



African Gender, Climate Change and Agriculture Support Program (GCCASP)

**Ethiopia Workshop Proceeding
Report**

**A program of the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency in
collaboration with the Government of Ethiopia**

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**Proceeding of Gender, Climate Change and Agriculture Support Programme
(GCCASP) - Ethiopia Consultation Workshop**

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CONTENTS

ACRONYMS	iii
1. Background	1
2. Rationale	1
3. Objective	3
4. Organization	3
5. Opening Ceremony of the Workshop	3
5.1. Welcoming Speech	3
5.2. Introductory Remark	4
5.3. Key note Remarks by Mrs. Maal Bodil	5
5.4. Opening Speech	5
5.5. Recognition of Contribution Ceremony	7
6. Presentations	8
6.1. An overview of the Gender Climate Change Agriculture Support Programme	8
6.2. Gender and Climate Change in Agriculture	9
6.3. An Overview of Related on Going Projects and Lesson Learnt	10
6.4. An Overview of Situation Analysis and Intervention Areas with Respect to GCCASP – Ethiopia	14
6.5. GCCASP Project Institutional Arrangements	16
6.6. Linking the GCCASP to the NEPAD Climate Change Fund	20
6.7. Project Development Tool Kit	20
6.8. The Case of Women Development Army (WDA) in Tigray	21
7. Groups Discussions	23
7.1. Outputs of Group I discussion	23
7.2. Outputs of Group II Discussion	26
8. Plenary Discussion and Closing Session	27
9. The Way Forward and Closing Remarks	30
9.1. The Way forward	30
9.2. Closing Remarks	31
9.3. Draft Action Plan	33
ANNEXES	35

ANNEX I: Opening Remarks by H.E Zenebu Tadesse Minister, Ministry of Women, Children and Youth Affairs Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia. 35

ANNEX II: Welcoming speech – made by Mr. Abiy Ephrem, Director, Public Relation Directorate of MoWCYA 39

ANNEX III: Workshop Programme..... 41

ANNEX IV: List of Participants 43

ACRONYMS

BoWCA	Bureau of Women and Children Affairs
CAADP	Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Program
EAP	Environmental Action Plan
GCCASP	Gender, Climate Change and Agriculture Support Programme
GeoSAS	Geo-Spatial Analytical Service P.L.C.
GTP	Growth and Transformation Plan
IGA	Income generating Activities
LNWB	Leave No Women Behind
MoWCYA	Ministry of Women Children and Youth Affairs
NPCA	New Partnership for African Development -Planning and Coordinating Agency
NORAD	Norwegian Agency for Development
REC	Regional Economic Community
SSA	Sub Saharan Africa
UNPF	United Nations Population Fund
WDA/G	Women Development Army/Group
WFP	World Food Programme
WFWC	Women Fuel Wood Carriers

I. BACKGROUND

The NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA), with financial support of NORAD has developed a Gender, Climate Change and Agriculture Support Program (GCCASP). The program was designed following a detailed assessment study in five countries namely Ethiopia, Rwanda, Malawi, Niger and Cameroon. GCCASP will facilitate the implementation of regional and country level interventions to empower rural women and in particular women farmers to enhance their resilience so that they can better cope with potential adverse impacts of climate change.

The program is envisaged to be implemented in the context of NEPAD's Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Program (CAADP) and Environmental Action Plan (EAP) frameworks, but with clear policy implications for other sectors as well as design and funding of climate programs. The operation of GCCASP is envisaged to involve two phases of activities: inception phase and implementation phase.

The Ministry of Women Children and Youth Affairs (MoWYCA) is leading the GCCASP in Ethiopia and is entrusted with the overall coordination and the project development and implementation process by ensuring the effective participation of the relevant federal and regional government bodies, non-government organizations as well as key development partners.

To this end the Ministry in collaboration with NEPAD and with financial support from NORAD organized this consultation workshop which was held in Addis Ababa, from 5th - 7th of May 2014.

2. RATIONALE

Women constitute the majority of smallholder farmers in Africa. They are responsible for up to 80% of food production, 100% of the processing of basic foodstuffs; 80% of food storage and transport from field to village; 90% of the hoeing and weeding work and 60% of the harvesting and marketing activities. Agricultural self-employment by sex in SSA amounts to 54% for women compared to 57% for men.

Looking at the situation in Ethiopia, almost all of the rural women are directly dependent on agriculture and environmental resources for their livelihoods. As elsewhere in developing countries, Ethiopian women are engaged in productive activities (including crop farming and livestock herding) and the management of natural resources and household assets.

Women's engagement in the agricultural sector comes under constrained circumstances. The challenges may broadly be categorized under policy and institutional challenges as well as constraints related to access to services. This includes:

- Neglect of consideration of women's needs and priorities in agricultural policies and plans.
- Weak institutional capacity to mainstream gender issues in the agricultural sector and poor coordination capacity of women institutions
- Low level of representation and participation of rural women in decision making within these formal and informal institutions.
- Poor access to agricultural extension services, finance/credit, technology, agricultural inputs as well as market access opportunities.

All of these factors combined contribute to significantly limiting the productivity of women smallholder farmers. The advent of the phenomenon of climate change is expected to adversely affect the productivity of small holder women farmers and pastoralists at a much greater level. Climate change is expected to impact agricultural production in many different ways. These include effects on crops and animals; effects on environmental and biophysical processes that are subsequently affecting production and human health.

The gender, agriculture and climate change dynamic brings into light the specific challenges that women farmers and pastoralists face as the results of the combined effects of the pre-existing disadvantages in the sector exacerbated by the advent of climate change.

In light of these facts, it has become imperative to examine the gender-agriculture-climate change dynamic in the African context so as to design appropriate interventions not only to curb the looming adverse impacts of climate change on small holder farmers and pastoralists but also to increase productivity and ultimately improve their livelihoods.

It is with this objective that the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA) embarked on an extensive study which recently culminated in the development of a support program specifically focusing on women small holder farmers and pastoralists.

The Support Programme has the vision to achieve an effective and more equitable participation of African women smallholder farmers, youth and other vulnerable groups through policy changes and access to climate-smart agricultural technologies. This is envisaged to be achieved through capacitating them to better cope with climate variability and climate change. The Programme is to be implemented initially with five countries including Ethiopia, representing five of the eight Regional Economic Communities of the African Union Commission.

3. OBJECTIVE

The objectives of this Gender, Climate Change and Agriculture Support Programme GCCASP - Ethiopia National Programming Consultation Workshop are to:

- (i) Present and discuss the Ethiopia report focusing on the intervention areas
- (ii) Obtain views and feedback from the stakeholders on the intervention areas to be considered during the detailed work programme development
- (iii) Facilitate and support the MOWCYA to establish national Partnership Platforms (PP),

4. ORGANIZATION

This Ethiopia Country launch workshop for the inception phase of GCCASP was organized by the Ministry of Women, Children and Women Affairs (MoWCYA) of Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE) in collaboration with NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency with close technical support of GeoSAS. Three teams namely; Technical, Communication and Logistics, were organized to steer and facilitate the organization of the workshop.

5. OPENING CEREMONY OF THE WORKSHOP

5.1. Welcoming Speech

Welcoming speech was made by Mr. Abiy Ephrem, Director of Public Relation Directorate of MoWCYA. Mr. Abiy began commenced his speech by welcoming all to the “National programming Consultation Workshop on Gender, Climate Change and Agriculture Support Program”. In his speech he highlighted the significant role of rural women in Africa, where women are responsible for up to 80% of food production, 100% of the processing of basic foodstuffs; 80% of food storage and transport from fields to villages; and 90% of the hoeing and weeding work and 60% of the harvesting and marketing activities. However, he further noted that women’s



*Welcoming speech by Mr. Abiy Ephrem,
Director of Public Relation Directorate of
MoWCYA*

engagement in the agricultural sector comes under considerable challenges in accessing financing, agricultural extension services, technology and agricultural inputs as well as market opportunities. He then underscored that their problems are exacerbated by the advent of the phenomenon of adverse climate change, to which women are very vulnerable, and disproportionately and differently affected. Mr. Abiy then reflected on Gender Climate Change and Agriculture Support Programme (GCCASP) as an intervention to address rural agricultural and pastoralist women capacity building needs to cope up with adverse impacts of climate change. Mr. Abiy concluded his welcoming speech by outlining the objective of the workshop, and inviting Mrs. Estherine Lisinge Fotabong, Director of the Programme Implementation and Coordination Directorate of NEPAD made an introductory remark.

5.2. Introductory Remark

Madam Estherine Fotabong Director, Programme Implementation and Coordination, NEPAD Planning and Coordination Agency started her remarks by reminding the participants that the year 2014 is a special year as it is designated as the year of African Agriculture. Accordingly, agriculture is prioritized as a vehicle to transform development and growth in the continent and at national levels, she noted. She then went on remarking that without addressing and fully bringing into focus the rural small holder women framers and pastoralists in to the process, transforming African agriculture cannot be an attainable undertaking. In this connection, she indicated that women constitute 70% of rural small holder farmers and pastoralists most of whom are poor. It is also predicted that poverty will increase in 2020, and the most to be affected will be women, she emphasized. Mrs. Estherine said it is therefore mandatory to take concrete actions through ensuring effective



*Madam Estherine Director,
Programme Implementation and
Coordination, NEPAD– Planning
and Coordination Agency*

participation of women in equitable manner to build their capacity so that they will extricate themselves from the poverty trap. In order to contribute to the efforts of improving the livelihoods of women in Africa, NEPAD has launched the GCCASP program with a view to support rural farming and pastoralist women to cope with the impacts of climate change through improving women small holder farmers and pastoralists. Subsequently, she noted that GCCASP has been designed to address capacity related issues related to access to land, inputs, credit and technologies so that they can attain some level of socio-economic development, as well as empowerment in decision making. She then recalled the events of 2012 consultative workshop organized by MoWCYA, where rural women representatives from different parts of Ethiopia partook in the discussion and air their situations and needs. She then indicated that we are now in second phase of the GCCASP and this workshop is a programming consultation aimed at

obtaining views from stakeholders on identifying investment programmes, establishment of partnership platforms, coordination mechanisms and resource mobilization. She then concluded her remark by thanking the Minister of MWCYA, NORAD, UN agencies and all who were present in the workshop.

5.3. Key note Remarks by Mrs. Maal Bodil

Mrs. Maal Bodil, Senior Adviser of the Gender Team Department for Economic Development, Energy, Gender and Governance, NORAD, made a key note remark. In her brief remark she pointed out that NORAD's involvement in the GCCASP is part of the strategy of the Norway government to help reduce the impacts of climate change as related to COP 17 decisions.



*Mrs. Maal Bodil, Senior Adviser of the Gender Team
Department for Economic Development, Energy,
Gender and Governance, NORAD*

She expressed her happiness that the program has entered into this important inception phase where a workable program is expected to be developed with the involvement of stakeholders and partners. She further remarked that since Ethiopia is a premier of the GCCASP, NORAD wishes to see an exemplary outcome. Finally she wished good luck for task ahead.

5.4. Opening Speech

The Opening speech was delivered by H.E Zenebu Tadesse, Minister, Ministry of Women, Children and Youth Affairs of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE). Her Excellency started her speech by recognizing the presence of Federal and Regional governments' officials, representatives of International organizations, Director of Programme Implementation and Coordination Directorate of NEPAD, Distinguished representative of NORAD, and all invited guests and participants.

H.E in her speech emphasized women's role in agriculture which encompasses the entire food production system cycle, looking after the children and the sick and collecting fuel wood and water. Despite the critical role of women, she noted that, their role in decision making and national policy formulation is marginalized, and have limited access to productive assets including land, and key agricultural services. As a result, most policies fail to target the priority areas of

intervention that would optimize return of investment. She underlined that women and girls have remained to be the most vulnerable section of the society to food and nutrition insecurity.

With respect to climate change, her Excellency pointed out that women are more vulnerable to the effects of climate change as they are more dependent for their livelihoods on natural resources that are threatened by Climate Change. Furthermore, women and girls face social, economic and political barriers that limit their coping capacities to the adverse climate change.

Her Excellency underlined that the government of the FDRE recognizes the decisive role of rural women in the socio economic and political transformation of the country. The existence of constitutional and legal instruments that support the rights of women and their empowerment are the expression of the commitment of the Ethiopian government, she indicated. She went on demonstrating that government is now implementing various programmes that address the practical challenges faced by women and girls through synergizing with development partners. In this connection, the Minister revealed that in partnership with UN agencies and other development partners; currently the ministry is implementing several projects that have demonstrated results in women empowerment, enhancing their food and nutrition security, increasing their incomes and ensuring their ability to participate in leadership and decision making. Some of the current projects she mentioned include Joint programme on gender equality and women's empowerment and Leave No Woman Behind.



H.E. Zenebu Tadesse, Minister, Ministry of Women, Children and Youth Affairs of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

She further reflected that the government of Ethiopia has adopted and has been successfully implementing a five years Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP), 2010/11-2014/15 with 7 pillars, which aims at attaining the level of a middle- income country by the year 2020. In this connection H.E. underscored the government's belief that this transition can only be achieved if Ethiopian women participate fully in the implementation of the plan. Hence, one of the seven strategic pillars of the GTP is specifically dedicated to the empowerment of women.

H.E. Zenebu Tadesse, pin pointed that despite all these remarkable steps taken by the government there are still major challenges. According to her, lack of institutional and individual capacities at all levels, deep rooted harmful traditional practices, especially in the rural areas,

heavy load in the household tasks, low access to services, resources and lack of information are among the major challenges, that still hold back women, especially rural women development. Consequently she called for redoubling efforts to promote the empowerment of women and address both social and economic factors that constrain them. She also emphasized that women are not only vulnerable to Climate Change but they are also effective actors or agents of change in relation to both mitigation and adaptation.

Her Excellency marked that the Gender Climate Change Agriculture Support Program has come at the critical moment when there is a dire need to examine the gender-agriculture-climate change dynamic in the African context so as to design appropriate interventions not only to curb the looming adverse impacts of climate change on small holder women farmers and pastoralists but also to increase productivity and ultimately improve their livelihoods.

She expressed the Ethiopian government's appreciation of the initiative taken by NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA) and extended her sincere gratitude to NORAD for the generous financial support for the program.

Finally, she stated the government's commitment and importance attached to the program, and thanked GeoSAS consulting firm for its relentless efforts in the provision of technical service and urged all the participants to actively partake in the discussions and wished all a successful deliberation and declared that the workshop is officially opened.

5.5. Recognition of Contribution Ceremony

The last function of the opening session was marked by handing of **CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION** to Mrs. Estherine Fotabong, Director, Programme Implementation and Coordination, NPCA by H.E Zenebu Tadesse, Minister of the Ministry of Women, Children and Youth Affairs of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.

Mr. Abiy, The Master of the event from the MOWCYA, in his statement, pointed out that the certificate is bestowed to Mrs. Estherine Fotabong in recognition of her passion about gender issues particularly about her role and



Picture showing the handover of certificate of recognition

contribution to women national development. It was underscored that she has played a huge role in advancing the development of the NEPAD Gender, Climate Change and Agriculture Support Programme.

After receiving the Certificate of Recognition Mrs. Estherine Fotabong, noted that recognizing individual effort is a rare occasion and thus she expressed her surprise and extended her sincere gratitude to the government of Ethiopia and the Minister. She then reaffirmed her commitment to the cause of rural farming and pastoralist women and promised to do all in her power to advance gender issues and work towards all rounded empowerment of women.

6. PRESENTATIONS

The highlights of the major presentations are presented hereunder.

6.1. An overview of the Gender Climate Change Agriculture Support Programme

This presentation was made by Mrs. Edna Kalima of NPCA. In her presentation she provided a summary of GCCASP program from its commencement in 2012 to the present and also reflected on objectives, achievements and challenges. Her presentation informed the participants that GCCASP started with financial support obtained from NORAD and was launched in New York in September 2013. It is also indicated that this workshop of the inception phase started in Ethiopia and will continue in the other four countries (Rwanda, Malawi, Niger and Cameroon).

She went on reminding the gathering that GCCASP is designed with the objective to empower women smallholder farmers, youth and other vulnerable sections of communities in African countries to better cope with adverse effects of climate variability and climate change.

She also outlined Challenges of small holder farmers and pastoralists women from the reviews and consultations conducted in 2012, and the summary of which include among others:

- Heavy workload of women,
- Limited access to land, credit, better skills and technology, agricultural extension, information with regards to climate change, markets,
- Low level of decision making power and
- Lack of well-organized and functional women's organizations/cooperatives and synergy among existing actors and programs (initiatives) in the gender, agriculture and climate change arena.

The presentation highlighted specific components of the program's main intervention areas and outlined activities related to the respective interventions, as below:

- I. **Closing institutional gaps-** this related to the integration of gender issues into Agriculture climate change and environment policies, programmes and actions, awareness creation, and strengthening the synergies among different actors. Furthermore, creation of gender and sex-disaggregated data, ensuring budgetary allocation and enhancing Institutional capacity to implement policies and programmes on gender, climate change and agriculture in the participating countries identified as activities related to closing institutional gaps.
- II. **Capacity building of women smallholder farmers and pastoralists-** under this intervention area activities such as training of smallholder farmers, other vulnerable groups, extension workers, access to technologies, market, climate change information, sustainable agricultural practices and diversification of agriculture based livelihood were outlined. Similarly, value addition, organizing women under cooperatives and strengthening existing ones to be self-sufficient, introduction of early warning systems for farmers were among the identified activities under capacity building main intervention.
- III. **Creation and strengthening of women platforms** -activities encompassed under this intervention include: enhancing the participation of women at all levels in gender, climate change platforms and supporting the same through training and creating networking among women cooperatives.
- IV. **Investments in up-scaling of innovative and successful practices** - This intervention identified actions for consideration of provisions of grants to support the implementation of climate smart gender sensitive agricultural flagship Initiatives (innovative projects) relevant to smallholder agricultural and pastoralist rural women.

Finally, Mrs. Edna outlined the operationalization arrangement of the programme and the role of NPCA.

6.2. Gender and Climate Change in Agriculture

Mrs. Bodil Maal of NORAD presented on “Gender and Climate Change in Agriculture” highlighting evolution of NEPAD’s GCCASP. Her presentation informed the participants that this initiative started at COP 17 in December 2011. GCCASP involved broad participation in the planning and covered Ethiopia, Malawi, Rwanda, Niger and Cameroon and about 18 African researchers/consultants took part and 15 reports produced. With respect to lessons learnt from the studies and consultations she pointed out that climate change has caused “Widows of drought” which resulted in high food insecurity, forest resources disappearance which creates firewood loss, and water scarcity, all of them affect women and girls. Additional work burden for women came from climate change impacts related to Impacts on human and animal health. The

studies have also shown the existence of beautiful but not so implemented policies in the manner that address gender issues.

Mrs. Bodil highlighted that the main objective of the planned programme is to empower women smallholder farmers and other vulnerable groups to cope with the adverse effects of climate variability and climate change through:

- Institutional and policy strengthening
- Improved access to inputs, land, technologies, information and knowledge
- Enhanced participation of women in decision making, and
- Increased application of climate-smart agriculture practises.

With respect to next step actions, she outlined a set of activities as priority undertakings including: establishing of women's platforms, preparation of work plan with few strategic activities, defining key indicators, up-scaling best practises and sharing information.

The next presentations were moderated and Chaired by Dr Abera Deressa and Dr. Yemane respectively.

6.3. An Overview of Related on Going Projects and Lesson Learnt

Mr. Mebratu Yimer, Project Planning and Coordinator of MoWCYA as a way of introduction informed the gathering that MoWCYA, among other thing is also involved in the development and coordination of national programs and projects that support the empowerment of women and youths. Accordingly, among those programs/projects coordinated and implemented by the Ministry only three projects were highlighted to show case and share experiences to GCCASP, the summary of which is presented below.

I. Leave No Women Behind (LNWB) Project

The objective is to address gender disparities in educational, sexual and reproductive health services and gender based violence (GBV). In addition, the project aimed at empowering women for improved livelihoods with enhanced food and nutrition security and resilience. The project was implemented by MoWCYA and Bureau of Woman Affairs in Tigray and Amhara regions in 11 selected districts. United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and World Food Programme (WFP) are the participating UN organizations.

Major achievements of the project include:

- a) Capacity Building & Social Mobilization - focused on improvement in understanding women rights and impacts of Harmful Traditional Practice and improved health conditions. Moreover, the presenter indicated the establishment of strong link between Climate change and response to Health/Reproductive Health.

- b) Literacy and Life Skills Trainings - LNWB help increase attendance and performance of school children.
- c) Reproductive Health Services - appropriate and tailored health and gender issues related awareness materials prepared and disseminated. Sensitization and skill upgrading works conducted, in addition essential health equipment and commodities supplied for selected health facilities.
- d) Livelihood - Improved knowledge of adolescent girls and women on income generating skills and access of targeted women to functioning and sustainable credit and savings services.
- e) Some Exemplary case stories of individual women whose life positively transformed due to the project were also presented.

The key good learning points obtained from the implementation of LNWB project outlined in the presentation include:

- Strong programme coordination - proper staffing & structures at all level from region to village;
- Linking programme activities with development groups particularly with women development groups (WDGs) (at grassroots level)
- Effective resource allocation: more than 95% budget to direct beneficiaries
- Programme integrated approach to address women's issues would be helpful for better results (e.g., Flagship Gender Program),
- Aligning development programmes with existing government structures & development priorities (GTP & MDGs) is essential for relevance and adoption,
- Commitment and sense of ownership among the relevant stakeholders and implementers as well as beneficiaries is critical factor for success,
- Asset building initiatives for rural women (on-farm activities) need to be linked with natural resource conservation activities is mandatory to build resilient capacity of vulnerable women in advent of current adverse impacts of climate change

Main Issues/Challenges faced during project implementation include but not limited to:

- Limited area coverage & beneficiary targeting Vs the actual local demand
- Scarcity in budget & logistics to maintain regular follow-up (particularly at district/wereda & village level)
- Sectors' programme ownership (as integrated approach) and proper attention to the joint program;
- Advocacy for programme approach is a challenge to send signal across stakeholders

2. Women Fuel Wood Carriers (WFWC) project

This project was formulated to improve the lives of women fuel wood carriers (15,000 Women Fuel Wood Carriers (WFWC) in Addis Ababa and 15,000 WFC in other 7 cities of the country). The components were rationalization of the women fuel wood carriers' supply and marketing system, income diversification and institution building and human development support.

It was also disclosed that the project was funded by Japan Social Development Fund (JSDF) with a project's budget of USD 1,956,650.

Major achievements by component include:

a. Rationalization of Women fuel wood carriers supply and Marketing system

The main achievements outlined were:

- A series of training on environmental protection and forest management was provided
- Establishment of nursery site and seedling production, forest development and planting fruit and other different indigenous tree species
- Conducting bee keeping activity

b. Income diversification

Under this component it was possible to learn from the presentation that;

- 111 saving and Credit Co-operatives of WFWC members in 8 cities were organized and legally established and provided loan for 8059 WFC to run Income Generating Activity, such as Pottery, food processing, petty trade, poultry production, kerosene outlet, fruit selling, sheep fattening, Basketry, Planting and selling seedlings.
- Each of the members was trained in Basic Business Skill Training (BBS)
- Market business plan for each member was developed.

After the project phase out, the women still have their start-up capital and are revolving

c. WFWC Institution building and human development support

In this connection WFWC members in 8 cities have got training on health, HIV/AIDS, Family planning, Environmental

Major Challenges faced during implementation of WFWC projects identified by the presenter were:

- Limited area coverage & beneficiary targeting versus the actual number of WFWC
- Scarcity in budget & logistics to maintain regular follow-up

3. Joint Flagship Program

The participants were informed that the program was a joint effort of UN Women, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNDP, ILO and UNESCO. The program aimed at scaling up the country's ability towards meeting MDG-3 goal in particular that of Promoting Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and supporting the achievement of the Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP), notably women and youth empowerment, which is one of the 7 pillars of GTP.

The main components of the program are Women's economic empowerment, Attainment of women and girls at secondary and tertiary level, Strengthened capacities for gender mainstreaming and protection of the rights of Women and Girls.

Major achievements presented by components include the following:

a. Economic Empowerment of women;

- 9,872 women received business management skills training
- 8537 women & girls received financial support in the form of revolving loan fund (RLF) ranging from ETB 3000 - 5000 per woman for Income generating Activities (IGA) purposes;
- 400 women in the different regions provided with time & energy saving women-friendly new technologies and means of production (equipment/machines) for IGAs.
- Seven cooperatives had received funds to expand their businesses
- 30 women provided with soap processing machine;
- Women group with 35 members producing pottery were provided with grinding machine

b. Access to Higher Education for Girls and Women

Under this component the following out puts were outlined;

- Provision of Scholarships to female teachers and staff of WoCYA
- Support economically disadvantaged girls and women in Secondary & Tertiary educational institutions
- Strengthening educational fora and counselling and institutionalization of tutorial classes for girls and women in Secondary and Tertiary education

c. Strengthened Institutional Capacity for Gender Mainstreaming

The main out puts of this component are;

- A national Gender mainstreaming guideline and various tools for gender analysis, gender auditing, gender responsive budgeting (GRB) and partner mapping and training

manual developed introduced to relevant bodies; and capacity building training on tools in the national context, etc. were conducted.

d. Promote and protect the rights of women and girls

Under this theme the reported outputs in the presentation include;

- a national strategy developed and community dialogues on Harmful Traditional Practices (HTP)/Violence Against Women conducted
- community dialogue facilitators were trained
- consensus on position regarding abandonment of HTPs, Gender Based Violence (GBV) and Violence Against Women (VAW) (2011) was reached among women development group leaders and representatives in Tigray
- Partnership and networks with community and religious leaders have been established in Addis Ababa, Afar, Amhara, Oromiya, SNNPR and Tigray regions; and a number of villages sensitized to the effects of HTPs and VAW
- At the community level-para legal committees have been strengthened so as to engage in mediating in family conflicts like divorce

The challenges noted during the implementation of the project were lack of Budget, implementation capacity and attitudinal problems of people towards gender equality and HTPs.

6.4. An Overview of Situation Analysis and Intervention Areas with Respect to GCCASP – Ethiopia

This paper was presented by Mr. Sitotaw Birhanu, the General Manager of GeoSAS, which gave background to the initial phase and dealt with outputs of the assessment of GCCASP in Ethiopian context. The presenter established the rationale by asking and responding to the question why the issue of women is critical in relation to agriculture and climate change? He tried to establish what make rural smallholder farming women and pastoralist and its livelihood mainstay, agriculture more vulnerable to climate change and nexus involved.

He then went on highlighting the objective of the assessment phase, which was to identify the coping strategies of the women, and explore possible ways of enhancing their coping capacities to climate change effects. Subsequently, he briefly outlined standard and widely known and practiced approaches participatory tools employed in the assessment.

The key finding of the assessment was summarized as follows:

- i. Some of the **Climate Change-induced hazards observed** in the selected study areas (Afar, Omo, Borena, Chiro) – such as frequent and severe droughts (occurring once every other year), erratic and uneven rains (all sites), shifts in the onset and cessation

period of the rains (Shorter rainy days), general water stress and scarcity, landslides and soil erosion, health risks (heat waves, malaria, diarrhea, and malnutrition)

- ii. **Communities coping strategies** - herd diversification and splitting, firewood/charcoal selling, selling assets, food rationing, Natural resource management, petty trade and other off and non-farm activities, and food aid/Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP)
However, it was pointed out that the current coping mechanisms are inadequate as they are limited by capacity and policy gaps related challenges.
- iii. **Capacity related challenges** – identified by the study mainly related to limited or low level of capacity to respond to climate change, these include limited decision making power of rural farming women on productive assets such as land, Inadequate access to agricultural technologies, information to CC, market, credit and other social services.
- iv. **Policy gaps related challenge**– this refers to limitations in clearly articulating women vulnerability in existing some policies and gender responsive and long term adaptive strategies. In fact as there is lack of sex - disaggregated data and studies analyzing particular vulnerabilities of women, the policies, strategies and programs were ill informed in their making. He went on pointing at lack of gender sensitive planning which ends up limiting women from accessing available agricultural technologies and services as a contributing factor. Further more limited understanding of policy instruments by implementers and lack of knowledge about nexuses among gender - agriculture – Climate Change, as well as financial capacity to implement policies as compounding challenges in a way linked to policy gaps.
- v. **Institutional gaps**- In this connection lack of sufficient and trained man power, Weak functional units, lack of coordination and functional linkage among various stakeholders working on women smallholder farmers and pastoralists were the outstanding challenges identified.

Identified Key Priority Intervention Areas

The central subject of the presentation was related to the identified four key priority intervention areas based on the aforementioned challenges and gaps. The key priority intervention areas are outlined hereunder.

a. Policy and Institutional - this calls for intervention measures related to:

- Properly articulate and mainstream gender issues into Agriculture and CC Policies and strategies, program and related actions,
- Strengthening and building capacity and creates awareness of policy implementers,

- Generating gender and sex disaggregated data, and
- Creation and strengthening of women institutions/platforms and establishing functional linkages.

b. Capacity Building of Women Farmers and Pastoralists- this intervention focuses on three intervention nodes, these were:

- Creating an enabling policy environment- that enhance their decision making power and benefit from their rights to ownership and property development
- Skill and knowledge building through investments in up-scaling of innovative and successful practices, experience sharing and integration within existing community conversations practices/platforms
- Improve institutional conditions such as organizing women under cooperatives and strengthen the existing ones help build partnership with public, private and Non-governmental entities for resource, knowledge and technology sharing and transfer

c. Improved access to service and environment friendly and pro-poor technologies

This mainly refers to:

- Create awareness on benefit of and Enhance access to credit service and appropriate technologies (improved seeds, agro chemicals, improved animal breeds and farming techniques, Renewable energy sources, energy saving stoves, potable water, grinding mills, etc.)

d. Improved access to input and output market

The major interventions pin pointed in this regard include:

- Enhancing access to market opportunities/information and risk management
- Support value addition

The presentation was concluded by calling on participants to enrich and prioritize the identified intervention and to come up with actionable and fundable intervention for the preparation of the GCCASP Ethiopian country work program.

6.5. GCCASP Project Institutional Arrangements

Mrs. Edna Kalima of NPCA took the floor once again to reflect on project institutional arrangements of GCCASP.

Talking of the strategy she indicated that NEPAD principles namely, good governance; African ownership; broad participation of all sectors of the society and partnerships will be applied in implementing the GCCASP. She has also emphasised on linkages with existing NEPAD programmes.

She pointed out program execution is done at three levels. That is NPCA, REC and national levels. The program is implemented within the CAADP and the Environment and Climate Change Programme of NPCA, where NPCA serves as executing agency of the Programme.

She also broadly outlined activities to be carried out at Regional Economic Community (REC) and national levels and reflected on overall GCCASP governance arrangement. Accordingly:

- i. **REC level activities** mainly include organizational, information sharing, policy review, development of tools, resource mobilization and the likes.
- ii. **National level activities** include program implementation coordination, mobilizing technical backstopping support from NPCA, establishment of national Partnership Platforms (PPs) which will oversee the implementation of the program.

In this arrangement **NPCA** has also a role to identify & engage High Level Champions for advocacy and future out scaling of the Programme in the other African countries.

- iii. **Governance** - GCCASP will be governed by an Advisory Board (Steering Committee) that consists of reps from NPCA, AUC, funding agency/agencies, the rep RECs, chairpersons of the PPs in the participating countries - provide guidance on technical issues. NPCA will establish global Advisory Board at project inception.

Mrs Kalima concluded her presentation by outlining what NPCA expects from this workshop and subsequent activities during the inception phase is to come up with a programme document that identified the core areas, institutional arrangements (ministry) as well as the M&E mechanisms and Budgets and establishment of Partnership Platform. She further informed the gathering that this is a five year programme; implementation is to start by January 2015 and NPCA will work with the MoWCYA to develop a full-fledged programme document for financing.

Reflections on the above Presentations by the Participants:

The chair Person Dr Yemane called the presenters to the front to respond to the questions and reflections of the participants. The following are the highlights of the key questions and responses.

An Overview of Related On Going Projects and Lesson Learnt

- You have said that the project financial efficiency is 95%, how could you achieve such high level of effectiveness?
- Leave No Women Behind (LNWB) project is a successful one but it is phasing out. What is the opportunity to scale it up?
- An overview of Situation Analysis and Intervention Areas with Respect to GCCASP – Ethiopia
- When you say there is a policy gap, do you mean there is no policy on gender in agriculture sector?
- Climate change is affecting where 85% of the pastoralist people live but why you did not include pastoralist community?

General questions

- Is there budget or fund allocated for project management unit?
- NGOs have a lot of experience in Gender agriculture and climate change areas, how do you see the involvement of NGOs into GCCASP?
- How can we consider supporting of Women Development Armies?

Summaries of response and additional comments:

- Regarding project management unit, Mrs Edna responded that GCCASP will be housed under the MoWCYA and it is expected that the Ministry will establish Project Management Unit. Regarding allocating budget to the unit she pointed out that this is something that will be looked into in the programme formulation. Considering NGOs involvement she reminded the gathering that as one of the NEPAD principles is broad participation of all sectors of the society and establishment of partnerships, the participation of NGOs is inevitable. Accordingly, the role of NGOs will be defined during the design of GCCASP.
- Mr. Mebratu described that 95% effectiveness of financial management was made possible due to the project adhered budget allocation formula to regional states issues by Federation Parliament. In addition budget was also used as revolving fund, directly went to district (beneficiaries), and allocated to support specific sector activities by aligning with government initiatives. The project also used volunteer climate change facilitators only with a token or pocket money. All these helped to reduce overhead cost and help attained high level of efficiency.

- It was also pointed out that the major challenge in scaling up of the successful project such LNWB, is financial limitation. It is expected that GCCASP will provide opportunity for the same.
- On question related to policy gaps, Mr. Sitotaw elaborated that Ethiopia has very good constitution and a number of policies and strategies that have provided sufficient provisions help advance the cause of and protect the right of women. These policies have also some guiding provisions on climate change and mainstreaming gender issues into various initiatives. However, some of these policies did not have a clearly articulated guidance when it comes to Gender-climate change-agriculture nexus. Thus we need to find some mechanism to fill this gap through GCCASP.
- Regarding inclusion of pastoralist community the assessment was done in typically climate hot spot areas where most of the people are pastoralist. It is so evident that the vulnerability of pastoralist women is well recognized and considered and thus will also be taken into account during programme design.
- Mrs. Estherine Fotabong, Director, Programme Implementation and Coordination, NEPAD– Planning and Coordinating Agency, on her part she started her opinion by calling on stakeholders. She requested stakeholders to reflect on what they are doing and how they can supplement the GCCASP. In her statement she emphasized that:
 - To implement projects it is important to build capacity and the ministry needs to designate program implementation unit and the necessary budget. So we need to get budget for the ministry to effectively play its coordination role.
 - As we define the program it is also necessary to define the role of NGOs in alignment the goal of the programme
 - We need to devise mechanism how to sustain best performing projects. In this regard governmental and non-governmental organizations must contribute including in generating ideas to implement the GCCASP.
 - The Women Development Army are doing good work, and must be supported, if not in budget but through providing technical support.
- Representatives of UN based agencies such as ECA, UNFPA, UNDP, and the likes made brief statement about similar activities being undertaken by their respective agencies and expressed their willingness to collaboratively work with the Programme.

6.6. Linking the GCCASP to the NEPAD Climate Change Fund

Mr. Kwame Ababio of NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency briefly highlighted the subject of “**Linking the GCCASP to the NEPAD Climate Change Fund**”. He started the presentation by introducing the fund. Accordingly, he indicated that the fund was established to support existing initiatives/programmes such as CAADP, GCCASP, and Environment Action Plan. The total fund volume is 3.6 million euros over an initial two-year period and efforts are on-going to increase the size.

He noted that the purpose of the fund is to support AU member states and Regional Economic Communities in defined targeted areas of support. The target areas of the Fund are:

- Adaptation of agriculture to climate change
- Biodiversity Management
- Access and benefit sharing
- Mainstreaming of climate change into NAIPs
- Potential areas of fund support to GCCASP

Mr. Kwame further informed the participants that training, capacity development and awareness creation, and policy advice and technical support are the two focus areas of the fund, that can potentially be explored as a source of financial opportunity to support GCCASP. He then concluded by highlighting on eligible applicants and Institutions, as well as funding procedure.

6.7. Project Development Tool Kit

Mr. Team highlighted basic ideas and concepts of general system theory and theory of change as an introduction to his presentation. He made known from the outset that the process guideline (tool kit) is adapted from Project Cycle Management and Results Based Management approaches for analysing, conceptualizing, designing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating GCCASP.

With respect to basic logical model he showed the logical relationships between the resources that go into a program, the activities and outputs the program undertakes, and the changes or benefits that result or expected using a schematic diagram showing inputs, out puts, and outcome and impacts relationship.

Mr. Teame expounded on key requirement of the tool which is meaningful involvement of stakeholders. He then further elaborated the analysis phase of project formulation with step by step explanation of what is involved in stakeholder, objective, activities, alternative and problem analysis steps involved in developing and designing a project based on Design Change Process. According to him the design Phase consists of following interlinked processes:

- Preparation of a Results Based Management Framework Matrix

- Determine Performance indicators for activities, outputs and outcomes.
- Designing Implementation Planning and monitoring, including:
 - Project Work Plan, for the life of the project
 - Regular project progress reporting system for monitoring and assessing
 - Project achievements.
- Determining required staff, material, and financial inputs for budget formulation

Following this presentation Mrs. Estherine Fotabong hinted the need to focus on core course of the Programme. Mr. Tame on his part reflected that he is well aware of where the GCCASP program is presently. He said that participating countries already completed the background studies, including needs assessment and identification of priority areas of intervention. These countries essentially completed the Stakeholder Analysis, Problem Analysis, Objectives Analysis and Alternatives Analysis stages, under Situation Analysis and Project Identification stages described under this Tool Kit. The focus at this stage is to prepare national project documents, with clear results chain and implementation plans. Thus, in this programme initiation phase, therefore, what is required of these participating countries is to validate, improve or expand the findings of the previous studies using this Tool Kit.

6.8. The Case of Women Development Army (WDA) in Tigray

The presentation of this paper was volunteered by Mrs. Keria Ibrahim, Head of Bureau of Women Children Affairs (BoWCA). She deliberated on the objectives, benefits and structural arrangement of Women Development Army (WDA) by taking Tigray as a case.

According to her the objectives of WDA include:

- Ensuring the implementation of the designed economic, social and good governance packages through the participation of all women to alleviate poverty.
- Facilitate the strengthening of their organization (Women Association of Tigray) and working towards and seeking ways to solve their problems and ensure their all rounded benefits.

WDA organizational structure and arrangements:

For proper and sustainable functioning of the WDG, from regional up to kebele/village, steering committee is established that compose of members drawn from key sectors and serve at different position/capacity and responsibilities of supporting the WDGs in line with their respective sector package. Members and roles of the steering committee are shown below.

- **Women's Affairs Bureau serve as Coordinator** –design packages on all sectors to be implemented by WDGs; Prepare a monitoring and evaluation system, provide training and coordinate over all activity.
- **Bureau of Health serve as V/coordinator-** reducing maternal and child mortality, and the spread of HIV/AIDS and provide professional support to WDG leadership
- **Women's Association of Tigray- Secretary-** mobilize all women under WDG, ensure women benefits from the government approved packages, work on ending backward and harmful practices that hinder women's equality.
- **Bureau of Agriculture and Natural Resources-member-** all rounded technical assistance that improves agricultural productivity.
- **Bureau of Education-member-** provide support towards implementing the educational package in particular girls enrolment and enhance women participation in children education.
- **Bureau of Trade** -in development of business package
- **Justice and Administration Bureau-** focuses on justice and good governance

Organization of WDG:

- Each WDG will have a management body comprising 5 members and the management will select the best and role model women by themselves.
- Each WDG will have 25-30 members.
- Following the election procedure, the 5 elected leaders of the WDG will undertake division of labour for sharing responsibilities among themselves, such as HTPS, capacity building agriculture, health, Agriculture and natural resources management, etc.
- Members of a WDG will be women who are close to each other/neighbours in terms of location of their residential quarters.

Reflections on the presentation:

The following issues were raised by the participants and the presenter responded accordingly.

Do the women in leadership stay long in the position?

In response to the above question, she explained that for the individual women to be a member of WDG committee she must be a good role model and accepted by members. On the other hand, selected women remain as committee member only if they make acceptable performance.

Regarding the relationship between government and WDA, the presenter reflected that:

- WDA is a non-political local level women member based association.
- WDA through assistance from women affairs Bureau work closely with sectors during formulation of various sectoral plans or packages. The sectors then allocate budget, WDA work closely to mobilize women group and facilitate the implementation of sectoral budget and involve in the evaluation. However, budget is still a limitation to work at full capacity or to build the requisite capacity; as a result there is a need for financial support.
- There is also a command post led by the regional president or his deputy, which over sees the implementation of the sectoral plan, which has a cascading plan to community level
- Regarding regular technical up grading- training is given by Farmers Training Centre (FTC) and mobilization for training is the responsibility of women affairs offices.
- WDA is accountable to women association.

7. GROUPS DISCUSSIONS

Two groups were formed to discuss on different areas of identified interventions of GCCASP based on the country assessment outcome during the first phase. Accordingly Group I discussed on “key intervention areas for work programme development” focusing on:

- Policy and Institutional level Interventions
- Capacity Building of Women Farmers and Pastoralists
- Improved access to appropriate technologies and service
- Improved access to input and output market

Group II discussed on the “institutional arrangements and implementation mechanisms” focusing on:

- Institutional arrangements at all levels (national, regional, local)
- Establishment of Partnership Platform

7.1. Outputs of Group I discussion

A. Policy and Institutional level interventions challenges identified during the group discussions.

- Mainstreaming gender and climate change issues in governmental institutions and their programs and projects
- Limitation of harmonization between federal and regional state laws at grass root level
- Lack of capacity (limited knowledge) of gender focal personnel at wired level, insufficient participation in consultations, lack of financial support

- Presence of landless women and land certification problem for those who own land
- Difficulty in properly implementing policies in pastoralist areas due to non-sedentary nature of their lifestyle
- Absence of gender disaggregated data in government institutions
- Limitation in/ absence of monitoring and evaluation system for policies
- institutional problem at grass root level (absence of women and youth organizations)

Proposed solutions

- Placing effective monitoring and evaluation system for policies
- Creating mechanisms to participate women in programs and projects
- Enhancing the capacity level of gender focal persons and provide financial support
- Provision of gender mainstreaming tools to government offices at different levels
- harmonization of programs between different organs
- look into gender mainstreaming programs of MOWCYA
- creating women and youth institutions at grass root level

B. Capacity building of women farmers and pastoralists: Identified Challenges

- Lack of awareness on the part of the leadership and experts as to the role of women in development activities
- Lack of decision making power by women on their produce and issues
- Lack of analysis on the role and participation of women
- Lack or absence of mechanisms to incorporate women issues in agricultural programs and;
- Gender programs that are not actually implemented

Proposed Solutions

- To create and enhance for rural women and pastoralists to participate in different programs (such as agricultural growth program, safety net programs)
- Scaling up best practices, and experience sharing
- Improving access to women to infrastructure
- Strengthening women's decision making power at government, community and household level
- Work on attitudinal change on leaders and experts
- Participating women during planning, implementing and decision making stages
- Facilitating agricultural and life skill trainings to rural and pastoralist women
- Facilitating organizational and leadership trainings to women
- Introduce initiatives to rural women to initiate small businesses

- Analyze the status of women, placing gender mainstreaming mechanisms and monitoring and evaluation systems
- Educate women on environmental conservation issues to increase production and facilitate environment protection

C. Improved access to appropriate technologies and service: Identified challenges

- Inaccessible technological inputs to women
- Lack of knowledge to utilize technology inputs

Proposed Solution

- Accessing market information to rural and pastoralist through technology
- Facilitating access to time and energy saving as well as productivity enhancing technologies
- Introducing technology related to climate change adaption and mitigation issues
- Availing metrological data for small scale farmers through geographical experts
- Facilitating functional education and training to women such as adult education
- To educate women about technologies (from easy to sophisticated ones)
- Organize women and educate them about education
- Introduce better technologies to replace traditional means and activities such as women firewood collecting practice and animal fattening technologies , replacing overgrazing
- Use solar technologies in pastoralist area
- Promote local knowledge and technology

D. Improved Access to input and output market: Identified Challenges

- Lack of/limited access to market
- Limitation in infrastructure (such as road)

Proposed Solution

- Promote access to women on market information
- Creating access to market inputs and outputs (market linkage)
- Work strongly on value chain
- Improving road access

7.2. Outputs of Group II Discussion

A. Proposed Institutional Arrangements

National - Local level (Steering committee)

- Coordination and focal point should be done by MoWCYA.
- The criteria used to designate the coordinating and focal institutions:
 - Institutional experiences
 - Women being the focus
 - Previous and on-going projects
- Suggested sectoral members of the steering committee are agriculture, environment and forest, water and energy, Ministry of Finance and Economic Development (MoFED).
- Criteria and capacity should be taken into consideration
- National structure will be considered with Region- District specific context
- Already existing model that could be utilized at regional level
- Many projects have steering committee and technical committees (etc. Oromia region)

B. Partnership Platform (PP)

The objectives of PP as identified by the groups include:

- Support on the design and oversee implementation of the Programme
- Experience sharing and feedback (learning, policy and strategies)
- Monitoring and evaluation mechanism for implementation of programme
- Ensure alignment of undertakings of partners with government plans and policies

PP Members selection

Criteria used to identify potential partners include working or having mandate on Gender, agriculture, climate /environment areas. Accordingly it was suggested to identify partners from among:

- Relevant Line Ministries
- Donor & International Organizations (UN etc.)
- Media
- NGOs, Civic organisations

Organizational matters and communication

- Convening the platform meetings is the responsibility of the Ministry of Women, Children and Youth Affairs(MOWCYA)
- MOWCYA is also responsible for Identifying or inventorying relevant UN and other agencies.
- How often to communicate? – quarterly at national level and more regularly at local level

8. PLENARY DISCUSSION AND CLOSING SESSION

The plenary session was moderated by Dr. Abera Deressa. The moderator highlighted key discussion points related to activities which include issues of policy and program, institutional capacity, coordination and synergies, as well as monitoring and reporting that needs to go into programming of the Ethiopian GCCASP.



Plenary session discussions



During the discussions a number of issues and suggestions were forwarded. The Summary is presented as follows under identified key interventions categories which would form basis for the Ethiopian GCCPASP programme document.

i. Closing institutional gaps

The major activities under this intervention that should be considered in GCCASP program include:

- Inventory of policy gaps in environment, agriculture, climate changes policies, Government approved CAADAP investment plan and other major programs for mainstreaming of gender, climate smart agricultural development provisions
- Development of capacity of institutions, including system to coordinate, create synergise among different actors, implementation and follow up policies and programs.
- Develop package and undertake awareness creation activities, especially at policy making levels
- Build capacity at Women Development Army (WDA) and command post levels
- Creation of gender and sex-disaggregated data for evidence based policy formulation and implementation and monitoring and evaluation.
- Establishing and strengthening Project Implementation Unit (PIU) at MoWCYA for effective implementation of the GCCASP Country programme.
- Ensuring budgetary allocation by the government to demonstrate its commitment in enhancing institutional capacity to implement policies and programmes.

ii. Investments in up-scaling of innovative and successful practices

- Study best practice of women development groups/Army in selected regions for up scaling in selection of regions for specified number of target groups, considering experience of regional states such as Tigray
- Identification of best climate smart and locally adaptable agricultural and natural resources management practices to upscale and build capacity of rural farming and pastoralist women
- Identify effective systems to mobilize and engaging women and youth groups at local level for the planning, implementation and monitoring of the GCCASP programme aligned and integration with the existing related initiatives by different development partners including Government and Non-Governmental entities.

iii. Creation and strengthening of women platforms

- Establishment of women platforms with defined roles of different actors that will help the alignments of efforts to improve the lives of rural farming and pastoralists women
- Development of systems for stakeholder engagement and coordination

- Link to and establish partnership with existing relevant GO-NGO platforms and working groups on right based, economic empowerment of women/gender, climate change, agriculture
- Devise a mechanism to liaise, align and create synergies with works of UN agencies, and create mechanism of coordination of activities of NGOs and other stakeholders engaged on gender, climate change and agriculture.
- Draw lessons from best practice of (Women Development Army (WDA), and devise means of establishing the same for effective implementation of defined activities in selected project areas as deemed appropriate.
- Empower women for effective and meaningful representation and participation of women in various platforms through implementing need based and targeted capacity building measures.

iv. *Capacity building of women smallholder farmers and pastoralists*

- Identification and design of technical/technological capacity building needs for rural women farmers and pastoralist groups at all levels that help build capacity to adapt to the climate change and manage their agricultural activities in climate smart manner.
- Build strategic capacity at WDA and command post levels for effective liaising with relevant sectors, stakeholders, and for the mobilization of human and resources to implement GCCASP at local level.
- Design actionable and bankable projects to operationalize on the ground that help build capacity of poor rural farming women and pastoralists focusing on creating access to technologies, market and value chain development, credit and relevant information.
- Design mechanism for financial resource mobilization and channelling support to income generating activities at local level.

9. THE WAY FORWARD AND CLOSING REMARKS

9.1. The Way forward

In the way forward discussion the points emphasized were:

- It is important that in light of the consultation made to develop actionable and bankable program that should be presented to potential development partners. In this regard, the need to undertake advocacy work to mobilize support of donors, partners and stakeholders has been underlined.

- It was suggested to focus on few strategic and actionable capacity building interventions in selected two regions with clearly known (number) women target group, especially Women development Group to replicate best practices.
- It was agreed to clearly define the content of the programme including program activities, communication strategy, operational modality, budget and results based log frame for effective implementation and monitoring.
- The program document should be finalized and submitted to NEPAD by August 2014 so that it can be presented in November 2014 in donors meeting to be held in Norway.
- The commitment and ownership demonstrated by the government of Ethiopia, H.E the Minister and the MoWCYA was highly appreciated and this has been considered favourable ground for continued productive program development and implementation.
- GeoSAS shall continue to carry out the task in close consultation with the MoWCYA and submit the program document to the same for eventual submission to NPCA.
- It was emphasized and agreed to ensure NGOs representation in the PPs so that the programme would have inclusive and broader representation.
- The need to give due attention by host institution in order to mobilize resources through engaging donors was underscored as part of the programme development.
- As part of communication and popularization of the program it was agreed to use the existing website of the ministry.

9.2. Closing Remarks

The key messages of the closing remarks made by key personalities are summarized hereunder.

Mr. Estherine Fotabong Director, Programme Implementation and Coordination, NPCA

Mrs. Estherine started by thanking H.E, the Minister for her personal commitment and strategic guidance in the whole process of the programme and activities undertaken so far. She went on expressing NEPAD's appreciation and wishes to see the excellent political commitment observed from the Ethiopian Government until now that drive the achievement made so far. She also expressed her strong conviction that such excellent cooperation and political leadership will continue to lead the achievement of positive changes envisaged in the GCCASP to empower poor rural farming women and pastoralist to cope up with adverse effects of climate change.

She also appreciated the Minister for accepting her nomination to work on GCCASP committee and government and MOWCYA for recognition of her effort.

Mrs. Estherine went on reaffirming NEPAD's continuing commitment to help the development of member states and her personal assurance to do all that can be done in her power to see GCCASP –Ethiopia implemented.

She then thanked her NPCA colleagues, NORAD and GeoSAS for all their efforts in the programme and successful accomplishment of the workshop. Finally, she concluded her remarks by expressing her utmost desire to work with the Ethiopian government, where there is firm political commitment and determination to address the challenges and issues of rural farming and pastoralist women, which is instrumental for the realization of GCCASP objectives.

Mrs. Maal Bodil, Senior Adviser of the Gender Team Department for Economic development, Energy, Gender and Governance, NORAD

Mrs. Maal Bodil, on her part thanked the Minister and the government of Ethiopia for observed determination and efforts for addressing gender issues in climate and agriculture context. She then reflected on the initial phase study that revealed the suffering of rural farming women and pastoralist in sufficient perspective, especially their suffering from shortage of water, that capture her attention. She appealed for everybody to remember these poor and suffering women when working with this programme.

She noted that she will closely follow up with the activity and implementation of the programme and re-emphasized that the need to have NGOs representation in the PPs and ensuring alignment and integration with their activities at the grassroots level is critical to consider during the programme development and subsequent implementation of GCCASP targeted interventions.

Finally, she concluded her remarks by thanking all parties and participants who have contributed to the successful completion of the workshop.

H.E. Mrs. Zenebu Tadesse, Minister, Ministry of Women, Children and Youth Affairs, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

H.E. Mrs. Zenebu Tadesse pointed out that the workshop has attained fruitful outcomes. She noted that the MoWYCA has established vertical and horizontal structures and linkages in working with gender issues. H.E further pointed out the existence of women associations and women development groups that have been serving as basic platforms these can be used in the implementation of the GCCASP country program. In terms of partnership, the Minister informed the participants that there is GO-NGO forum working on gender that can be incorporated in the envisaged partnership arrangements.

H.E. continued informing participants about the existence of a number of best practices and integrated approaches. She underlined that it is possible to pull such experience in this programme formulation and implementation. In this connection, the Minister pointed out that the best practices obtained in Women fuel wood carrier project and joint program can be linked with GCCASP for up scaling. We have therefore ample viable practices to speed up the

improvement of the livelihoods of women through targeted actions in the project, the Minster pointed out. She revealed the fact that there are challenges encountered in the course of gender mainstreaming and women empowerment undertakings including attitudinal problems towards gender issues among some section of the communities for which we need to develop proper communication strategy to work hard towards creating awareness. She noted that there are also budgetary constraints to support income generating activities that could contribute to the improvement of lives of rural women for which mobilization of resources is crucial.

H.E assured the participants that the MoWCYA is committed to work in close partnership with the development partners and all stakeholders with renewed interest and high level of ownership to see Ethiopia's GCCASP designed and implemented in a productive manner. In this regard, Her Excellency re-emphasized the importance the Ethiopian government and the ministry have attached to the program and expressed her great desire and believe to see the program succeed in contributing to the empowerment of rural farming and pastoralist women to enhance their capacity to manage the adverse impacts of climate change and the attainment of improved livelihoods.

9.3. Draft Action Plan

The draft action plan presented and discussed during the final session of the workshop, which is aimed to serve as a road map for the programme development is presented below.

What Needs to be Done (Activity)	Lead Responsibility	Timeline (End Date)
1. Preparation of workshop proceedings highlighting key action points	GeoSAS with MoWYCA	16th May 2014
2. Further engagement with other stakeholders such as the Women Development Groups to enrich content of proposal	MoWYCA, GeoSAS	July, 2014
3. Finalization of ToRs (partnership platforms (PPS), Steering Committee (SC), PP, Project Coordination Unit (PCU), Champions)	GeoSAS	July, 2014
4. Finalization of GCCASP work programme document for Ethiopia. Key elements should include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Defined Priority intervention areas and program activities for implementation • Implementation arrangements or operational modalities 	GeoSAS, MoWYCA,	August, 2014

What Needs to be Done (Activity)	Lead Responsibility	Timeline (End Date)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination Mechanism • Communication strategy • Partnership Platform • Budget estimate/programme cost • Women Development Groups Concept • Well defined log frame for the program • Result based Monitoring and Evaluation framework with clear indicators • Best practices for up scaling 		
5. Development of Resource Mobilization Strategy	MoWYCA	August, 2014
6. Populate on the MOWYCA website the finalized Ethiopia's GCCASP country programme document	MoWYCA	September, 2014

ANNEXES

ANNEX I: Opening Remarks by H.E Zenebu Tadesse Minister, Ministry of Women, Children and Youth Affairs Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.

- **Honourable Members of Parliament**
- **Distinguished Federal and Regional Senior Government Officials**
- **Representatives of International Organizations**
- **Your Ex. Mrs. Estherine Lisinge Fotabong,**
 - Director of Programme Implementation and Coordination Directorate, NEPAD,
- **Distinguished representative of NORAD,**
- **Invited guests and participants,**
- **Ladies and gentlemen,**

It is a pleasure to welcome you all to this important workshop with the colossal notion of undertaking deliberations under the topic of **Gender, Climate Change and Agriculture Support Program**, which is presently significant to the continent and the nation wellbeing and sustainable development.

- **Excellencies**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen**

In Ethiopian, Women's role in agriculture is vital. Women's activities in agriculture encompasses the entire Food System cycle starting from cultivation, weeding, harvesting, processing, storage, marketing, preparation of food, and finally serving the family.

Women are also responsible for looking after the children and the sick, raising small livestock, managing vegetable gardens and collecting fuel and water. Women are more vulnerable to the effects of climate change than men, primarily, as they are more dependent for their livelihoods on natural resources that are threatened by Climate Change. Furthermore, they face social, economic and political barriers that limit their coping capacities.

Climate change will therefore impose an additional heavy burden on women including finding alternative ways to provide their families with food, water and fuel as the climate changes.

Despite the critical role of women play in rural agriculture and managing the family food security; their role in agricultural planning and decision making and national policy formulation is marginalized. Agricultural policy decisions are often planned and implemented without the participation of women and as a result most policies fail to target the priority areas of intervention that would optimize return of investment.

Furthermore women and girls have limited access to productive assets including land, agricultural inputs, extension services, and micro credit. As a result rural women and girls continue to become the most vulnerable to food and nutrition insecurity. However there could be no sustainable economic and social development that does not fully integrate women and girls as they are the dominant force in a rural setting.

Against this backdrop, the government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia recognizes the role of rural women in the socio economic and political transformation of the country. In this regard the government is taking holistic actions to empower women and girls. These actions include: political, legal, cultural and social interventions and will ensure the participation of women in the country's socio- economic and political activities.

- **Excellencies**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen**

The Government of Ethiopia, having established a constitution and legal instruments that support the rights of women and their empowerment, it is now implementing various programmes that address the practical challenges faced by women and girls through synergizing with development partners.

In partnership with UN agencies and other development partners, we are currently implementing several projects that have demonstrated results in women empowerment, enhancing their food and nutrition security, increasing their incomes and ensuring their ability to participate in leadership and decision making. Some of the current projects are; Joint programme on gender equality and women's empowerment; Leave No Woman Behind: a holistic approach for gender equality and so on.

Above all, the government of Ethiopia has adopted and has been successfully implementing a five years growth and Transformation plan, 2010/11 -2014/15 (GTP) with 7 pillars. The main objective of the GTP is to facilitate the transition of the country from a low- income country in to a middle- income country by the year 2020.

The government believes that this transition can only be achieved if Ethiopian women participate fully in the implementation of the plan. Hence, one of the seven strategic pillars of the GTP is empowerment of women. In fact, all the other 6 pillars of the GTP do also give emphasis to ensure women's participation and their empowerment.

- **Excellencies**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen**

Despite all these remarkable steps there are still major challenges. Lack of institutional capacity of executive agencies at all levels, lack of capacity of women's organizations, lack of capacity of individual women themselves, deep rooted harmful traditional practices, especially in the rural

areas, heavy load in the household tasks, low access to services, resources and lack of information are among the challenges.

Given the key role women play in agricultural production and sustaining the food and nutrition security of their households, we must redouble our efforts to promote the empowerment of women and address both social and economic factors that constrain them.

We need to support meaningful integration of female farmers in a way that will achieve a sustained positive impact on their self-esteem, income generation and ability to retain control and use of their earned income.

Women farmers need to be supported to increase their productivity, improve on the quality of their commodities and gain a voice in decision making around all aspects of the agriculture value chain from production to marketing.

Women are not only vulnerable to Climate Change but they are also effective actors or agents of change in relation to both mitigation and adaptation.

Women often have a strong body of knowledge and expertise that can be used in climate change mitigation, disaster reduction and adaptation strategies. Furthermore, women's responsibilities in households and communities, as stewards of natural and household resources, positions them well to contribute to livelihood strategies adapted to changing environmental realities.

- **Excellencies**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen**

The Gender Climate Change Agriculture Support Program has come at the critical moment when there is a dire need to examine the gender-agriculture-climate change dynamic in the African context so as to design appropriate interventions not only to curb the looming adverse impacts of climate change on small holder farmers and pastoralists but also to increase productivity and ultimately improve their livelihoods.

The Government of Ethiopia is thus grateful of the initiative taken by NEPAD planning and coordinating agency (NPCA) to embark on an extensive study which recently culminated in the development of a support program specifically focusing on women small holder farmers and pastoralists and its continuous engagement in facilitating this inception phase of the program.

I believe that the forum will provide unique platform to share good practices in incorporating gender perspectives in to the agenda of sustainable development. By reviewing the progress and challenges that women face we can, together find mechanisms for accelerating the economic empowerment of women and ascertain their critical role in sustainable development.

The FDRE Ministry of Women, Children and Youth Affairs (MoWCYA) wish to extend its appreciation to our development partner, NORAD for its generous financial support for the program.

At this juncture, I would like to prove the Government of Ethiopia and MoWCYA have attached high importance to the program and thus is committed to see this effort bears fruit.

I would also like to put on the record my appreciation of GeoSAS, the consulting firm for its relentless efforts to accomplish its task of facilitating and undertaking the task in a professional manner.

It is also my convection that colleagues coming from our sisterly countries will gain some take home lessons for their country specific similar undertakings.

Finally, I urge all of you dear Participants to actively partake in the discussions and enriching the outcome and wish you all a successful deliberation.

- **Ladies and Gentle Men,**

With this remark, I now declare this workshop is officially opened.

I thank you.

ANNEX II: Welcoming speech – made by Mr. Abiy Ephrem, Director, Public Relation Directorate of MoWCYA

Your Excellency, Honourable Zenebu Tadesse, Minister of the Ministry of Women, Children and Youth Affairs of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia;

Mrs. Estherine Lisinge Fotabong, Director of Programme Implementation and Coordination Directorate, NEPAD,

Dears Invited guests and participants,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me a great pleasure and honour to welcome you all to this **“National Consultation Workshop on Gender, Climate Change and Agriculture Support Program”**.

Your Excellency, ladies and gentlemen,

As you well know women constitute the majority of smallholder farmers in the African continent. Several studies show that they are responsible for up to 80% of food production, 100% of the processing of basic foodstuffs; 80% of food storage and transport from fields to villages; and 90% of the hoeing and weeding work and 60% of the harvesting and marketing activities. However, women’s engagement in the agricultural sector comes under several constrained circumstances that relates to weak institutional capacity to mainstream gender in the agricultural sector and low level of representation and participation of rural women in decision making. Consequently, women are encountering considerable challenges in accessing financing, agricultural extension services, technology and agricultural inputs as well as market opportunities.

Your Excellency, ladies and gentlemen,

This problem is further exacerbated by the advent of the phenomenon of adverse climate change, to which women are very vulnerable, and disproportionately and differently affected. Climate change affects the productivity of women small holders’ farmers and thereby adversely affecting agricultural productivity, as well as the overall wellbeing of women and their families.

In light of these facts, it has become imperative to examine the gender-agriculture-climate change dynamic in the African context so as to design appropriate interventions not only to curb the looming adverse impacts of climate change on small holder farmers and pastoralists but also to increase productivity and ultimately improve their livelihoods.

Your Excellency, ladies and gentlemen;

This calls for the need to redouble our efforts to promote the empowerment of women and address both social and economic factors that constrain their coping capacities to climatic shock and enhance their role and contribution in agricultural productivity. Cognizant of and in response to the above challenges, the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA), in collaboration with NORAD designed a five year, *Gender Climate Change and Agriculture Support Programme (GCCASP)*, to support implementation of regional and country level interventions to empower rural women and other vulnerable sections of communities to better cope with the adverse impacts of climate change.

Accordingly, it is to be recalled that the initial phase of the program has culminated by compiling country level and regional situational analysis and document interventions required for adaptation and mitigation measures that will reduce agricultural vulnerability to climate variability and climate change. GeoSAs was serving as a consulting firm to facilitate and provide technical backstopping to regional and country level entities. In case of Ethiopia, GeoSAS has provided the same to assist the focal national institution in Ethiopia, namely the Ministry of Women, Children and Youth Affairs of FDRE, in its bid of discharging the national program.

GeoSAs has also been recruited by NEPAD –Planning and Coordinating Agency to provide technical support to the five selected countries and RECs in developing their detailed work programmes of GCCASP based on the already developed programme framework that guides the exercise. To this effect, GeoSAS has also prepared a Toolkit to provide detailed guidelines for use by national consultants and stakeholders, including those responsible for the preparation of the respective country GCCASP projects, on how to: organize the initiation process and develop, design, monitor and evaluate project performance in the course of implementation.

This Ethiopia Country launch workshop for the inception phase of GCCASP is organized by the Ministry of Women, Children and Women Affairs of FDRE in collaboration with NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency with close technical support of GeoSAS has the objective to:

- discuss and enrich the work of the consultants of the Ethiopian case study amongst key stakeholders;
- Share experience to other countries participating in GCCASP,
- Conduct training on tool kit for the lead country consultants,

Your Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I now call up on very respectfully, Mrs. Estherine Lisinge-Fotabong, Director of the Programme Implementation and Coordination Directorate of NEPAD, to make a key note speech

I thank you very much for your attention.

ANNEX III: Workshop Programme

Gender, Climate Change and Agriculture Support Program (GCCASP) National Consultation Workshop, Ethiopia

Ministry of Women Children and Youth Affairs (MoWCYA), NEPAD and NORAD

5-7 May, 2014 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Hilton Addis

Moderator : Dr. Aberra Deressa
 Facilitator : Ato Abiy Ephrem
 Rapporteurs : Abay Amare, Edna, Kwame Ababio, Solomon, Teame,
 Proceeding Prepared By : Sitotaw Berhanu and Solomon Kebede

Time	Programme Description	Responsible
Monday 5/5/2014		
8:30 – 9:00	Registration	MoWCYA
9: 00 – 9:10	Welcome Address	Ato Abiy Ephrem, MoWCYA
9:10 – 9:20	Introduction of the Workshop	Madam Estherine Fotabong Director, Programme Implementation and Coordination, NEPAD – Planning and Coordination Agency
9:20 – 9: 40	Remark by NORAD	NORAD Representative
9:40 – 9:50	Opening Statement	H.E. Zenebu Tadese, Minister, MoWCYA
9:50 – 10:00	GCCASP An Overview	Edna Kalima, NEPAD Planning and Coordination Agency
10:00 -10:30	Coffee Break	Organizer
10:30- 11:20	GCCASP- Phase I Methods and process (Including Tool kit)	Mr. Teame TewoldeBirhan
11:20- 12:00	Process, methods, and Intervention Areas Identified in GCCASP Assessment Phase	Mr. Sitotaw Berhanu, GeoSAS General Manager
12:00 –12:30	Reflection on the Presentations	Participants
12:30 - 2: 00	Lunch Break	Organizer
2:00 – 3:00	An overview of on Related Ongoing Projects and Lesson Learnt	MoWCYA
3:00 – 3:30	Reflection on the Presentation	Participants
3:030 - 3:40	Coffee Break	Organizer

3:40 – 4:10	Presentation on Institutional Arrangement for GCCASP Implementation	Edna Kalima, NEPAD Planning and Coordination Agency
4:10 – 4:20	Linkage between GCCASP and NEPAD Climate Change Fund	Mr. Kwame Ababio, NEPAD Planning and Coordination Agency
4:20 – 4:30	Reflection on the Presentations	Participants
Tuesday 6/5/2014		
8:30 – 9:15	Recap of Day one	Rapporteurs
9:15 – 10:30	Group Formation and Discussion on the Presentations	Participants
10:00 - 10:30	Coffee Break	Organizer
10:30– 12:30	Continued Group Discussion and Group Report Preparation	Groups
12:30 - 1:30	Lunch Break	Organizer
2:00 - 3:30	Group Report Presentation and Discussion	Group Report Presenters
3:30 - 10:00	Coffee Break	Organizer
4:00 – 5:30	Group Report Presentation continued	Group Report Presenters
Wednesday 7/5/2014		
8:30 – 9:15	Recap of Day Two	
9:15 – 10:15	Project Design Template/Outline	Mr. Teame TeweldeBirhan
10:15-10:30	Coffee Break	Participants
10:30 -11:00	Reflection on the Presentation	Participants
11:00–11:30	Development Partner Round Table Discussion on Resources Mobilization	MoWCYA
11:30 –12:30	Summary and Recommendations	Rapporteurs
12:30 – 1:45	Closing	Madam Estherine Fotabong Director, Programme Implementation and Coordination, NEPAD – Planning and Coordination Agency
1:45 – 2:30	Lunch	Organizer

ANNEX IV: List of Participants

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