework, human resources misuse and ineffective bureaucracy resulting in low implementation and management capacity over the past decades.

He acknowledged that the present government had tried to ameliorate the situation by putting in place the Rural Development Policy and Strategy, Agriculture Development-Led Industrialisation, Sustainable Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy, the Food Security Strategy and the Capacity Building Strategy. Commendable efforts in terms of policy and strategy response to address environmental degradation have been made; the failure was in implementing them, he reiterated.

He argued that the problem would not be tackled short of putting in place an environmental rehabilitation Marshall plan comprising rehabilitation of dysfunctional irrigation development projects; mobilization of able bodied Ethiopians to take practical measures in forestry and soil conservation; and accelerated implementation of strategies, which were already in place.

Discussants

Ato Kifle Lemma, a well-known environmentalist, and Ato Dessalegn Mesfin, Deputy General Manager of the Environmental Protection Authority, were the discussants of this presentation. The discussants pointed out that tenure should not be limited to land but should include other resources as well. Calling for tenure did not necessarily imply privatisation, but rather uninterrupted access to the resources and means and capacity of exploiting them as well. They emphasised that lack of capacity for the implementation of policies and strategies at all levels, government officials as well as peasants, was a major issue. The effect of the lack of alternative livelihoods had damaged the responsiveness of local communities who were not able to claim their rights and fulfil their obligations. Consequently, the present situation is critical, in that, what is at stake is basically existing or being exterminated.

The call for a Marshall plan for the rehabilitation of Ethiopia's environment was commended, however, preconditions to the success of such a plan call for a free and secure society who had the will to make it successful were stressed. He emphasised the need to make the formulation and implementation participatory.

The issues raised from the floor included:

- Even though the question of democracy is a burning issue, it is not a panacea for famine eradication, some democracies also face famine.

- The need for land use policy and land use laws;
- The establishment of politically independent peasant associations;
- Loss of institutional memory as a result of repeated restructuring; and
- Addressing gender issues.

The lack of capacity to bridge policies into projects and programs was underlined. The need for listening to academicians and researchers, no matter how theoretical or difficult their suggestions might appear, was stressed.

3.4 Farm Technologies and Famine Prevention

Dr. Seme Debela, who once upon a time led Ethiopia's agricultural research and who has worked for over three decades in the field of agriculture and technology, addressed the thematic issue. He reiterated that there is a need to address a wide array of policy and strategy issues in order to resolve the low agricultural production and productivity in Ethiopia.

He argued that many people considered that the inadequate availability or lack of appropriate agricultural technologies, on the one hand, and the inadequate dissemination and adoption of available technologies, on the other, were among the factors to blame for famine. However, even leaving modern interventions aside, traditional technologies were so well adapted to their environment and the farming system that they performed at least as much, sometimes even better, than improved varieties developed in research centers.

He explained that the ever-increasing famine cycle in Ethiopia as being attributable mainly to factors other than technology. These factors included: unfavorable land tenure policy, deforestation and overgrazing that resulted in land degradation and loss of soil fertility, expansion of cropped area into marginal lands, and the application of inappropriate crop husbandry practices, poorly developed infrastructure and lack of or inappropriate market and pricing policies.

Over the past 50 years, a large array of food crop and animal-related technologies were generated and recommended for use, and that these technologies could actually enhance domestic production had been demonstrated. The outputs from research centers were not and could not be applicable to all conditions and socio-economic circumstances of beneficiary farmers and/or herders. NGOs and other actors should play an active role in the adoption of the technologies to varied situations.

In endeavors aiming at improving productivity of farm plots as well as farmers/herders, issues such as traditional technologies, transfer and adoption of improved agricultural technologies, the national input supply and fertilizer use, ought to be reconsidered and clearly understood.

He recommended that a more productive agricultural system for sustained utilization be introduced. There was ample evidence that clearly showed use of productivity enhancing technologies and practices could contribute to the production and productivity of major crops grown in the country. The main issue in the application of improved technologies was the slow/inadequate adoption rate of these yield enhancing technologies, involving government extension agents on one hand and peasants on the other. As already

appreciated by government the mechanism of adoption required a participatory process. However, the participation of the main actors was inadequate and this was regrettable.

Furthermore, a lot of food gets wasted due to inability to control post-harvest loss through appropriate method of harvesting and storage systems. Inappropriate management of food resources, including through wasteful cultural practices such as weddings and funerals would lead to further food deficiency and to malnutrition at the household and community levels.

Discussants

Dr. Aberra Debelo, Deputy Director General of the Ethiopian Agricultural Research Organization (EARO), and Dr. Fekadu Beyene, an academic, were discussants for this presentation.

Technological generation alone could not bring about changes in the state of affairs and there ought to be more measures, including possibly creating a research extension advisory council. It was explained that technologies should be considered as the systematic application of scientific knowledge to practical tasks on the farm. It was suggested that the failure of researchers to meet the food demands of the country, thereby exposing the peasants to food insecurity must be acknowledged. Criticisms expressed appeared to belittle ADLI based on political agenda rather than objective reality, and that was not commendable. It was argued that ADLI was a very important strategy and that it would tackle famine in particular, and development in general. It was recommended that existing systems and strategies be supported rather than putting in their place new and untested systems.

Issues raised from the floor included:

- Prevailing neglect of the preservation and processing of food after harvest in research endeavors;
- Fertilizer purchase by credit and consequences of failure to honor the credit on time;
- Organic farming neglected under present Ethiopian realities; where fertilizer has to be imported rather than locally produced, hence, creating dependency;
- Water availability was considered central to agricultural production and productivity; and
- Subsistence agriculture, vis-à-vis commercial farming as they relate to food security.

3.5 Challenges and Opportunities for Developing the Financial and Export Sector to Enhance Food Security

Dr. Eyob Tesfaye, a senior economist with the National Bank of Ethiopia, addressed this issue. He stated that Ethiopia's continued concentration in the export of a few primary commodities and its inability to attract significant foreign direct investment had led to widespread concern over the increasing marginalisation of the country. He argued that Ethiopia had no choice except to boost its economic growth and unchain itself from the poverty trap through an export-led industrialization strategy.

He stated that since 1992, the Ethiopian Government took various policy measures aimed at creating a vibrant private sector-led economy. These measures included devaluation of the exchange rate, trade and domestic price liberalization, a revision of the investment and labor laws, and modest financial sector liberalization. However, the measures did not achieve their goals because insufficiency of export diversification efforts and the instability caused by cyclical fluctuation in international commodity prices, amongst other factors. Moreover, the export sector had recently faced serious setbacks due to bad weather conditions and the plunging of coffee prices in international markets.

The constraints of the insufficient airfreight transport and chronic delays and problems related to getting approvals to import materials critical to production were pinpointed as the major stumbling blocks for market development.

The share of manufacturing in total output was not only very low but had actually declined from 8% in the early 1980s to 6% in the late 1990s. This was because of the fact that there had been virtually no investment in new machinery for the last decade and that capacity utilization was below 50%. He stressed that in general there had been no significant product or market diversification. Ethiopia's products face declining or relatively low growth in global demand, and falling and unstable real prices.

He recommended second-generation reforms such as accelerated privatization, bank restructuring, improving regulatory and administrative barriers, enhancing the capacity of the judiciary, and streamlining the bureaucracy. In addition putting an enabling environment in place such as creating level playing fields, improving land markets, building export capacity and provision of access to export finance, attracting more direct foreign investment, investing in human and physical capital, improving the customs clearance systems and improving competition in the transport sector.

He concluded that even though the road ahead would be difficult and fraught with temporary reversals, economic reform measures in general and export diversification in particular would produce significant pay off in terms of higher growth and poverty reduction.

Discussants

Ato Gizaw Mola of the Ministry of Trade and Industry and Ato Berhane Mewa, Chairman of the Ethiopian and Addis Ababa Chambers of Commerce, were the discussants for this presentation. Ato Berhane Mewa condemned ADLI's resource-based approach to development since it is only a demand based strategy. He argued that only export-led industrialization could produce any worthwhile improvement. Ethiopia had not developed the capacity to benefit from free trade initiatives such as the All-But-Arms (ABA) move in Europe and AGOA in America. The country needed both the potential as well as the opportunity to benefit from such agreements. Currently, efforts to join COMESA and WTO were rather scary, as Ethiopia lacked the capacity to compete in such playing fields. The current situation in the country is unfavorable to the private sector, as there is a lack of technology, transport, land and other factors to make Ethiopian products competitive. The Ethiopian Export Promotion Agency had a major role to play in researching the international market and disseminating information about niche markets that would suit Ethiopian products.

Ato Gizaw Mola blamed the presentation as being one-sided. He stated that some products like sugar and cotton had actually shown a remarkable growth of 12% per year. Moreover, the apparent deterioration of exports actually reflected falling international prices of coffee; however, in reality, the volume of products had risen continuously. He explained that there had been a marked diversification of products and that Ethiopia is currently exporting as many as 30 or 40 different products, including opal.

Issues raised from the floor included:

- The low level of foreign aid Ethiopia receives (only getting 11\$ per head in aid in comparison to South Africa's 40\$ per head and Israel's 1000\$ per head);
- The need for caution in opening Ethiopia's doors for trade, since there are both advantages and disadvantages;
- The need to focus in the important substitutions production, even in the agricultural sector , e.g. at present, durum wheat and barley imported;
- Difficulties in accessing bank loans because of the anti-corruption activities;
- Constraints in market accessibility to farmers; and
- Inefficiency of banks in export service provision.

3.6 A Pastoral Alternative to End Famine and Poverty

Ato Melaku Tegegn from the NGO sector addressed the above issue. He argued that pastoralists had their own coping mechanisms against famine before the advent of modernity. Ethiopia had to tap this structural and long-term response and turn it to its advantage; thus postulating a strategy towards accumulation in the pastoral setting.

Regarding livelihood diversification, he claimed that pastoralists had an advantage, as compared to farmers, because their land and cattle had not been nationalized unlike peasant land holdings in the highlands. He argued that pastoralists are not resisting change but are only resisting change that was imposed upon them.

He explained that Ethiopia's agriculture could emerge out of the perpetual crisis only through a developmental strategy that would address the immediate problems of rural Ethiopia in conjunction with a strategy that would bring about rural development in the long-term. This was central to wealth accumulation required for continued development in rural Ethiopia, peasants and pastoralists alike. He argued that livelihood diversification was a pre-requisite, and that in turn required conducive policy environment imparting good governance. Institutions of good governance were key to livelihood diversification that in turn generates social development to end poverty and prevent famines.

He explained that in the process of diversification, putting market mechanisms in place is essential. In the process of pastoral development, government would need to perform tasks such as provision of forum for pastoral policy consultation, livestock trade promotion, assurance of livestock health, supporting pastoral livestock production system, cooperate with NGOs in pastoral development. Concrete measures that government ought to take included engaging qualified personnel in this sector, provision of training at various levels to enhance pastoral development, as well as putting in place innovative ways for capital accumulation, e.g. provision of financial support for pastoral development.

Discussants

Ato Abdi Abdulahi from NGO sector and Dr Tafesse Mesfin who is an authority in pastoralist issues in Ethiopia, were discussants for this presentation. The discussants felt that mobility was one of the major coping mechanisms of the pastoralists to overcome famine and that pastoralists used various mechanisms such as herd diversification, splitting, restocking and traditional veterinary medicines. However, due to commercial agriculture, cropping and charcoal making, the grazing resources are shrinking.

They pointed out that there was no food aid for cattle and that one had to focus more on the drought management cycle. People were always preparing for drought, mitigating from drought and recovering from drought, but little attention was given to livestock. Developing early warning systems and building contingency plans need more focus.

He pointed out that pastoralists constitute 7 – 10 million people, covering 60% of the total landmass in the country. The slogan “Land to the Tiller” suggested that pastoralists were not given recognition. Even at present extension packages and rural-based development had marginalized pastoralists. Previously it was explained that there was a credit system in place and the leader of the clan acted as collateral. Furthermore, there was cross-border trade and people moved to wherever it was greener. There was need for support by Government to build development infrastructures, he argued.

Issues raised from the floor included:

- Establishment of mobile and night schools;
- Establishment of livestock market mechanisms; and
- Need for foreign capital/investment in livestock produce processing.

3.7 Foreign Aid Flows and their Effectiveness

Ato Girma Kebede, who is researcher and an expert in the field, addressed the above issue. He stated that disasters were generally viewed as exogenous events, and notably missing from Ethiopia’s PRSP process was the recognition that disasters were endogenous, i.e. embedded in Ethiopian ecological, economic/social and political systems, which are within reach and influence by government and the public. Invariably, rain failures were blamed for famine in Ethiopia by governments. Present approach to the problem was intrinsically designed as a reactive mechanism to deal with the aftermath of disaster; it did not and could not proactively respond to the root causes of hunger and famine.

He argued that the donor community (and the government) should realize saving of livelihood is as important as saving of human lives in emergencies. Emergency livelihood intervention strategies were needed in order to enable immediate survival as well as to promote recovery. Livelihood interventions must be based on livelihood systems, he emphasized. Livelihood intervention strategies need to be oriented towards supporting and developing the range of household assets as well as the diverse policies, institutions and processes that impact disaster-affected populations, he explained. Diversification of livelihood strategies was critically needed in order to enhance survival and build household resilience in the face of recurring disaster, he reiterated.

He stated that three decades of experience addressing hunger, malnutrition and death (excess mortality) as a result of famine in Ethiopia had produced a wealth of lessons learned and practical guidelines, which have had global influence on disaster response, but had not produced a home-grown cadre of experienced and well-trained nutritionists. The body of knowledge and humanitarian practice in Ethiopia should inform and guide emergency intervention. One should not re-invent the wheel every time a disaster occurred. There is need for striving to do things right and make Ethiopia a center of excellence for relief operation.

Discussants

Mr. Clive Robinson and Ms. Dicky de Morr, both from the NGO sector, were discussants for this presentation. Mr. Robinson stated that there could be no other option, other than refocusing aid to long-term sustainable interventions. The peasants had nothing to fall back on in hard times in terms of resources. He explained that the multi-annual decline in food consumption necessarily demanded multi-annual support rather than the present annual support cycle. He recommended that some of the food aid be converted to financial aid in the form of injections of cash to increase the cash flow and help build assets. He emphasized that innovative employment generation schemes should be set up.

He explained that donors had to be convinced that unless there is cash investments in sustainable development now, there would necessarily be a demand for more emergency food aid in the future. It was recommended that both government and donors concentrate their efforts in livelihoods, nutrition and agriculture by working on a large scale at the woreda level. Although there was neither equitable nor complete coverage by NGOs at woreda level, it was suggested that work could start here and requests were made for expansion into insecure woredas.

He recommended that the setting up of numerous dialogue fora at various levels and between various stakeholders as the first step to improve the situation. The need for a government-donor forum, an NGO-NGO forum, and a government-NGO forum, amongst others, was emphasized. He pointed out that the key to success would lie in inclusive participation and partnerships.

Ms. de Morr stated that although European development aid was focussing on Africa, in general, aid was decreasing due to the political climate, economic recession and new EU membership costs. As a result, she stated that donors were demanding to see the impact of aid and believed moving from a project to a program approach could increase availability of aid money. Donors were demanding more openness and participation for CSOs and good governance, or at least efforts on the side of recipient governments to improve, she stated.

In the 1990s the effectiveness of aid was questioned in a series of reports and this had brought about decisions to give Africa preferential trade, as many felt that cheap aid actually hampers development. If NGOs wanted to successfully lobby and advocate for an active role in relief and development efforts, they would have to clearly show what added value they have to offer. This had been done in countries like Mali and Bolivia, where NGOs had shown that they could better involve CSOs and had a more participatory inclusive approach to development.

Issues raised from the floor included:

- Donor harmonization and the difficulty of bringing this about;
- The need for budget approach rather than program approach in development initiatives; and
- The need to carry out more studies on both mechanisms of disaster declarations and mechanisms for aid delivery.

3.8 The Role of Stakeholders in Tackling Famine

Five speakers from stakeholders gave brief presentations of their views on the roles various stakeholders should play in tackling famine.

3.8.1 NGOs and Civil Society

Mr. John Graham, Country Representative of Save the Children UK, began by defining the prevailing situation as a state of emergency. Then, he said that such a state did exist as there was an estimate of over 60,000 child deaths countrywide and that pastoralists had lost hundreds of thousands of livestock the current year, stripping them of their ability to make a living and throwing them into indefinite food assistance need.

He stated that people affected by the disasters, the international community, NGOs and government should play a role in disaster prevention, and that the Government should create an enabling environment for multi-form of social mobilization to facilitate collective and concerted action by all stakeholders: the private sector, NGOs, CSOs, including academics and research institutions, the media, prominent citizens, foreign solidarity and action groups, etc.

Mr. Graham explained that the role of the NGO community is to build capacity so that people could survive droughts and other emergencies on their own resources and savings, by reducing their long-term vulnerability. In addition, the international community had both the moral imperative and an obligation to help people facing disasters. Nevertheless, ultimately, the accountable structure for disaster management is the government.

He concluded by stating that there are areas in disaster management where NGOs could assist government, such as in building early warning mechanisms, prior preparedness, and efficient response to disaster and reducing long-term vulnerability.

The areas in disaster management that need to be built include, early warning (not yet scientifically based); preparedness that needs institutionalization; response, which is not widely applied (successful only in areas of NGO support); and links to long-term vulnerability.

3.8.2 The Private Sector

Ato Andualem Tegegn, a representative from the Ethiopian Chamber of Commerce and the private sector, strongly voiced the lack of emphasis on entrepreneurs. He saw the private sector as the salvation to Ethiopia's problems, and the only way out from being

dependent. He admitted that currently, the private sector is composed mainly of petty traders. Ato Andualem stated that land is not the most important agenda under globalization and therefore emphasized investment on human capacity, as it is entrepreneurs who could create employment and generate the wealth to lift Ethiopia out of poverty. He stressed that creativity played a major role in poverty reduction and he said, "Attitude determines altitude". There is a need for a mission to bring about social change, developing entrepreneurs, and a positive attitude towards work. In conclusion, he stated that only the private sector could be the driving engine behind development that would lead to poverty reduction and preventing famine.

3.8.3 The Donor Community

Dr. Don Obain, Senior Agricultural Economist in the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), gave a presentation on behalf of his colleague Dr. Abdoulaye Niang. He stressed that the only way out of recurring famine problem is through a structural transformation of the set of partnerships among and between the four groups of stakeholders. These are government and non-government organizations of developed countries in charge of co-administering relief and aid; government and non-government organizations of developing countries in charge of co-administering relief and aid; citizens in donor countries whose tax money is channeled to support the relief and aid activities; and citizens in recipient countries who are considered as targets for relief and aid. He stated that the structural transformation would have to be conducted based on the principles of the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD).

Dr. Obain further elaborated the partnerships that he felt would quickly overcome the institutional inadequacies that created unfavorable environments for famine. A resources, knowledge and social capital.

The partnership between the political and economic leadership needs to be redefined in order to change attitudes and perceptions in Africa towards development and business opportunities as well as enable the potential of African entrepreneurs and enterprises in driving economic growth process as the fundamental drive for Africa's development and growth.

The partnership between Africa and the rest of the world needs to be structurally transformed in order to lead to an equitable and all-inclusive reallocation of wealth and wealth creation capacity and the democratization of development and political processes across the continents.

The partnership between Africa as a recipient and developed countries as providers of development assistance should be restructured to make development assistance play a catalytic and supportive role to Africa's own development efforts.

The partnership among African governments and people should be transformed to help translate the principle of ownership and leadership of development processes and to give an operational consent to various agreements signed.

Dr. Obain concluded by stating his belief that, with sincere commitment and hard work, famines could be relegated to the past.

3.8.4 The Farming Community

Honorable Ato Bedru Adem, from the House of People's Representatives, claimed that there are many issues to be addressed within the farming community, especially in terms of ADLI, where there had been several failures. He felt that the Government had to take appropriate actions, because, as the saying goes, "they are building bridges where there are no rivers". He stressed that issues had to be researched to implementation of activities that address them and theses revolved around a good economic policy. He recommended several measures to improve the situation including:

- Good governance;
- Reconsidering subsidizing farms; and
- Including NGO's in policy making.

Ato Bedru felt that the role of the farming community in abating recurrent famine is significant. They should be involved to a higher degree with the use of technology and be helped to make the transition from subsistence farming to surplus production. He highlighted that focus ought to be given to issues such as biogas, solar energy, irrigation and integrated agriculture. Ato Bedru concluded by stating that urban farmers also had a major role to play in the economy.

3.8.5 Academic and Research Institutes, and Prominent Citizens

Dr. Agidew Redie argued around the necessity to involve citizens, academics and research institutions to tackle the problem of poverty. He advocated for an enabling environment to be created in order to utilize existing human resources. Firstly, he pointed out that academic institutions had to be involved with society and provide effective services in terms of real life situations. Secondly, he felt that research institutions were directed by donor-driven research, and they should instead be harmonized with development goals and objectives. Thirdly, he stressed that prominent citizens should play a model role for the coming generation. Dr Agidew summed up his presentation by stating that voluntary service is the key to social services and that this should be utilized through already existing local institutions such as the Idir, Equb, Mahiber and Debo.

He argued that prominent citizens are often sources of quality leadership in voluntary service and that voluntary service was central to the effectiveness of social services. Volunteers portray enthusiasm, credibility, trust, new ideas and fresh perspective. Hence, he emphasized that professionalism must promote the culture of provision of voluntary services, especially in mechanisms catering for abating recurrent famine.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS /RESOLUTIONS

In order to tackle the structural causes of famine outlined above, the participants have forwarded the following recommendation / resolutions.

The participants call upon the Government to revisit policies that have proved to be inadequate in addressing the problem of food insecurity in this country. E.g., ADLI and related rural development policies.

There has been a practice of excessive institutional restructuring over the past several decades. The participants recognized that institutional reform and change was a necessary ingredient for development. However, institutional change should build upon existing ones so as to avoid losses in institutional memory. Undue institutional structuring should be avoided since it contributed towards instability and creates uncertainty resulting in wastage of scarce human, financial and material resources.

It is recognized that there were some positive measures to address the land tenure insecurities through issuing land titles and certificates by some regional governments. This needed to be further strengthened and popularized in order to ensure the security of farmers to land tenure. However, the whole question of land tenure ought to be open for further public debate.

The participants recognized that the Government was embarking upon large-scale resettlement programmes without adequate planning leading to humanitarian and environmental disaster, as was the case under the previous regime. While in principle resettlement could be considered as an option, to address aspects of food insecurity in the short-term, it should be conducted on fully voluntary basis and should also be supported by adequate package which includes creating adaptive social conditions, planning, financial resources and good management set up.

It was noted that the rapid environmental resource degradation required urgent public response. In this regard, an environmental Marshall plan for Ethiopia should be considered.

The participants noted with a lot of dismay that irrigation projects worth millions of dollars started by the previous regime had been abandoned. The NGOs and the civil society should call upon the Government to disclose the reasons why they have been abandoned and urge for the setting up of a commission to assess the rehabilitation of potentially recoverable projects (such as Tana Beles, Baro River, etc.), with possible inclusion of the private sector.

Greater efforts must be made to increase the farmers' up-take of the existing technological initiatives, which should preferably be built upon existing local knowledge. In relation to this, technologies that reduce post-harvest loss and available food resources management (diversification food habits, reducing wasteful cultural practices, transformation and conservation of food resources) and improving the household nutritional in-take need to be given priority.

While it was recognized that the Government has taken commendable measures to promote exports, there was still a huge gap in terms of creating a conducive environment to stimulate both national and foreign direct investment to increase production. Therefore, the enabling environment must be made more attractive to improve and diversify the export sector and stimulate domestic production and production capacity.

The pastoral economic areas could be developed into growth poles, which would contribute towards the wider national economy. Particular attention must be paid to develop the livestock sector and to add value through stimulation of appropriate systems of marketing and through transformation of social and economic values.

Donor assistance so far had concentrated on relief. If they were not to continue on recurrent relief assistance, donors should be ready to address the root causes of famine through medium and long-term assistance, focusing at developing and protecting livelihoods, and coping mechanisms with innovative programmes such as cash injections in lieu of food.

The participants recognized the challenge of breaking the cycle of recurrent famine was a huge undertaking. They could only be addressed through concerted efforts that involve strong partnerships based on consensus building on the root causes of the recurrent food insecurity among all stakeholders and mobilization and participation of citizens for collective and sustained actions. Creating such a platform and an enabling environment is critical for such efforts to succeed.

The participants underlined the importance of gender relations in food security. So, gender-sensitive policy implementation practices should be given particular emphasis.

Strong participation of the private sector was called for if poverty was to be sufficiently addressed. Poverty cannot be alleviated without the effective and committed participation of the private sector. Therefore, an enabling environment must be created through the support of donor and the Government to enable the private sector to contribute to projects or initiatives that reduce famine such as encouraging of commercial farming.

The conference mandated the organizers to establish a post-conference implementation committee that would analyze and refine the Recommendations and develop action plans in collaboration with other stakeholders. Such a committee and follow-up work can take the form of a Standing Conference, which will continue until a significant dent is made in Ethiopia's food insecurity problems.

5. CLOSING

5.1 Post-Conference Committee

To ensure that the work of combating famine did not stop at the end of the conference, the participants decided to establish a post-conference implementation committee that would analyse and refine the Recommendations and develop action plans in collaboration with other stakeholders as was agreed in the conference Resolutions. Realising that there would probably be the need for establishing sub-committees to take forward specific aspects of the work, the Chair allowed for a large committee of 13 members to be formed by participants who volunteered to join. The Chair also suggested that representatives of CRDA and Christian Aid be included in the committee. The committee was established with the following members and representatives of organisations.

- Ato Feyera Abdi, SOS Sahel
- Ato Andualem Tegegn, Ethiopian Chamber of Commerce
- Ato Feleke Tadele, SC-UK/Canada
- Ato Mengesha Workeneh, Lem-Ethiopia
- Dr Wudinesh Hailu, Winrock International
- Ato Abdi Abdullahi, PCAE
- Ato Getachew Worku, Agri-Service/Ethiopia

- Ato Zeleke Tesfaye, ERSHA
- Ato Beruk Habtamu , LWF
- Ato Abadi Amdu, EOC/DICAC
- Dr Solomon Abate, Sustainable Land Use Forum
- Ato Dadi Jaldessa, EECMY
- Ato Habtamu Tadu, PLAN Ethiopia

5.2 Closing Remarks

Ato Abiy Hailu, Country Representative of Christian Aid, began by reviewing the two days in which an attempt was made to demystify droughts that lead to famine. He acknowledged that it might have been too early to draw up a balance sheet, yet a brief evaluation could be made. He raised the issue that although officially famines had been blamed by successive governments on natural calamities, the conference had explained that they were caused by deep-seated structural defects. He stated that the conference was not expected to come up with a major prescription that would solve everything with a single magic stroke. Nevertheless, the conference had concluded that workable solutions that could progressively address the critical problem of famine and hunger were within the reach of Government, CSOs and NGOs as reflected in the Recommendations and Resolutions of the conference.

Ato Abiy stated that the difference between this conference and other previous ones was that the present conference had a follow-up mechanism, the core committee that would further review and help to implement the Recommendations. He promised to look into the need for a standing conference. He appreciated the fact that the core committee had a very difficult task ahead of it; nevertheless, their burden would be shared with other interested groups.

Some of the “black spots” he raised were that though many donor and government representatives had been invited from Federal and Regional Governments, very few had attended. They were represented in the form of discussants to some extent, but with better attendance might have been able to challenge and be challenged on various issues raised. In this regard, Ato Abiy expressed his gratitude to the President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia for opening the conference and attending the first session. Ato Abiy also pointed out the lack of attendance of donors and the diplomatic core, questioning their rhetoric on participation. He expressed his hope that their lack of attendance did not reflect skepticism on either NGOs or the famine. He promised that they would work harder in the future to increase the voice of farmers and the poor, despite the difficulty of their having no representation system.

Lastly, Ato Abiy thanked everybody without whose participation the conference would not have been a success. He thanked all participants, resource persons, chairpersons, facilitators and discussants for their lively participation. He thanked by name CRDA and Christian Aid for providing the funding, and colleagues from these two organizations for working flat out to organize the conference. Ato Abiy also thanked the ECA management and staff for providing the venue and services. Finally, he expressed his appreciation of members of the post-conference committee for volunteering for a difficult task and encouraged them to ensure the work continued.

6. ANNEX

6.1 Conference Program

**BREAKING THE CYCLE OF RECURRENT FAMINE IN ETHIOPIA: PROGRAMME
JULY 3-4, 2003**

ECA AFRICA HALL

DAY ONE - JULY 3, 2003

8:30-9:00 Registration
9:00-9:30 **Opening Session**

Chairperson: Ato Tekalign Gedamu

Welcoming Address - CRDA

Opening Statement - The Guest of Honor

9:30-10:00 Drought and Famine in Ethiopia: Historical Perspective

Presenter: Professor Mesfin Woldemariam

10:00-10:30 C O F F E E B R E A K

WHY DROUGHT-INDUCED FAMINE PERSIST AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR BREAKING THE CYCLE

10:30-11:00 Famine and Hunger: Policies, Practices, and Institutions Designed to Contain them: What else can be done to Break the Cycle?

Presenters: Dr. Berhanu Nega and Dr. Mulat Demeke

11:00-11:20 Discussants: Ato Yesuswork Zaffu
Dr. Kassahun Berhanu

11:20-12:00 Discussion

12:00-12:20 Access to Resources for Food Security

Presenter: Ato Dessalegn Rahmeto

12:20-12:40 Discussants: Dr. Yeraswork Admassie
Ato Beyene Haile

12:40-13:15 Discussion

13:15-14:15 L U N C H B R E A K

14:15-14:35 Natural Resources Management and Drought Related Famine Prevention

Chairperson: Ato Fikru Abebe

Presenter: Ato Gedion Asfaw

14:35-14:55 Discussants: Ato Kifle Lemma
Ato Dessalegn Mesfin

14:55-15:30 Discussion

15:30-16:00 C O F F E E B R E A K

16:00-16:20 Farm Technologies and Famine Prevention: From Generation to Adoption

16:20-16:40 **Presenter:** Dr. Seme Debela,
Discussants: Dr. Abera Debelo
Dr. Fekadu Beyene
16:40-17:15 Discussion

DAY-TWO - JULY 4, 2003

8:30-8:50 Challenges and Opportunities for Developing the Financial and Export Sector to Enhance Food Security

Chairperson: Ato Feyera Abdi

Presenter: Dr. Eyob Tesfaye

8:50-9:10 **Discussants:** Ato Gizaw Mola
Ato Berhane Mewa

9:10-9:40 Discussion

9:40-10:00 Pastoral Production Systems, Drought and Famine: Alternative Perspectives

Presenter: Ato Melaku Tegegn,

10:00-10:30 **Discussants:** Ato Abdi Abdulahi
Dr. Tafesse Mesfin

10:30-11:00 C O F F E E B R E A K

11:00-11:30 Discussion

11:30-11:50 Famine and Hunger: Review of Foreign Aid Flow and Effectiveness

Presenter: Ato Girma Kebede

11:50-12:15 **Discussants:** Mr. Clive Robinson
Ms. Dicky de Morrée

12:15-13:00 Discussion

13:00-14:00 L U N C H B R E A K

Chairperson: Ato Teserawork Shimelis

Forging Effective Partnership among Major Stakeholders: What should be the Role of Stakeholders in Tackling the Challenges of Breaking the Cycle?

14:00-14:10 The NGOs and Civil Society: Mr. John Graham

14:10-14:20 The Private Sector: Ato Andualem Tegegn

14:20-14:30 The Donor Community: Dr. Abdulahi Niang

14:30-14:40 Farming Community: Ato Bedru Adem

14:40-14:50 Academic and Research Institutes, and Prominent Citizens: Dr. Agedew Redie

14:50-15:30 Discussion on Partnership

15:30-16:15 C O F F E E B R E A K

- 16:15-16:45 **Presentation of Conference Resolutions and Partnership on the Way Forward**
- 16:45-17:00 **Concluding Remarks and Closing**
Christian Aid

6.2 List Of Participants

Conference on Breaking the Cycle of Famine in Ethiopia July 3-4, 2003

S.N.	Organization	Name of Representative	Position	Tel. No.
	I. NGOs			
1	ACORD	Tamre Teka	Country Rep.	09/20 41 34
2	ADA	Degarege Seyoum	Head, Liaison Office	51 78 86
3	ADCDE	Tsegaw Ayele	General Manager	63 66 93
4	Addis Development Vision	Haimanot Dessalegne	Program Coordinator	51 96 24
5	ADWO	Lulseged Girma	Region Manager	25 20 75
6	AFD	Tekelkregay Jirane	Field Office Coordinator	62 55 63
7	AIDWO	Kebede Kejela	Executive Director	09/23 97 69
8	ASE	Getachew Worku	Director	65 55 15
9	CARE	Dereje Adugna	Emg.Resp & Fran. Prog. Off.	53 80 40
10	CARE	Ms. Ealvade Boldizon	Food Security Co.	53 80 40
11	CCFC	Gebriel Galatis	Field Director	61 20 40
12	CCFinc	Fikru Abebe	ND	61 34 26
13	CDI	Mieso Nebi	M/Director	45 49 23
14	Christian Aid-Ethiopia	Tewodros Tigabu	Program Officer	53 68 50
15	Christian Aid-London	Mr.Mike Noyes	Regional Manager	-
16	Christian Aid-Ethiopia	Abiy Hailu	Country Representative	53 68 50/57
17	Christian Aid-Ethiopia	Tamirat Terefe	Program Officer	53 68 51
18	Christian Aid-Ethiopia	Matiwos Tera	Program Officer	53 68 51
19	Christian Aid-London	Mr. Clive Robinson	Former Country Rep.	62 45 23
20	Concern Ethiopia	Endalemau Belay	Program Officer	61 17 30
21	COOPI Ethiopia	Leulseged Teffera	Program Support	61 43 91
22	CPAR	Kassaye Derseh	Country Director	42 47 12
23	CPAR	Alemayehu Kondel	Programme Director	42 47 12
24	CRDA	Kebede Asrat	Executive Director	40 23 89
25	CRDA	Fekade Tsegaye	Deputy Executive Dir. Prog.	40 23 87
26	CRDA	Leulseged Asfaw	Head Institutional Sup.Dep.	40 23 94
27	CRDA	Adey Ababa	Head Information Mgt. Dep.	40 23 95
28	CRDA	Makeda Taffesse	Information Officer	
29	CRDA	Birhanu Muluneh	Information Officer	
30	CRDA	Bazgenawork W/Medhin	Membership Affairs Officer	40 31 33
31	CRDA	Akalewold Bantirgu	A/Deputy Executive Director	
32	CRDA	Ferida Habase	Voluenter	
33	CRDA	Feven Dagne	Voluenter	
34	CRDA	Wegene Getachew	Voluenter	
35	CRS/Ethiopia	Mesele Endalew	Unit Head	65 35 93
36	CVM	Kibret Shiferaw	Country Rep.	16 34 09
37	ECS	Yadesa Gire	Emergency Coordinator	
38	ECS	Shiferaw Mammo	Food Security Coordinator	57 36 75
39	ECS	Geshord Ritte	Food Security Adviser	58 36 75

S.N.	Organization	Name of Representative	Position	Tel. No.
40	EDA	Zelalem Tesera	Enviromental Acct.	46 38 43
41	EECMY	Deed Jaldessa	Planning Cluster Coordinetor	53 46 68
42	EECMY	Asfaw Mekonen	Planning Cluster Coordinetor	54 46 68
43	EMRDA	Adane Mamuye	Director	
44	EOC/CFAO	G/Yesus G/Michael		55 22 16
45	EOC/-DICAC	Dr.Nigusu Legesse	Commissioner	55 35 66
46	EOC/-DICAC	Abadi Amdu	Department Head	56 35 66
47	ERSHA	Zelege Tesfaye	Director	
48	Ethiopian Aid	Haile Shemer	Progect coordinator	11 27 97
49	FCAE	Abdi Abdulahi	Director	
50	German Foundation (DSW)	Tefera Jamiru	Program Manager	
51	CPRDO	Belete Abera	Director	63 36 80/81
52	GRRDA	Aklog Desta	Chairman	
53	Gudina Tumsa Foundation	Danial Bayisa	Program Officer	46 09 53
54	HICDO	Pawlos Engeda	Board Member	65 27 42
55	HUNDEE	Alemayehu Diro	Head, Programme Opration	15 04 29
56	Inter African Group	Mesfin Nemarra	Research Officer	63 58 11
57	Inter African Group	Mekonnen Tola	PRSP Project Officer	63 58 11/06
58	IIRR	Isaac Bekalo	Regional Director	
59	LEM-Ethiopia	Mengesha Workeneh	Bord Member/Founder	
60	LVIA	Daniel Morbim	Country Representative	18 76 50
61	LWF	Bruk Habtamu	Planning & Monitoring Off.	
62	Mennonite Mission in Ethiopia	ohn Blosser Yoder	Co.Country Director	
63	Mennonite Mission in Ethiopia	Holly Blosser Yoder	Country Director	
64	MFM	Kotera Yohannes	Deputy Country Rep.	
65	Mother &Children Dev't Org.	Ali Sheikh Oyayu	Laison Officer	63 47 10
66	MSDAE	Fereda Yitbarek	Programme Officer	
67	MSF-Belgium	Yewoinshet Tesfaye	Reporting Officer	61 03 98
68	NCA	Dawit Kebede	Programme Manager	
69	ODA	Mahamed Galema	FSPCO	
70	ORDA	Belesti Fentea	Head,Fiaisior Officer	
71	OXFAM canada	Samuel Moule	Programme Officer	61 00 44
72	OXFAM GB	Ahmed Ali	Pohing Coordinator	61 33 44
73	OXFAM GB	Melaku Ayalew	HSC	
74	PANOS	Melaku Tegegen	Director	
75	PCAE	Abdi Abdulahi	Director	66 12 62
76	Plan Ethiopia	Habtamu Tada	Poverty Alliviation Advior	66 86 12
77	Plan Ethiopia	Aster Birke	Programme Manager	
78	REST	Tekelewoini Assefa	Director	
79	REST	Ms.Maria Strintzos	Head FundRising	
80	Save The Children-Denmark	Ms.Bigrit Lundbak	Country Representativ	09/21 00 79
81	Save the Children -USA	Tesfa Berhanu	Programme Operation	72 84 55
82	Save the Children -Norway	Debre Melaku	Director,Admin.&Fin.	63 55 98
83	Save the Children- UK/Canada	Feleke Tadelle	Manager	09/21 92 03
84	SC-Sweden	Hosaena Adisu	Programme Coordinator	71 14 01
85	SC/UK	John Graham	Director	29 34 69
86	SEDA	Dabie Qonshie	Director	66 18 98

S.N.	Organization	Name of Representative	Position	Tel. No.
87	SIM	Berhanu Bekele	Logistic/purchase	50 41 21
88	SIM	Niccodimos Ezechiel	Relif Coordinator	51 41 21
89	SIM	Fekadu Reda	Assistnt Dev't Director	52 41 21
90	SOS Sahel (UK)	Feyera Abdi	Director	
91	Sustainable Land Use Forum	Solomon Abate	Executive Director	62 46 95
92	VOCA Ethiopia	Seleshi Tilahun	Head,Adminstration	53 46 50
93	VSO	Daniel Tesfaye	Programme Officer	63 21 23/93
94	WeSMCO	Eshetu Mengistu	General Manager	56 68 20
95	Winrock International	Dr. Wudnesh Hailu	Country Rep &Prog.Coordinator	65 55 37
96	Women Aid Ethiopia	Sahle-Mariam Moges	Executive Director	
97	World Vision	Getachew W/Michael	National Director	
98	Yeteem Children's & Destitute	Mohammed Ahmed	Assistance Director	09/24 71 55
99	Inter African Group	Mekonnen Tola	PRSP Project Officer	
100	Partenership African Canada	Enguday Bekele	Coordinater	40 31 32
101	Rural Development Foundation	H/Mariam H/Meskel	Chair Person	
102	Save the Children UK/Canada	Feleke Tadelle	Manager	09/21 92 03
103	CAFOD	Siggay Janssen	Country Representative	63 24 52
104	Initiative Africa	Kebur Ghena	Chief Executive Officer	
105	Inter African Group	Mekonen Tola	PRSP Project Officer	
106	EGTE	Girma Bekele	General Manager	
107	Kembata Women's Self-help Center	Bogalech Gebre	Director	
108	FCE	Bekele Mosisa	Director	
109	EEA/EEPRI	Berhanu Nega (Dr.)	Director	
110	TDA	Tesfazgi Abebera	Ex. Director	504501
	II. Government			
111	A.A City Administrative Council S/C/A/U	Genet Meseret	Deputy Head	56 57 72
112	Addis Ababa University	Aseffa Admassien (Dr.)	Association Professor	42 12 50
113	Addis Ababa University	Kasahun Birhanu (Dr.)	Assistant Professor	57 43 66
114	Addis Ababa University	Yeraswork Admassie (Dr.)	Assistant Professor	09/24 73 32
115	Addis Ababa University	Fekade Azeze (Dr.)	Assoc. Programer	11 65 19
116	Debub University	Fekadu Beyene (Dr.)	APO	06/20 48 78
117	DPPC	Asfaw Mekuria	Team Leader	15 49 63
118	EARO	Abera Debelo (Dr.)	Deputy Director General	
119	H.P.R	Hon. Bedru Adem	MP	55 51 21
120	EPA	Befekadu Refera	Senior Biodivesity Expert	46 46 07
121	ESTC	Mulugeta Amha	Commissioner	52 69 62
122	ESTC	Girma Yoseph	Head	53 49 44
123	Ethiopian Export Promotion	Gizaw Molla	Agency Director	50 44 81
124	Ethiopian Grain Trade Ent.	Girma Bekele	General Manager	65 24 36
125	Ethiopian Investment Authority	Worku Getachew	NGO-Team Leader	51 98 24
126	Ministry of Agriculture	Beyene Sebeku	Senior Expert	
127	National Bank	Eyob Tesfaye (Dr.)		09/22 69 24
128	SG 2000	Takele Gebre	Program Coordinitor	
III	MEDIA			

S.N.	Organization	Name of Representative	Position	Tel. No.
167	Catholic Church	Abba Arata Ghiday	Parish Priest	11 16 67
VIII Research Institutions				
168	Forum for Social Studies	Dessalegn Rahmato	Manager	
169	Forum for Social Studies	Eshetu Bekele	Research Administrator	55 20 25
170	Calstate, Long Beach California, USA	Amde/Mickael (Prof.)	Professor	(818)755/9472
IX Consultancy Firms				
171	ESAT	Shibiru Tedla (Prof.)	President	51 96 06
172	ESAT	Teffera Gebre	HEMBEL	
173	Green Vision P/C	Gedion Asfaw	Managing Director	
174	Freelance ENV Consultant	Kiffle Lemma	Consultant	
175	Freelance ENV Consultant	Abiye Daniel (Dr.)	Reporter	
176	Freelance ENV Consultant	Michael Daniel	Reporter	
177	IDCOF	Dagenew Eshete	Manager	
178	BBO/ICCO Netherlands	Ms.Didey de More	Consultant	
X Private Sector				
179	Ethiopian Chamber of Commerce	Berhane Mewa	President	65 88 89
180	Ethiopian Chamber of Commerce	Andualem Tegegne	S.A	
181	LUNIC-Ethiopia	Eyesus W/ Zafu	Managing Director	
182	ICIPE	Getachew Tikubet	Director	
183	Private	Dr.Seme Debela		
184	Private	F,T Amedie Lemma		
185	Private	Abdella Amedie		
186	Private	Dagnachew Asfaw		
187	Private	Lej. Mikael Imiru		
188	Private	Tekalign Gedamu		
189	Self-Employed	Getachew Abegaz		71 22 12
190	Self-Employed	Tesseraworq Shimelis		
191	Self-Employed	Col. Shewaye Admasu		127054
Others				
192	HOB-ETCO	Ali Mekonen	Operational Officer	
193	IDR/AAU	Genet Alemu	Assistant Professor	
194	MOTI	Hagos Araya	Department Assistant	
195	NAIA	Zelege Dessalegn	D/ General Manager	15 60 07
196	NAIA	Tamirat Tsegaye	Team Leader	
197	Redoc ET	Asrat Beha	Sr. Advisor	
198	WIC	Tesfu Refera	Reporter	
199		Prof. Mesfin W/Mariam		