



Harnessing Floods to Enhance Livelihoods and Ecosystem Services

Date: March 17, 2015 Venue: Axum Hotel, Mekelle, Ethiopia

Organized by: Institute of Water and Environment and College of Dryland Agriculture and Natural Resources
In collaboration with:



On March 17, 2015 Mekelle University, Institute of Water and Environment and the College of Dryland Agriculture and Natural Resources launch a new project: "Harnessing Floods for Enhancing Livelihood Services". This project is one of the eight projects in the Nile Basin and East Africa region funded by the the CGIAR Research Program on Water, Land and Ecosystems . This project takes the Raya Valley as its research area and is aimed at estimating the flood of the basin, evaluating gender equity and trade-offs between upstream and down stream livelihood and valuing the ecosystem in general.



Dr. Eyasu Yazew



Professor Charlottee



Dr. Simon Langan



Dr. Atinkut Mezgebu

Dr. Eyasu Yazew, the Director of the Institute of Water and Environment welcomed all participants and gave an explanation on the background of the project. Dr. Atinkut Mezgebu, Dean of the CDANR, Professor Charlottee, Chair of the Land and Water Development Group UNESCO-IHE and Dr. Simon Langan, Head of IWMI Office in Addis Ababa followed with brief presentations introducing their respected institutes.

The project launch was officially marked by Dr. Kindeya Gebrehiwot, President of Mekelle University. During his launching speech he underlined the timeliness and worthiness of utilizing each drop of water and every piece of land for productive use by combing traditional wisdom and modern scientific knowledge as a major part of national development agenda. Having discussed the relevance of the research undertaking, he emphasized his expectation as follows.



Dr. Kindeya Gebrehiwot

"This project is yet another milestone in this Endeavour as it will contribute to bringing our scope of understanding with regard to managing floods from scheme to landscape level and diversifying the benefit streams of floods from only crop production to also include rehabilitating degraded landscapes, replenishing groundwater resources as well as providing domestic water supply."

The research proposal, relevant paper works and a PhD proposal were presented and discussed up on and commented.

The CGIAR Water, Land and Ecosystem Programme is funding this project. Implementing partners are MetaMeta Research, UNESCO-IHE, Spate Irrigation Network Foundation, UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education, the SUDAN Hydraulic Research Center.

Participants were representatives from all stakeholders including GOs, NGOs, District Administrators and Bureaus and members if the university community.

For more information see also information of the seminar on informal irrigation, held in Mekelle University on March 20, 2015. (<http://www.mu.edu.et/index.php/news-events/825-seminar-on-informal-irrigation-held>)



Picture of the participants



General discussion



Group discussion



Local press release