



The Ethiopian Herald

Vol LXXX No 085 19 December 2023 - Tahisas 9, 2016

Tuesday

Price Birr 10.00

ethio telecom
CRBT Register, Buy Tones
Get the Reward!

After registration/bought the tone, send "Y" to 645; Answer the questions & Get the Reward!

AGI CONSTRUCTING THE FUTURE AFRICA
 Abyssinia Group of Industries

Manufacturer of Rebars, Angles, Channels, Flat Bars & Round Bars. Introducing cut & bend service for rebars.

Contact & Address
 Tel: +251 116 63 97 55/ 251 116 63 51 22/25
 Mob.: +251 962 009 072/ +251 949 440 868
 +251 911 45 9790
 E-mail: sales@agiethiopia.com
 4th Floor, Dabi Building, Bole road Addis Ababa Ethiopia

Trilateral talks on Abbay Dam underway here

BY STAFF REPORTER

ADDIS ABABA - The 4th round of trilateral talks on Grand Abbay Dam among Ethiopia, Egypt, and Sudan started yesterday here.

The recent talks are being conducted following the joint statement by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed of

See Trilateral talks ... page 3



Photo: Berihun Tadele

ENDF to roll up sleeves to Ethiopia's food security

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

ADDIS ABABA – Ethiopian National Defense Force's (ENDF) sets a plan to cover over 50, 000 hectares of land with various crops in the coming seven years, the

Ministry of Defense disclosed.

The ministry organized a Defense Agriculture workshop yesterday to evaluate the 2022/23 harvesting season performance and discussed with stakeholders on its seven years' agricultural development strategic plan.

Speaking at the occasion, Defense Minister Abraham Belay (PhD) said tackling the food shortage problem and supplementing the ongoing efforts to attain food security is one of the programs that ENDF started recently alongside its

See ENDF to... page 3



EIH in talks with local, int'l companies to privatize sugar mills

BY YESUF ENDRIS

ADDIS ABABA- Negotiations are underway to pass the ownership of some of the sugar plants to local and international companies, Ethiopian Investment Holding

See EIH in talks... page 3

Defense attachés hail ETAF's contribution to Africa's defense capability

BY ASHENAFI ANIMUT

ADDIS ABABA - The Ethiopian Air Force (ETAF) has made a continentally exemplary work that involves several African countries to build air defense capability and equip the personnel with the desired skills, Defense attaches said.

Approached by the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), Senegalese Defense Attaché Lt Col. Mamadou Fall stated that ETAF's 88th Anniversary ceremony foretells the future of

See Defense attachés ... page 3



Phot Dagne Abera

Lieutenant Colonel Mamadou Fall



Major General Hendrick Thuthu Rakgantswana

Ethiopia-Brazil Cooperation: a way forward for bolstering trade, investment

Page 6

Ethiopia's diplomacy, partnership levels

Page 7

Improved diplomatic relations boosted by positive internal trends

Page 8

News

State issues licenses to investors with 1.4 bln Birr registered capital

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

ADDIS ABABA- Harari State disclosed that it has granted investment license for investors that have registered over 1.4 billion Birr capital in 26 different sectors.

State's Investment Bureau Director SemirRedwan told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that the Bureau issued 26 licenses for investment with over 1.4 billion Birr capital.

The area of investment are said to be manufacturing, hotel, market, health, education and service sectors, he mentioned.

Once the projects become operational, over 1,000 permanent jobs would be created while more than 2,000 people would be employed during the construction period, he said, adding about 35% of the permanent employees would be skilled professionals.

As to him, the Bureau has terminated licenses of eight investors that failed to go operational after taking the follow up and support provided by the Bureau. Similarly,



37 investors have been given warning and are under supervision.

Mentioning that the investment sector coupled with State's Diaspora participation is encouraging, the Director emphasized that there are Diasporas that aspire to engage in various investment areas beyond the state.

Thus, the Bureau is currently facilitating conditions to engage these investors in

SNNPs, Oromia, Afar and other states in various investment sectors, he indicated.

He further indicated that the state is vigorously working to enhance its service sector given Harari city's tourism potential.

Moreover, besides providing land and related services, Semir's Bureau is working to issue license for new investors and undertaking several activities to facilitate bank loans.

University moils for becoming center of excellence

BY MESERET BEHAILU

ADDIS ABABA - Assosa University disclosed that it is working to become center of excellence in research through conducting studies that improve productivity and people's lives.

University Research and Investigation Director, ShiferawAbebe (PhD) told The Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that various activities are being undertaken to make the university center of excellence for conducting problem solving studies that improve the life of the community.

Shiferaw noted that university planned to conduct some 27 researches in the actual year and exploit homegrown knowledge to benefit the community.

This year alone, the university allocated 18.3 million Birr for research purposes and community services, according to the Director.

He elucidated that, some 10.7 million Birr of the stated amount has been allocated for the research sector while the remaining finance would spend to community-based services.

As to Shiferaw, this year's budget has shown a twofold increment compared to last year's similar period which implies that the university has been prioritizing research and community based activities.

He further stated that sectors such as agriculture, engineering and technology, mining, and the likes are the priority areas to address community problems by providing the society with scientific and research based solutions.

He said, "The state has not been benefiting from the resources it has due to various factors such as lack of adequate research, conflict, prevalence of bacteria that affects mango plant, inflation, and lack of coordination."

Apart from providing indigent citizens with legal protection, the university has allocated 2.4 million Birr secured under the auspicious of donors in a bid to supporting internally displaced people, he added.

Similarly, the university has been working in close collaboration with local and foreign NGOs, academic institutions, investors, and the like to come up with practical solutions to overcome challenges and improve people's lives via a wise utilization of resources.

Since 2016, Asosa University has conducted over 800 researches in various areas and brought outcomes in terms of multiplying and adopting special seeds of Wheat, Teff, and sorghum.

It is to be recalled that Ethiopia covers 67% of lowland bamboo in the African continent while Benishangul Gumuz state where the University located has a huge potential.

Ethio-Russian manufacturing partnership beacon of success: Ministry

ADDIS ABABA (ENA)- The Ethio-Russia partnership in manufacturing is a beacon of collaborative success, Industry Minister Melaku Alebel said.

Russian business delegation led by Russia's Head of Federal Agency on Mineral Resources, Eugeny Petrov is here in Ethiopia to explore investment opportunities.

The delegation held bilateral meeting with Minister of Industry, Melaku Alebel yesterday.

During the occasion, the minister highlighted synergies and future possibilities that lie in the collaboration between the two countries in trade and investment, manufacturing sector in particular.

This partnership marks a significant journey of collaboration, promising to shape the future of the two nations, he elaborated.

"Our journey, rooted in mutual respect and shared interests, is more than just an intersection of two nations—it's a testament to the power of unity in achieving common goals," the minister added.

Ethiopia has made strides in sustainable development, the minister said, adding the country is committed to a strategy

that emphasizes inclusive and sustainable industrial development, critical to achieving national prosperity.

Moreover, Melaku added that Russia's technological prowess complements Ethiopia's dynamic economy, creating a synergy that is beneficial for both.

"Our relationship, extending beyond trade, is anchored in investment and cultural exchange, fostering a comprehensive partnership. In manufacturing sector, Ethiopia and Russia are leveraging their strengths for mutual benefit," he stated.

The minister also said Russia's role as a critical trading partner brings technology and expertise to Ethiopia, while Ethiopia offers access to one of Africa's fastest-growing markets.

Investment stands at the heart of our economic ties, with Russian interest in Ethiopia's manufacturing sector fostering industrial growth, technology transfer, and knowledge sharing, he noted.

Therefore, "the Ethio-Russia partnership in manufacturing is a beacon of collaborative success and will further this fruitful relationship," Melaku reiterated.

The delegation was also briefed on investment opportunities in Ethiopia, particularly in manufacturing sector.

Eugeny Petrov on his part reiterated that Russia wants to further strengthen its long-term friendship with Ethiopia.

The head added that Ethiopia does not only offer a huge potential in terms of natural resources but also in human capital.

He further stated that Russian fertilizer producers are ready not only to supply their high quality products to the Ethiopian market, but also help Ethiopian farmers and agricultural producers to establish effective use and adapt best practices for fertilizer use.

Science and technology, agriculture, chemical, manufacturing industry, are among the areas of cooperation between the two countries.

The diplomatic journey between Ethiopia and Russia, spanning 125 years, reflects a relationship that is rich with shared experiences and strengthened through both triumphs and trials, broadening cooperation across diverse sectors.

AALA, BAI mark MoU to strengthen ties

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

ADDIS ABABA - Addis Ababa Leadership Academy (AALA) and the Beijing Administration Institute (BAI) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen the relationship of the two schools.

Speaking at the occasion, AALA President Dessalegn Petros (PhD) stated that Ethiopia and China have been enjoying longstanding strong political, economic, social and other related sectors. Strengthening the relationship of the academies would help

improve urban leadership quality, he said.

Furthermore, signing the MoU would pave ways to foster knowledge transfer, experience sharing, training facilitation, technology and so forth.

Since Addis Ababa is a seat of various continental and international organizations, building Addis Ababa city leaders capacity and competency is building Africa's leadership capacity.

As China has had experiences in leadership, technology, training, research and others, AALA hopes to enable to share best experiences, he stressed.

Dessalegn further mentioned that the BAI supported AALA in capacity building training and handed over four vehicles.

BAI Vice President Prof. Zhang Jun on his part said that improving the status of ties among two schools is critical for the future cooperation and to share experiences.

It creates a favorable ground for the academic exchanges and other wider ventures. BAI works to promote international exchanges and gives various opportunities for two academies for the betterment of urban leadership, Prof. added.

News

Trilateral talks...

Ethiopia, and President Abdel Fatah el Sisi of Egypt, on 13 July 2023, to initiate expedited negotiation to finalize the guidelines and rules on the first filling and annual operation of the Abbay Dam.

The ministerial meeting will build on the discussions of the previous sessions and technical group meeting of yesterday and continue efforts to achieve convergence.

Ethiopia is guided by the 2015 Declaration of Principles (DoP) on the Abbay Dam Project, the chief negotiator noted, adding in particular, Ethiopia will continue to advocate for consensual outcomes based on the principle of equitable and reasonable utilization of the waters of the Nile, chief negotiator, Ambassador Seleshi Bekele wrote on his Facebook page.



Defense attachés...

Africa's air defense capability. Ethiopia, one of the leading actors in the continent's peacekeeping operations, has been providing pilot training and maintenance among many other programs to African military personnel.

According to him, the Black Lion Airshow which the ETAF undertaken in cooperation with the United Arab Emirates Air Force is the biggest achievement and a testament to the level Ethiopia's defense capability has reached upon. "We also observed Ethiopia's immense capability and its efforts to modernize the Airforce that would make all Africans

pride, guarantee peace and manifests the country's readiness towards ensuring continental stability."

The forum the ETAF held with African counterparts is a foundation to increase friendship and cooperation among participants apart from enabling continental actors to share knowledge and obtain capacity building lessons. "The forum casts light on the future of Africa's air force capability and it is an exemplary act for the continent and beyond," the Lt. Col. remarked.

Botswana Air Arm Commander in Chief Maj.Gen. Hendrick Thuthu Rakgantswana

said for his part that Ethiopia is undertaking a significant milestone to bring African air forces together and identifying partners' capabilities and gaps in the field and setting solutions for the latter's problems.

"The ETAF forum also creates a kind of networking and experience sharing platform ways to mutually enhance the capability of African air force pilots, technicians and other professionals."

The officer added, "We have to strengthen our cooperation in the area to tackle our common problems and threats as our partnership is directed with the motto 'African Solutions to African Problems.'

Similarly, our collaboration has brought opportunities to further strengthen Africa's air force integration and team spirit."

Praising the experiences of Ethiopian pilots, the Russian Federation Defense Attaché Col. Alexander Panevin recommended for more international partners to engage in various activities in a more cooperative manner.

It is to be recalled that the ETAF recently staged the Future African Air force Forum (FAAF) in the presence of Africa's Air Force chiefs and top leadership, companies, experts and senior government officials.

ENDF to...

regular mission.

Taking the ENDF's involvement in food security is part of building strong national army, due attention has been given to the agricultural program,

Traditional harvesting is not sufficient to ensure sustainable food security and it is necessary to improve and modernize the sector, incorporate food processing industries and create a market linkage. Today's workshop would be a benchmark for ENDF's agricultural development journey, the minister elaborated.

According to Abraham, the ENDF has been directly involved in agricultural development in all agro-ecologies. "The effort requires modernizing the existing engagement and owning of food processing plants."

Army Foundation Executive Director Brig.Gen. Dereje Megersa for his part said that in the coming seven years, the ENDF set to cover over 50,000 hectares of land with various crops in a bid to support the country's efforts to ensure food self-sufficiency.

The director further noted that the ENDF launched the trial production of

agricultural products and in the 2022/23 harvesting season, it cultivated over 60,000 quintals of crops in different agro-ecologies and the outcome is encouraging."

"We have obtained inclusive support from different stakeholders especially from the Ministry of Agriculture starting from machinery, inputs, improved seeds and other supplies. The Ministry's contribution in this regard is so immense."

As part of Ethiopia's 10 Years' Agriculture Development Plan, it is planned to cover over 50,000 hectares of land with various crops in the coming seven years that are best fit with diverse agro-ecologies.

Agriculture Minister Girma Amentie (PhD) expressed his ministry's readiness to prepare the detailed operational plan that would support the realization of the ENDF plan. The areas which the ENDF has identified have immense potential to obtain high yields and put Ethiopia's efforts to food self-sufficiency in a solid base.

The ENDF's engagement in this regard is considered as one of core activities to modernize and develop the country's agricultural sector, Girma emphasized.

EIH in talks...

(EIH) announced.

The EIH CEO Abdurehman Eid Tahir told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) The bid to some of the sugar mills is still open to foreign and local investors and the government is ready to negotiate as well.

"Apart from devising a sugar industries reform, the government is continuing the discussion with potential actors to pass the ownership of sugar mills that are located in different parts of the country. The government is encouraging more local and international companies to submit bids for the factories."

Ethiopia produced one million quintals of sugar last year and the production covered only 15 percent of the local demand and the government covered the balance from the international market. Hence, private investors, including foreign companies should utilize this immense market opportunity, the CEO appealed.

Abdurehman further highlighted that each of the seven sugar mills need intensive maintenance work and huge amounts of foreign currency for spare part purchase. Though the government has disbursed a significant amount of foreign currency to the industries, some challenges remain unresolved that necessitate the

implementation of a long-run solution.

"Metehara, Wonji Shoa, Omo Kuraz I and II, and Tana Beles factories are being restored."

Sugar production is one of the most lucrative sectors that could generate an immense amount of income and Ethiopian sugar factories also have 70 and more years of history like the Ethiopian Airlines. The mills were also operating with good capacity. But, the production capacity over the past ten years was reduced because of expansion failures, he elaborated.

"Wonji Shoa Sugar Factory, for example, produced over one million quintal in 2014/15. But, currently the factory's annual production accounts only one-third of that highest figure. So, the government is taking reformative measures to restore the potential."

Local farmers' shift to horticulture farming has diminished the amount of sugarcane production and the government identified that the situation needs speedy intervention and it is working to regrow the sugarcane farming. Accordingly, Wonji Shoa Sugar Factory is irrigating 6000 hectare of land by own effort and another 2000 hectare in collaboration with local farmers, the CEO remarked.

Opinion

Capitalizing on fruitfulness of the national dialogue

BY ABEBE WOLDEGIORGIS

In its modern history, Ethiopia came across with various political upside downs which incur economic costs and cause the loose of human life and infrastructural damage.

For the first time, Ethiopia experienced the introduction of written constitution in 1931. The proclamation which explained about the establishment of the constitution reiterated that Ethiopia will have a unitary government led by monarchial system.

It also declared that “by the will of the emperor that citizens are given the right to freedom of expression, association and to elect their representative to the legislative body.”

The proclamation also declared that the legislative branch of the government was bicameral with two chambers which are the first stance legislation and the legal decision making body. It also declared that above the two chambers the emperor had the ultimate say on legislation process and unless the emperor confirmed, no new legislation will be enacted. This implied that the emperor had a power to select the members of the upper house of the chamber and absolute power over the countries affairs.

Though the constitution declared that citizens had the right to elect their representatives until 1957, the voting rights were rendered to the princes and lords. In general, due to the absence of strong and independent institutions, the rights enshrined in the constitution were not reached to the ground. Under such situation, Ethiopians were not reached to status of citizens rather they found themselves as the subject to the monarchial system manifested by exploiting and oppression of peoples.

The economic system was backward in which feudal and the majority of the tenants were landless. They paid tribute to the land lords in terms of cash, kind and in forced labor. With their subsistence living, farmers were unable to ensure their family food security and in time of drought facing severe challenges including famine and eviction were common.

Even though farmers suffer from the feudal exploitation, they had no avenue to appeal their plea to get justice and the only option left to them were praying to God to get relief. Though the feudal system was repressive, it played pivotal role for the construction of infrastructure such as roads, market places, educational institutions, hospitals and others.

However, though the government aggressively engaged in expanding educational institutions from elementary to tertiary level, it did not show any interest to response to the political and economic questions of the students and the elite class.

Among the slogans forwarded by the students since 1950s were “land to the tiller” and addressing the questions of “nation and nationalities, to the protection of cultural and language rights and to self-rule”.

In 1960, some parliamentarians floured the question of “land to the tillers” for the debate but did not get the majority support and as a result, it was halted.

In the international arena, Ethiopia had been signal to the international conventions which stipulate to the respect the rights of citizens including adhering to various conventions.

Ethiopia is the founding member of the league of nation before the outbreak of the First World War lasted from 1914 to 1918. It was also a founding member of the United Nations and ratified the universal declaration of human rights in 1941 after the end of the World War II in San-Francisco, California USA.

Nevertheless, Ethiopia did not establish independent and strong institutions which enabled to accommodate and implement rights that it had to be adhered to conventions it ratified it.

The imperial government, instead of improving the political situation by recognizing citizen rights and allowing them to exercise, it continued as it was established in 1931.

In 1974, the imperial regime was overthrown by the popular revolution. However, the movement was derailed by the military regime and instead of resolving the generation long social, economic and political problems, the new regime dragged the nation in to protracted civil war. Citizens’ rights were continued to be overridden. Violence, operation and the introduction of new ideology further divided the political elite class. In addition, it created political polarization and categorizing other groups as enemy. The victims of the political violence lasted for 17 years did not get justice.

The EPRDF regime which overthrown the military regime assumed power in 1991. It introduced new constitution which enshrined both group and individual rights but similar to the past regimes, it failed to be abided by law. Rather it adamantly violated citizens’ rights.

It failed to conduct free and fair election in which stipulated by the constitution and based on the universal declaration of human rights in which the country is signal. Violence, extrajudicial arrest, killing and kidnapping had been continued as the order of the day.

It did not put in place the separation of power among the three branches of the government, the legislative, the executive and the judiciary. Power became personalized instead of being institutionalized. The introducing of ethnic based federal system divided the population among the indigenous and none indigenous groups. During the imperial and the Derg era, conflicts were vertical between the oppressed and the oppressor. The EPRDF regime changed it in to horizontal among peoples which incurred loose of thousands of lives and eviction of millions from their place where they have lived for many generations.

The national dialogue should not be regarded as the replacement of traditional negotiation and council of elders. It is rather should be taken as one way of getting solutions for generational long conflicts and healing the past wound

Currently, political polarization has been common and the past mistakes committed by the political forces, governments and none state actors contributed a great deal for occurrence of such enmity. Therefore, citizens should understand that there is no way unless healing the past wound through national dialogue.

The reformist government which took power five years ago showed commitment for conducting national dialogue. It established the National Dialogue Commission (NDC) by proclamation and appointed commissioners. It provided offices with necessary facilities and equipments, employed staff and allocated budget.

It is obvious that in Ethiopia there are differences among the political and opinion making citizens and to narrow the gap, conducting nationwide dialogue in an inclusive manner is vital. Such a situation paves the way for establishing trust among various groups who have their own ideology and attitude towards resolving the nation’s generational long political differences. To facilitate the dialogue, new laws are introduced by the government.

In order to develop public confidence and get acceptance on the process, the commission showed its neutrality to the public on several occasions.

Discussing matters with regard to national issues needs identifying the agendas that should be raised based on conducting studies, gathering opinions from the public and utilizing the ideas as inputs.

Discussion must be based on truth and discussants should come together for dialogue being free from emotion and anger and aiming at reaching consensus. It also must be a win-win game and creates an ecosystem that makes all winners.

Rejecting others’ ideas and dwelling on one’s idea and intention only to win and to defeat others do not pave the way which

takes discussants to consensus. The national dialogue must be inclusive which comprises all peoples with their own identities such as languages, religions, cultures and traditions and the outcome also must serve to contain the ongoing conflicts between the political groups and pave the way for making social contract between the government and the governed.

Social groups which have broad mass representation such as farmers, pastoral communities, civic associations, women and youth associations, the disabled national associations, religious and cultural leaders, business men, government and opposition party members should be part of the national dialogue.

The national dialogue should not be regarded as the replacement of traditional negotiation and council of elders. It is rather should be taken as one way of getting solutions for generational long conflicts and healing the past wound.

The dialogue also can serve as a tool for the development of democratic political system, upholding trust among various groups, to create good relation between the government and the public at large. It also serves as cultivating the culture of dialogue and resolving differences only in a peaceful manner and attaining long lasting peace and stability. It also paves the way to create concrete foundation for new nation building project.

For its effectiveness, disseminating the discussion through various media outlets, the participation of all the members of the society, creating sense of ownership on the participants of the dialogue and comprising all stakeholders are essential.

As mentioned above, Ethiopia passed through various political upside downs which affected people, economically, psychologically emotionally and resolving the problems needs tedious efforts.

Though the nation is an ancient country with its own civilization, its nation building project in its modern history is not succeeded as the result the nation is still found itself in the cycle of violence. The country has not been experienced political continuity and starting doing things from new is a usual matter rather than an exception.

The governments all assumed power during the last hundred years had blamed the past regimes for their failure to bring stability but, instead of addressing the past problems, they created new problems and add it on the already existing problems. Therefore, now it is time to stand together and bring better solutions and start new era of peace and stability.

In fact, healing the past wounds is not an easy task. It needs patience, tolerance and steady dialogue and trust and cognizant of these, citizens should play their part for the successful achievement of the national dialogue.

Editor's Note: The views entertained in this article do not necessarily reflect the stance of The Ethiopian Herald

Editorial

Opinion

Strenuous efforts has transformed agricultural sector

The Ethiopian government has capitalized on modernizing agriculture via investing on the sector more than ever before. As the country is looking for myriads of opportunities, synergies, and tradeoffs beyond a single activity, it has now well expanded the agriculture sector and invested in thereby improving production and productivity. Country's agricultural transformation plan initially prioritized value chains and import substitutions.

Needless to state, agricultural transformation often focuses on improving crop production, import substitution, mechanizing the way how farmers produce crops. This would definitely help the country declare food self-sufficiency and even export products to neighboring nations.

Knowing that the success of any agricultural transformation relies on how well millions of smallholders and small- and medium-size enterprises can be helped to change farming practices as quickly and effectively as possible, the Ethiopian government is working hard along that line. The critical enabler, agricultural transformation, has to come to the forefront as it constitutes major GDP share in Ethiopia. Production systems have to be made ecology friendly, cost-effective and instrumental in helping the country defeat poverty confidently.

True, the most effective way to lift thousands of millions of citizens from the grip of poverty they find themselves is highly improved agricultural system. Taking this fact into account, the government has capitalized on transforming the agriculture sector via expanding investment, creating many more job opportunities, raising incomes, fostering the kick-start state of the economy on a path to middle-income growth on which the country has been trekking since recently.

As Ethiopia is truly becoming one of the on the path of transformation nations in Africa, its government should capitalize on this cardinal sector to help the nation meet its vision.

The government has now well encouraged farmers to help them produce more reliable staple crops that can incentivize producers to diversify their investment into higher-value ventures. It has also been endeavoring to run climate-smart agriculture practices and technologies that can sustainably increase productivity and incomes, build climate resilience, and reduce wastage across its corners.

True, production growth has been driven by increasing agricultural production per unit of inputs, and agricultural productivity gains need to be characterized by efficiency and intensification to enhance sustainability, reducing the need for additional land and the emissions from production processes. No doubt, sustainable and inclusive agricultural productivity requires long-term stewardship of natural resources, human capital and the best farming community networks. That is why Ethiopia is undertaking activities centering this fact thereby coming up with increased sustainable productivity as it drives agriculture-led economic growth and creates new jobs.

Accelerating productivity growth is critical towards addressing food insecurity, malnutrition, and poverty.

Yes, greater agricultural productivity can enhance demand for locally produced goods and services, increase availability and affordability of safe, nutritious foods. Besides, it improves profitability throughout the entire agriculture and allows households to build assets to strengthen resilience to market, climate, and environmental shocks.

Interestingly, the Ethiopian government has provided farmers with tractors, improved seeds, improved seeds and related inputs, small-scale machinery, and improved management practices as all these play a role in achieving a better production and productivity.

Plus to this, the government is working on agricultural innovation, practice, as improved system depends on a number of factors including technical support, availability, affordability and ease of use.

The government has been prioritizing agricultural investment and recognizing how important it is to get right though navigating the complexity of a transformation is invariably strapping. In so doing, the country is seeking agricultural transformations that meet multiple goals simultaneously.

The government has organized activities into dependable categories to provide a better opportunity for pragmatic diagnostics and decision making national priorities despite the multidimensional, interrelated and ever-changing nature of the drivers of agricultural transformation.

African Group of Negotiators call on COP28 to conclude with a decision on Climate Justice designed for Africa

BY STAFF REPORTER

Climate change negotiators in Africa have called on COP28 to deliver a fair and balanced Global Stocktake that catalyses greater ambition across all elements of climate action in Africa, centred on equity for a Just Transition.

"The just transition and resilient low-carbon development, if not properly designed, risks widening the developmental gap between Africa and the rest of the world," said Collins Nzovu, Zambia's Minister of Green Economy and Environment and Chair of African Group of Negotiators on Climate Change (AGN) in a statement read on his behalf by James Murombedzi, chief of Climate Change Section at the Technology, Climate Change & Natural Resource Management Division at the ECA.

The AGN's statement was read at a briefing session on the Status of COP28 climate change negotiations at COP28 in Dubai organized by ECA and AGN.

The COP28 work programme is aimed at promoting sustainable development; and climate finance under the climate convention as well as the Paris Agreement. As such, Mr Nzovu said AGN expects COP28 to result in tangible outcomes which reflect Africa's aspirations, especially on the need for enhanced climate adaptation.

He noted that even though COP28 has come to an end and decisions have to be made, concerns have been observed about the lack of progress on various issues of importance to the group, particularly on finance and adaptation.

"We should design a robust and comprehensive work programme including elements, scope, and modalities here in Dubai, that recognizes the different pathways for achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement," he said.

For his part, Mwenda Mithika, Executive Director Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA) said as COP28 concludes, African countries need to reflect and ensure that key issues that include adaptation and finance are addressed "to captures the spirit of Africa."

"If these crucial issues are not captured in the final declaration then we shall declare COP28 a failure," said Mr Mithika.

"The issue of adaptation and adaptation finance is critical for us. We have only US \$39 million pledges, loss and damage pledges need to be honored. The green climate fund still remain a shell. These need to be clearly addressed."

On just transition he said Africa needs its own narrative that includes survival and not just agriculture. Transition to low carbon transition is inevitable.

Jean Su, Energy Director – Climate Law Institute, Center for Biological Diversity said global north countries like the United States, Canada, Norway, Australia, who are key fossil fuel producers have to take the moral stance right now, to stand firm for the people and the planet, to stop their own fossil fuel production, which they are disproportionately responsible for.

"These countries have to step-up with finance because they have disproportionately polluted the planet, and this is their moral responsibility," said Su.

AGN indicates that COP28 has been a crucial moment for global climate action to take stock of the implementation of the Paris Agreement of 2015 on adaptation, loss and damage, mitigation and means of implementation and these areas of concern need to be considered as below:

Adaptation is a matter of survival for Africa and key areas that need to be addressed include coping with persistent droughts, devastating storms and rising seas which threaten lives and livelihoods.

Mr Nzovu emphasized the UN Secretary-General, António Guterres' call: "Lives and livelihoods are being lost and destroyed, with the vulnerable suffering the most. We are in an adaptation emergency. We must act like it. And take steps to close the adaptation gap, now."

He noted that COP28 is mandated to complete the work undertaken for the past two years under the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA), which is a collective commitment under Article 7.1 of the Paris Agreement aimed at "enhancing adaptive capacity, strengthening resilience and reducing vulnerability to climate change."

On Loss and Damage he said a historic and positive move of creating the Loss and Damage Fund was operationalised and initial financial commitments made.

"We hope the pledges will be honoured. The loss and damage requires billions, if not trillions, of dollars. We, therefore, call for more resources in order to actualise the intended purpose of the Fund, addressing loss and damage," he said.

He said that Finance is critical for the implementation of both the convention and the Paris Agreement but there is a decline in the delivery of public climate finance in real terms.

"Developed countries have not met the US\$ 100 billion per year mobilization goal by 2020. The goal of doubling adaptation finance from 2019 levels by 2025 is an undertaking on paper only," he said.

On the Global Stocktake (GST) he said we have now reached the final leg of the consideration of the output phase. It's important that the outcome is practical and one that all parties can effectively implement.

"GST must explicitly recognise Africa's developmental constraints and challenges and facilitate the provision of the support and development space for the continent to exploit its natural resources and endowments for achieving Sustainable development goals," he said.

"The GST outcome must enable us to achieve the purpose of the Paris Agreement in the fullest sense."

On the just transition pathways, he said the African Group welcomes the establishment of this important Work Programme. Advancing the implementation and strengthening of the global response to the threat of climate change, however, this should be in the context of equity and centre on sustainable development and poverty eradication.

Among the achievements at COP28 include the promising long China-US bilateral, Bezos Earth Fund pledge of US \$100m to protect 1 billion hectares in the Pacific, US \$ 7 Trillion Annual finance flows towards climate, biodiversity, and land degradation crises.

Source: UNECA



The Ethiopian Herald

Established in 1943

Published daily except Mondays
By The Ethiopian Press Agency

Office of the CEO

Tel. 011-126-42-22

Fax. 251-011-156-98-62

email- epa@press.et

Advertisement and Dist.

Department

email: etpresspromotion@gmail.com

Tel. 011-156-98-73/011-811-13-15

Telegram :- 0976084707 - press

Editor-in-Chief: Worku Belachew

email- workubelachew@press.et

Address- Nifas Silk Lafto Sub-city

Woreda - 05, House No----

Tel- +251 111 26 41 98

Managing Editor: Wakuman Kudama

Email: wakuma220@gmail.com

Deputy Editors-in-Chief:

Alem Hailu

Elizabeth Mengistu

Zekarias Woldemariam

Desta Geberehiwot

Daniel Beyene

Website: www.press.et

email: ethiopianherald@press.et

Fb/ /Ethiopian Press Agency/

The Ethiopian Herald

Business & Economy

Ethiopia-Brazil Cooperation: *A way forward for bolstering trade, investment*

BY BACHA ZEWDIE

Ethiopia and Brazil are countries located on different continents and in different hemispheres where Ethiopia is in Africa in the northern tropical region and Brazil in Latin America in the southern hemisphere. But the two countries have many things in common such as both are the countries of black people; both are developing nations aspiring prosperity via materializing their cooperation that includes various sectors.

The two countries have strengthened their relations more recently since the Ethiopian embassy opened in Brazil. Last June, the Brazilian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mauro Vieira, made an official visit to Ethiopia where he met with top leaders of the country. He said that the governments of Ethiopia and Brazil have reaffirmed their commitments to further enhance the longstanding bilateral and diplomatic relations.

Up on receiving the Brazilian tip diplomat at his office, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) said that his discussion with Vieira was focused on ways “to strengthen ties between Ethiopia and Brazil as well as cooperation on multilateral issues.”

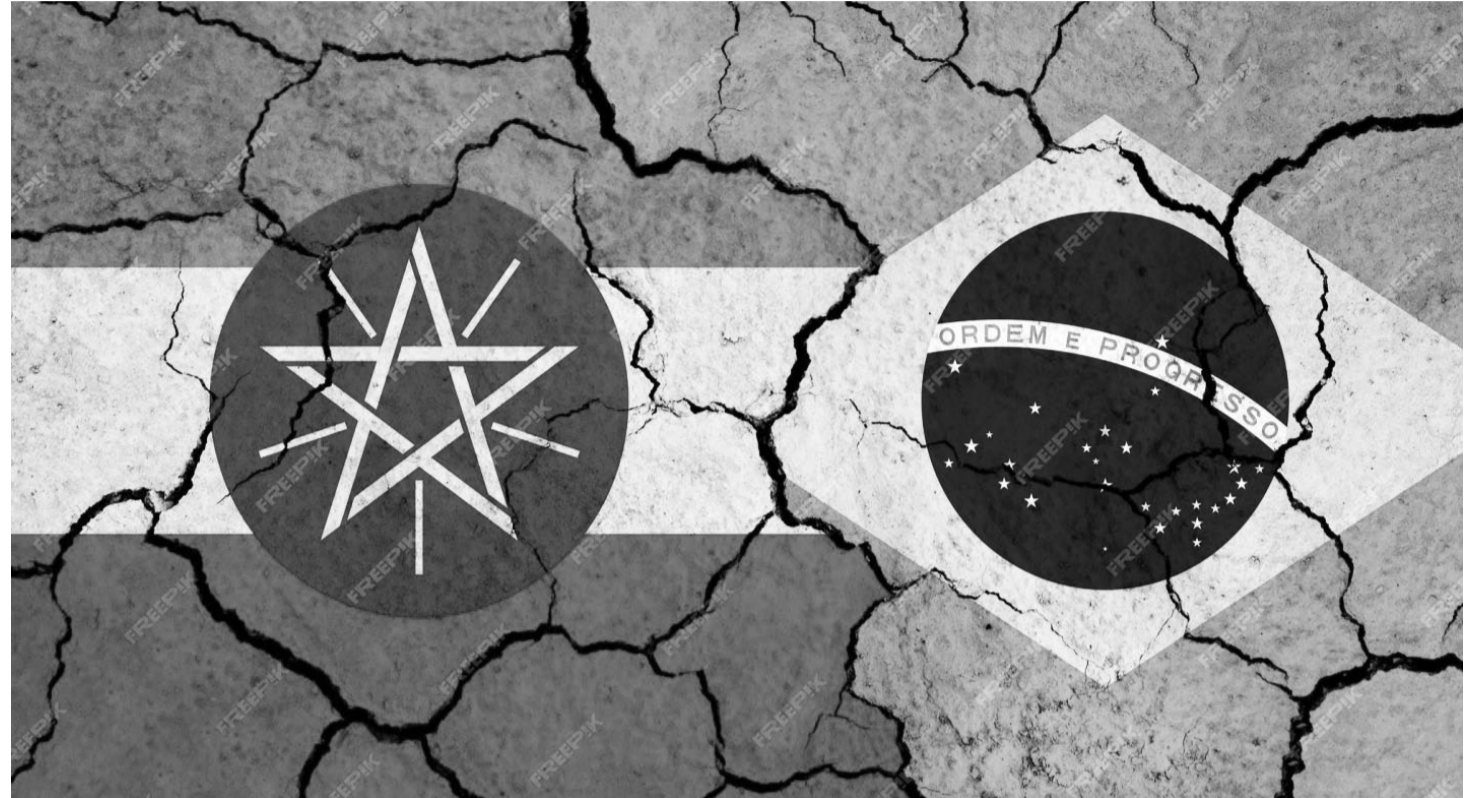
A similar discussion was held between FM Vieira and Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Demeke Mekonnen. Demeke stressed that it is high time to elevate Ethio-Brazil relations as the opening of the Ethiopian Embassy in Brasilia is aimed at bolstering relations between the two countries. The Deputy Prime Minister also thanked the government of Brazil for supporting sustainable forest management, cotton productivity, and soil protection projects in Ethiopia.

Ethiopia and Brazil could further cooperate in the areas of investment, aviation, tourism, agriculture, manufacturing, environmental protection, mining, and renewable energy, Demeke noted. The Brazilian Foreign Minister, for his part, expressed his government’s readiness to support sports and other sectors parallel to advanced mutual interests in bilateral and multilateral venues.

Accordingly, the dignitaries have also agreed to conduct political consultations subsequently, the foreign minister said.

The two countries have taken more steps to strengthen their bilateral relations. To this end, they have conducted a seminar last Thursday on 13 December, 2023 here in Addis at Hilton hotel that focused on trade and investment activities between them. The occasion was attended by officials of various institutions from both sides and expressed the readiness of their respective countries in bolstering the bilateral relations in different economic sectors.

While attending the seminar, Ambassador of Brazil to Ethiopia, Jandyr Ferreira Dos Santos said that though the two countries are located in different continents, the distance could not prohibit them from making relations. The opening of Ethiopian embassy in Sao Paulo, Brazil, in particular, enabled to facilitate business relations between the two



countries.

The two countries are committed to further strengthen their relations especially in the areas of economic development. The first Brazil – Ethiopia trade and investment seminar showcases the desire the two countries have to grow together and the seminar can serve as the milestone for the cooperation between the public and private businesses of the two countries.

Director of the Department of Trade, Investment and Agriculture (Minister of Foreign Affairs of Brazil)-Ambassador Alex Giacomelli da Silva, for his part, said that the seminar held here in Addis Ababa is the first in Africa. As to him, they have been here to identify trade and investment areas that his country and the private sector can engage in. The seminar also helps facilitate bilateral relations between the Ethiopian and Brazilian private business sectors.

On the seminar, promoting bilateral trade and interchange in agriculture was given emphasis. To this end, Alemayehu Mekonnen (PhD), Senior Advisor to the State Minister of Agriculture of Ethiopia attended the forum being one of the keynote speakers.

Recalling the beginning of diplomatic relations of the two countries, he said that in 1951, the two countries established the first diplomatic relations and in 1960, Brazil opened residential embassy for the first time in Addis Ababa. In the same year, Emperor Hailesilassie paid the first visit to Brazil. The two countries started cooperation in the forest protection and soil acid management. Following that their cooperation progressed in the areas of basic sanitation and population census.

According to the senior advisor, the bilateral relations between the two countries has grown up to making signatory on various sectors of which memorandum of understanding on agriculture cooperation signed in 2013 is one of them. Following that, in 2016,

another memorandum of understanding was signed on trade and investment cooperation. These and other cooperations reached on indicate the willingness of the two countries to facilitate business activities.

As the population of Ethiopia is growing rapidly, it is essential to create job for the rural and urban dwellers so that expanding investment should meet the demand. Modernizing farming and applying innovative animals’ production and productivity aided by technologies must be given special consideration to meet the need of ever increasing urbanization for qualified production of animals and to ensure food self sufficiency.

To this end, the government of Ethiopia officially endorsed the ten years strategic development plan to enhance production and productivity. Meanwhile, as to Dr. Alemayehu, the Ministry of Agriculture, alongside the ten years development plan, gave special emphasis for the production of ten commodities known as ten in ten, which means ten specific commodities for the coming ten years. The recently launched “Yelemat Tirufat” locally implies surplus production in specific commodities is one of the efforts the government is undertaking to hit the target of being food self sufficient and become exporter.

Representing the Ministry of Trade and Regional Integration of Ethiopia, Tages Mulugeta said that the continuous economic growth of Ethiopia reached 6.4% of the GDP growth. The economy could resist the Covid-19 pandemic and registered growth. While coffee and flowers are the major export products, spices, oil seeds and other agricultural products are among the main ones. Besides, leather and leather products are also the commodities Ethiopia is exporting.

As to Tages, Ethiopia needs to diversify its export items to make balance in the world trade and the business it is conducting with Brazil. The major import products

from Brazil include machineries and sugar. Regarding opportunities and challenges, Metages mentioned high population of Ethiopia for labor needs, convenient ecology, organic products, infrastructure development and other facilities as good opportunities to doing ease business in Ethiopia. He assured that his ministry is committed to work with Brazilian counterparts.

As part of the seminar, there were also keynotes on opportunities for expanding bilateral investment flows. Regarding this sector, Lelise Neme, Commissioner of the Ethiopian Investment Commission said that the occasion signified a remarkable juncture to fortify economic collaboration between the two nations, Ethiopia and Brazil. Ethiopia has high potential for foreign direct investment.

Initiated by the visionary Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (phd), Ethiopia is undergone a transformative journey by sustential reforms and to enhance the ease of doing business. This commitment is manifested into the revision and enhancement of investment rules and relation creating an even more favorable environment for the foreign direct investment, she said.

She mentioned some sectors including telecommunication, financial and logistics which were previously restricted but now opened for collaboration. Though transportation infrastructure needs more advancement, the Ethiopian airlines is one of the largest means of transportation along with its well connected radio system for streamlining investment process.

Membership in BRICS which signals Ethiopia’s commitment to deepen economic integration with Brazil and other member countries that will increase the trade between Brazil and Ethiopia could create a new business opportunity and attract more foreign investment. She underlined that Ethiopia’s membership in the bloc will facilitate business relations.

In the Sphere of Diplomacy

Ethiopia's diplomacy, partnership levels

BY MELAKU MULUALEM K.

A government or an institution cannot have everything that it wants. To complement its gaps and to enhance its capacity, entities establish partnerships with other entities. There are different definitions for the word "Partnership". For the sake of this piece, I use the definition of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). According to OECD partnership is "an agreement to do something together that will benefit all involved, bringing results that could not be achieved by a single partner operating alone, and reducing duplication of efforts".

Partnerships between governments can advance over time as priorities change or new challenges arise. Governments establish partnerships with other governments intending to enhance relations, promote common interests, and address definite challenges. Governments' partnership levels can vary based on the specific context and objectives of cooperation. In addition to general partnerships, governments may also establish sector-specific partnerships. It can include agreements on trade, defense, diplomacy, cultural exchange, education, energy, health, science, climate, and other areas of mutual interests and priorities. Governments may form partnerships at different levels simultaneously.

The key factors in establishing a partnership are shared interests and objectives; mutual trusts; comparative and competitive advantages; resources; political will and leadership; historical and geographic proximity; security, defense; and cultural and economic interdependence. Government can also establish partnerships with private organizations namely public, private, and partnership (PPP).

Partnership can be at a bilateral or multilateral cooperation level. The focus of this piece is on the bilateral cooperation of governments. Bilateral partnerships of governments are usually managed through diplomatic channels. These involve the engagements of "foreign ministries, embassies, and diplomatic missions to facilitate communication, negotiation, and coordination between the two countries." These agreements can be formalized through a memorandum of understanding (MoU), bilateral agreements, treaties, joint declarations, and the like. These agreements provide a framework for partners to work together, share resources and knowledge, and pursue common goals for the benefit of both sides.

In facilitating the establishment of a partnership there can be frequent high-level visits and diplomatic interactions between the two sides. These visits can include state/official visits or bilateral summits. High-level visits help to build personal relationships between leaders of governments. Leaders can also start the agenda of partnership when they meet at various multilateral forums.

In establishing a partnership there are different processes. The process usually begins with diplomatic engagement between countries. Such engagements help to build trust, understand each other's perspectives,

Ethiopia was also one of the member states of the League of Nations. At this time almost all African countries were suffering by the European colonial powers. Ethiopia has more than one hundred years of diplomatic relationships with Italy, France, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, and the Kingdom of Belgium

discuss areas of mutual interest, identify common goals, and explore the potential for collaboration. Thus diplomatic relations serve as a foundation for further partnership and cooperation between governments.

There are different levels of bilateral partnerships of governments. It can range from basic cooperation to comprehensive and strategic alliances. There are no international standards for establishing partnerships. Because of this governments use various terminology and classifications of the different levels of bilateral cooperation. Some of the common terminologies of the partnership are cooperation, coordination, strategic partnership, comprehensive partnership, alliance, and the like. For instance, China has designated its bilateral partnership into nineteen levels. In addition to the above-mentioned terminologies China also uses the word and terms namely, 'New Era', 'All-Weather', 'All Round', 'Mutually Beneficial', 'Permanent', 'Global', 'For the 21st century', 'Innovative', 'Friendly', 'Future-oriented', and 'High Quality'. China has signed "Comprehensive Strategic Partnership" and "Strategic Partnership" with forty one and twenty three countries respectively.

In recent times the partnership level between the governments of Ethiopia and China transformed from a "Comprehensive Strategic Cooperative Partnership" to "All Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership". China has also signed a similar level of partnership with Pakistan. Even if China knew the clear differences between the two levels, the ordinary citizens and many diplomats may not know the distinction between the two levels of partnership.

Similarly, the government of Ethiopia has signed various partnership agreements with other countries. In the U.S.A partnership laws and regulations can vary from state to state. Thus some partnership levels may be recognized and regulated in some states, while others may not be available or may have different names.

Most well-developed countries have developed their level of partnership. They have definitions for each level of partnership. Other developing countries do not have their level of partnership. They just sign by the designated level of partnership of other countries.

Ethiopia has more than three thousand years of history. Before the establishment of formal diplomatic relationships, in history, Ethiopia had informal diplomatic relations with many ancient countries of the world. Moreover, Ethiopia has never been colonized by colonial powers. Because of this, Ethiopia could have uninterrupted diplomatic relations with many countries.

Ethiopia was also one of the member states of the League of Nations. At this time almost all African countries were suffering by the European colonial powers. Ethiopia has more than one hundred years of diplomatic relationships with Italy, France, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, and the Kingdom of Belgium. It was during Emperor Menelik II that Ethiopia established the first diplomatic relationship with Italy on 24 June 1897 i.e. 127 years before.

So far Ethiopia is establishing partnerships with other countries without promulgated level of partnership by the House of Peoples' Representatives or the Council of Ministers. Considering the historical and diplomatic relations with many countries in the world, the Ethiopian government should craft its level of partnership in establishing agreements with other governments. The levels can be identified and designated based on research and study. Assessing the experiences of other countries can also be helpful. Based on the research, there should also be policy dialogues to frame the "Ethiopian Level of Partnership".

In my opinion, the partnership levels should be incremental starting from the Cooperative Level of Partnership to Comprehensive and Strategic Partnership levels. The levels can be five in number. Each level should be defined and a clear-cut boundary should be set. Making many levels of partnership can be difficult to understand, manage, and use.

Cooperative partnership promotes the sharing of knowledge, expertise, resources, and best practices to address common challenges or achieve shared objectives. Governments in cooperative partnerships may share data and research findings, coordinate policies, and contribute resources to initiatives and organizations.

Comprehensive partnerships aim at a broad approach to cooperation between governments. These partnerships cover multiple areas of engagement including political, economic, social, and cultural cooperation. They often involve regular high-level dialogues and Joint commissions to deepen collaboration and strengthen relations between countries.

Strategic partnerships may involve formal agreements, alliances, or joint initiatives, such as joint military exercises and intelligence sharing to maximize resources and capabilities. Strategic partnerships often involve long-term commitments. It often involves countries that share common geopolitical interests or face similar security challenges. For instance, there are strategic partnerships between the United States and the United Kingdom, China and Russia, France and Germany, India and Japan, Australia and Indonesia.

Continental organizations can also sign various partnerships with countries. The European Union has foreign policy that guides its partnerships with different countries. It has signed strategic partnerships with different countries and regions around the world. For instance the European Union has signed strategic partnerships with the United States of America, China, India, Japan, Canada, Brazil and South Africa. Similarly, the African Union has signed various partnerships with different governments and entities. These are Africa–League of Arab States (LAS), African Union (AU) – European Union (EU) Partnership, Africa–South America Cooperation Forum (ASACOF), African Union Commission–United States of America High-Level Dialogue, China-Africa Cooperation Forum (FOCAC), Tokyo International Conference on African Development, (TICAD), Africa-India Partnership, Africa-Korea, and Africa-Turkey Partnership.

Unlike the European Union, the African Union has no foreign policy that guides its partnerships with other countries. In establishing the partnership, the African Union is not using similar names i.e. it uses "African Union", "Africa", and "African Union Commission". Ethiopia can also take the initiative to table the agenda of establishing foreign policy of the African Union that guides partnership levels of the continental organization. This continental body should not be dictated by the partnership levels of other countries and entities. It should have standards that show the different levels of partnership clearly and concisely.

To sum up, signing a partnership agreement with other countries by itself is not a success. The implementation of the agreement is important. Partnership has its values including mutual respect, trust, shared commitment, noninterference, transparency, sustainability, interdependence, and the like.

Ethiopia has a very long history of diplomatic relationships with different countries. However, we do not have a promulgated level of partnership in establishing cooperation. If we do not have such a level of partnership, other countries will detect the level of our relationship with them. It is time to make our diplomatic partnership one step forward. Ethiopia should also take initiatives to the development of foreign policy of the African Union and guiding its partnerships with other entities.

This author is a Researcher on Diplomacy and International Relations. Institute of Foreign Affairs. He can be reached at melakumulu@yahoo.com

Law & Politics

Improved diplomatic relations boosted by positive internal trends

BY EYUEL KIFLU

The devastating conflict in northern Ethiopia affected not only the people but also the infrastructure as well as the country's relations with other countries, especially the West. From financial suspension to scathing statements, Ethiopia's diplomatic relation was affected.

For instance, during the conflict, the EU imposed restrictions on cooperation with Ethiopia, including the suspension of budgetary support and the redirection of funds toward humanitarian assistance. It is to be recalled that the bloc has suspended budget support for Ethiopia worth over 100 million USD. However, Ethiopia's ties with the Union and other countries have seen positive change following the Pretoria peace agreement.

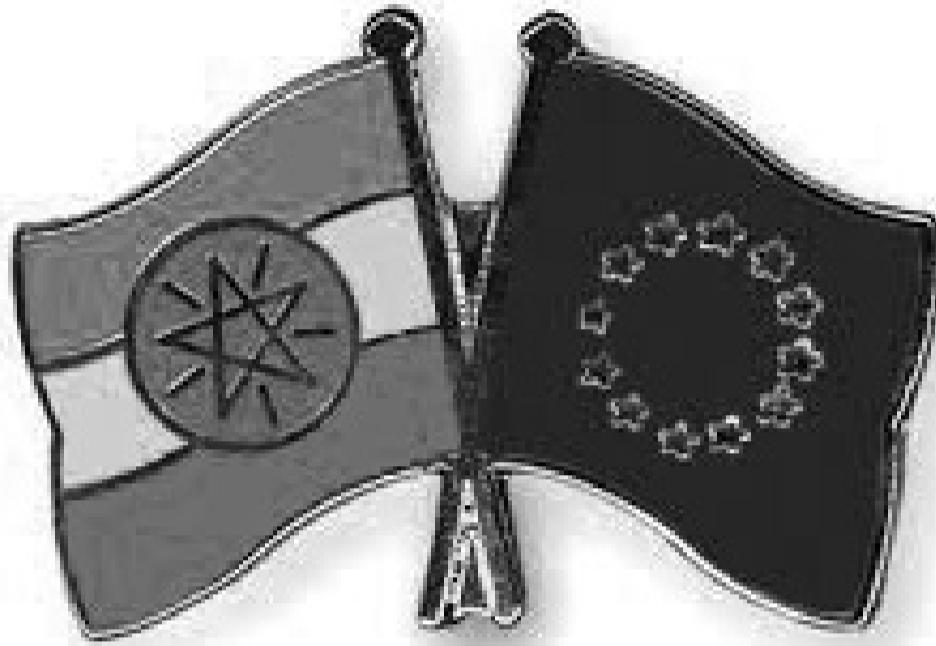
The country's relative peace and security and commitment to resolving the problems through peaceful mechanisms drew the attention of the EU and led it to enhance its policy toward Ethiopia. The recent developments indicate a diplomatic opening between the Ethiopia and EU, signaling a potential path towards resolving tensions and rebuilding relations.

In recent weeks, there have been promising signs of diplomatic relations between Ethiopia and the European bloc. High-level talks between Ethiopian representatives and EU officials have taken place, signaling willingness on both sides to engage in dialogue and address the challenges facing their relationship. These discussions have paved the way for a potential softening of relations and the exploration of common ground. The recent Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Demeke Mekonnen structured debate between the EU and Ethiopia shows this.

According to EU Ambassador Roland Kobia's interview with Ethiopian News Agency, the EU is prepared to keep helping Ethiopia in a number of development-related areas. The ambassador described the structured interaction that took place in the first week of December between the Government of Ethiopia and the EU as a highly fruitful and worthwhile exercise.

DPM, FM Demeke attended the structured debate between Ethiopia and the European Union. They had a thorough conversation about everything, including political issues, disputes, human rights, the economy, commerce, and development, as well as how the EU can help the nation, according to Ambassador Kobia.

He acknowledged that there were disagreements but stated that this was typical and that the conversation was nevertheless quite fruitful. He said that helping the nation get through challenging times from a development and economic



The country's relative peace and security and commitment to resolving the problems through peaceful mechanisms drew the attention of the EU and led it to enhance its policy toward Ethiopia. The recent developments indicate a diplomatic opening between the Ethiopia and EU, signaling a potential path towards resolving tensions and rebuilding relations

standpoint is one of the things the government wants the European Union and its member states to do.

"We showed readiness and availability to continue discussions with the government, to see where the EU can be the most useful, where the needs are, and where the EU can actually deliver very concretely in terms of its support," he said.

Ambassador Kobia made the point that there are more and more development needs in the world today. However, the amount of money is staying the same. "EU is traditionally involved in many different areas, but mainly, I would say, education, health, and the social sectors. But also now, with the Global Gateway, we are ready to work on infrastructure to develop the connectivity, the connections, both between Ethiopia and its neighbors and also within Ethiopia."

He added that "we need to make sure that all development partners can work in a good environment to be efficient and help the population of Ethiopia. This is something we want to discuss with the government and with the regions of Ethiopia because it is a mutual decision.

The ambassador went on to say that the EU is funding the National Dialogue Commission, which provides a forum for leaders and members of the public to address disagreements and differences of opinion regarding the most important matters pertaining to Ethiopia. "We have been one of the strongest supporters of the national dialogue from the very beginning, politically but also financially," the ambassador stated.

As the diplomatic opening unfolds, the

EU has pledged additional financial assistance to Ethiopia to support long-term recovery and reconstruction efforts. The EU's financial pledge underscores its commitment to helping Ethiopia rebuild and foster stability in the region.

Also, last October 2023, European Union Commissioner Jutta Urpilainen met with Ethiopian government officials, and during her visit to Ethiopia, she announced 680 million US dollars in support from the EU. "We have a gradual approach, and now I think one step has been taken forward after this day because we are able to sign this MIP," said Urpilainen for the question about the relationship between the EU and Ethiopia.

The Multi-annual Indicative Program (MIP) is intended to focus on three priority issues: a green agenda, human development, and peacebuilding.

The EU relation with Ethiopia is extended to support the latter's efforts to pacify the country, and the former's support for this is continued. The Ethiopian National Dialogue Commission (ENDC) is trying to play a crucial role in the country's peace by creating the chance for talk to bring national consensus. The EU, on its part, also supports the country's readiness for peace and the initiative of the commission, Ambassador Kobia also mentioned above EU's support for ENDC.

According to the UNDP Statement in July, the European Union, together with several EU Member States bilaterally (Austria, Denmark, Germany, Luxembourg, Spain, Sweden, and the Netherlands), as well as Norway, provided 7.5 million dollars to support the work of ENDC. UNDP also expressed its optimism that more EU countries are expected to join the effort in the near future.

As Ethiopia-EU relations evolve, the financial pledges and the commitment to cooperation provide a foundation for rebuilding and moving forward. The EU's support, both financial and diplomatic, underscores its commitment to the well-being of the Ethiopian people and its willingness to engage constructively to overcome challenges.

The bloodiest conflict in northern Ethiopia tested the relationship between Ethiopia and the EU. However, a diplomatic opening that has made room for new engagement has coincided with the EU's financial support, restrictions on cooperation during the conflict, and pressure against Ethiopia. The financial pledges from the EU signify a commitment to address immediate needs and may invest in Ethiopia's long-term development. As the two sides continue to navigate the challenges, the EU's support and engagement play a crucial role in assisting Ethiopia's path towards peace, stability, and prosperity

Society

Advancing sustainable dev't through social, behavioral change

BY MENGISTEAB TESHOME

The Ethiopian government has placed significant emphasis on the health sector as a cornerstone for ensuring prosperity and driving economic change within the country. This prioritization underscores the recognition of the pivotal role that a healthy population plays in achieving sustainable development and economic growth.

The role of social and behavioral change for sustainable development is to promote awareness, encourage the adoption of sustainable practices, empower communities, and shape social norms, and influence policies and systems. By facilitating positive behavior change, these initiatives help to create a more sustainable and equitable future for all. Social and behavioral change plays a crucial role in achieving sustainable development. It involves promoting and adopting new attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors that contribute to positive societal and environmental outcomes.

What is more, the role of health institutions and psychologists is pivotal in fostering social and behavioral change within society. Through their expertise, these entities contribute to shaping attitudes, promoting mental well-being, and encouraging positive behavioral transformations, thereby enhancing the overall fabric of society.

By taking this into consideration, the Ministry of Health is making promising progress towards ascending to the ranks of middle-income countries within a decade. To achieve this objective, the ministry has set plans and goals that the health sector should play and contribute its share to economic growth by translating the vision of a healthy and prosperous citizenry into reality.

Looking ahead to the future of Ethiopia's health sector, careful consideration has been given to the prospect of Ethiopia transitioning to a lower-middle income country by 2025 and a middle-middle income country by 2035. This forward-looking approach has led to the establishment of indicative targets, benchmarked against other countries, and the formulation of strategic recommendations to meet these targets.

It is evident that effective social behavior change communication approaches within the health system are fundamental in shaping the trajectory of health development. Notably, social behavior change communication interventions have played a significant role in enhancing immunization demand.

Many countries are actively implementing social and behavior change interventions within their health systems to cultivate well-informed communities regarding service provisions. SBC holds the capacity to influence the attitudes of health providers



Partial view of participants on the consultative meeting

The role of social and behavioral change for sustainable development is to promote awareness, encourage the adoption of sustainable practices, empower communities, and shape social norms, and influence policies and systems. By facilitating positive behavior change, these initiatives help to create a more sustainable and equitable future for all

and clients, enhance family and couples' communication, and empower community leaders and influencers to advocate for the adoption of healthy behaviors and practices.

Research findings have underscored that SBC approaches are among the most cost-effective methods for addressing and promoting equitable norms, including gender norms, and empowering individuals to enhance their health and access to care.

Social and behavioral change aims to empower communities to actively participate in sustainable development processes. By promoting inclusive decision-making, facilitating dialogue, and fostering collaboration, these initiatives ensure that diverse voices and perspectives are heard, leading to more effective and sustainable outcomes.

Undoubtedly, habits have a profound impact on an individual's health, well-being, and overall quality of life, with the potential to extend their influence to society at large. A nation committed to implementing

social behavior change communication (SBC) guidelines stands to improve health service outcomes and foster a healthier community at a reduced cost. In this respect, the Ministry of Health has been actively collaborating with stakeholders to apply SBC approaches in mobilizing communities towards achieving set goals, with a view to creating well-informed communities.

In the upcoming February, the Ministry, in partnership with the Health Education and Promotion Professional Association, is slated to host the third national Social Behavior Change Communication Summit under the theme 'Social and Behavioral Change for Sustainable Health Development' in the capital.

The summit will bring together public institutions, social and behavioral change professionals, professional associations, partner organizations, research institutions, private health sector actors, and other stakeholders. Furthermore, the summit will be attended by local and international experts and stakeholders from numerous countries. The summit is scheduled to take place from February 27th to 29th, providing a platform for robust discussions and knowledge exchange on advancing social and behavioral change for sustainable health development.

During the consultative meeting which was held recently, Dr. Tegene Regassa, CEO of Public Relations and Communication at the Ministry of Health, emphasized the pivotal role of the health sector in establishing enabling platforms that empower communities to take charge of their own health.

Dr. Tegene highlighted the collaborative efforts of the Ministry of Health and stakeholders in implementing Social and Behavior Change (SBC) approaches across various activities, yielding a number of

positive outcomes. He stressed that the government's significant investment in the health sector underscores its status as a priority area, aiming to safeguard the well-being of citizens and ensure national prosperity. Recognizing the complexity of health service delivery, Dr. Tegene emphasized the importance of collaborative efforts among stakeholders.

Moreover, he underscored the significance of achieving sustainable community health through individual and stakeholder behavioral change. The upcoming summit, which will convene relevant stakeholders, will delve into SBC practices that impact community health development. Dr. Tegene extended a call to higher learning institutions, researchers, students, partners, and non-governmental organizations to actively contribute to the productivity of the summit.

President of the Ethiopian Health Education and Promotion Professionals Association (EHEPA), Dr. Eshetu Girma, emphasized the pivotal role of community behavioral change in ensuring sustainable health development. The association's collaboration with Addis Ababa University and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) focuses on capacity building to realize community behavioral change. Additionally, the association facilitates knowledge sharing among its members and provides practical training on new laboratory findings and research practices.

The consultative meeting, attended by representatives from the Ministry of Health, relevant stakeholders, state-level SBC entities, universities, researchers, private sector representatives, and non-governmental organizations, served as a platform for robust discussions on SBC practices and their impact on community health development.

International

Kenya: Gov't to place 14,426 students on full secondary school scholarship

Nairobi — The government is set to place 14,426 students who completed primary education in 2023 on full scholarship under the Kenya Primary Education Equity in Learning (KPEEL) Program.

The scholarships funded by the Jomo Kenyatta Foundation and the Equity Group Foundation will be awarded to vulnerable students and those in marginalized areas, Education Cabinet Secretary Ezekiel Machogu announced on Monday.

The program will consider students who attained 280 marks and above in last year's Kenya Certificate of Primary Education and candidates with special needs and disabilities.

"For affirmative action, candidates with special needs and disabilities who attained below 280 marks will be eligible," he said.

Refugee learners in camp-based schools will also be eligible with the selection criteria set at 240 marks for girls and 250 marks for boys.

Marginalized groups

Machogu noted since 2020, the Kenyan government has awarded 52,000 scholarships to marginalized and vulnerable students under KPEEL.

"The demand for the Government scholarship support under the Secondary Education Quality Improvement Project (SEQIP) and KPEEL Programme has continued to increase annually since 2020. The increasing demand must be addressed to avoid further disparities in access to secondary education," he said.

He urged the partners in the education sector to intervene and offer scholarships to students in need to ensure that the government will achieve the 100 per cent transition program and that no child would be left behind in the educational system.

A total of 1,400,329 students who sat for the Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE) secured Form One placement.

The ministry placed 42,927 students in National Schools, 2,225 students in Special Needs Education, 274,746 in Extra County, 288,201 in County schools and 792,230 students in Sub-county schools.

"A total of 717,358 boys and 682,971 girls have acquired a chance to join Form one in the National schools, Special Needs Education, Extra County schools, County Schools and Sub-County Schools," Machogu said.

Source: Capital FM.

Tanzania, Rwanda picked for clean energy pilot

Tanzania, Rwanda and Somalia are among four countries selected as pilots of a new World Bank clean energy programme that is set to benefit at least 100 million people in Sub-Saharan Africa by 2030.

Sao Tome and Principe will also take part in the rollout of the Accelerating Sustainable and Clean Energy Access Transformation (Ascent) programme, which will be expanded to 20 countries in the region over the next seven years.

World Bank Group President Ajay Banga announced the \$15 billion project during the International Development Association's (IDA) mid-term review meeting of its 20th financing round in Zanzibar.

According to Mr Banga, at least \$5 billion of the funding requirement will be covered by IDA and the remaining will be from partners.

"We know it won't solve the problem of access to power for the entire continent since there are more than 600 million Africans facing the problem," he said. "But we see it as a start, and also a platform to draw more interest among IDA partners to also join the cause through similar investments."

The Bank describes the Ascent programme as a "game-changer in a region where only 48



percent of the overall population and just 26 percent in rural areas has access to electricity."

"The lack of energy access is the most significant challenge to development progress in the region today (as it) hinders economic recovery and faster progress toward poverty reduction," it says.

"It also results in significant food spoilage owing to lack of refrigeration, particularly in countries already plagued with food insecurity, and plays a role in poor health outcomes given that less than half of all hospitals in the region have reliable electricity access," the Bank said.

Victoria Kwakwa, the World Bank's vice-president for Eastern and Southern Africa,

said IDA's \$5 billion input will be "leveraged for an additional \$10 billion" using resources from the Bank's other lending arms including the International Finance Corporation and Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency plus contributions from public and private sector partners.

She said the Ascent programme was designed to speed up efforts to achieve the clean energy transition on a global scale by pooling global and local knowledge with a "menu-based" approach to empowering selected countries to pursue energy access goals."

"Women, who are often disproportionately burdened by lack of energy access, will benefit the most and will also be provided additional income-generating opportunities to unleash their economic potential," the Bank said.

The programme will involve three main components; developing regional and national platforms to enable economies of scale and cost reduction strategies, expanding grid electrification through investment and technical assistance, and financing strategies to improve energy access for households, enterprises, farmers, schools, health clinics and other social needs.

Kenya to enjoy duty-free, quota-free access to the EU market

Nairobi — Kenya and the European Union have signed the Kenya-European Union Economic Partnership Agreement, strengthening their resolve to enhance economic collaboration.

President William Ruto said the agreement will boost trade between Kenya and the 27 countries in the European Union.

The President said Kenya will now enjoy duty and quota-free access to the European market when the agreement is ratified by the European Parliament.

He said access to the 16 trillion euro market will stimulate the growth of manufacturing, value addition and entrepreneurship in the country.

This, he explained, will fast-track the realisation of the country's Bottom Up Economic Transformation Agenda by expanding opportunities and increasing earnings.

"At the core of this arrangement is our aspiration to put real money into the pockets of ordinary people," he said.

Adding: "Today, therefore, is a great day for the hardworking hustlers who often make their contribution to job creation, innovation and value addition through the micro-small and medium enterprises and small businesses."

President Ruto and EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen witnessed the signing of the Kenya-EU Economic Partnership Agreement at State House, Nairobi.

Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi, and Trade Cabinet Secretary Rebecca Miano, among other cabinet secretaries and governors, were present

The Head of State also said the agreement

"opens the door wide open for East African Community partners" to sign similar agreements with the European Union.

With this deal, he noted, Kenya has become a trailblazer in economic diplomacy.

The President said the signing of the agreement is a signal to the world that Kenya is ready to manufacture and export high-value premium products.

He noted that the agreement will attract investments into innovation, capacity development and value addition, among other sectors.

"I trust that this ceremony will inaugurate the arrival of investment in other manufacturing areas, including chemicals, pharmaceuticals, medical supplies and equipment," he said.

The President said the government will put in place robust measures to ensure the country's products meet the European standards.

He said the government is building 500 fresh produce markets and 47 county aggregation and industrial parks with cold rooms to preserve perishable agricultural products like vegetables and avocados and improve their quality so as to achieve the highest quality.

On her part, President Leyen said the agreement will strengthen Kenya's export capacity and create jobs for the people.

"This agreement is fair and sustainable because it takes into account your need to open your market gradually," she added.

She said Europe will provide the necessary agricultural machinery to boost Kenya's production capacity.

President Ruto said the partnership also includes the implementation of a strong

joint environmental conservation agenda to foster sustainable growth.

"Through the agreement, Kenya has found a like-minded partner equally committed to the transition into a green economy and, towards that end, to pursue sustainable trade," he said.

President Ruto said he will continue pushing for the expansion of trade in the services sector to enable professionals to serve a freer and bigger market.

Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi said the agreement will expand opportunities for ordinary Kenyans, especially those in agri-business.

"I am confident that its implementation will contribute to the realisation of the government's Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda," he said.

Investment, Trade and Industry Cabinet Secretary Rebecca Miano said the agreement will spur the growth of small and medium enterprises.

"Today's agreement heralds a new era where Kenyan goods gain immediate and permanent duty and quota-free access to the European market," she said.

The European Union is one of Kenya's largest trading partners and its most important export market. Bilateral trade between Kenya and the EU is worth €3.3 billion (KSh594 billion).

The trade is nearly balanced save for a surplus in the EU's favour at €768 million.

Kenya mainly exports vegetables, flowers and fruits. On its part, the European Union exports minerals, chemical products and machinery. - Presidential Communication Service

Source: Capital FM.

Planet Earth

Ethiopia's journey...

the improved seed marketing process to update the framework by addressing structural system gaps. Customers can request improved seeds directly through the user-friendly interface, which he stated addresses the issues of inadequate information and far-off infrastructure when it comes to improved seed supply.

He said the research institute's goal is to close the gap between supply and demand by figuring out Ethiopia's demand for improved seeds. Additionally, he mentioned that by using the EIAR-EGS link, customers may quickly verify the amount and kinds of improved seed availability and save time, money, and effort. Besides, the institute working on the link platform will eventually integrate regional agricultural research institutions and be able to provide customers with simple access to enhanced, improved seeds.

The EIAR-EGS link platform brings hope for improved seed access and addresses concerns about the survival of individuals relying on quality seeds for their agricultural endeavors, he remarked.

The use of improved varieties of

seeds supports better production in the agricultural sector by resisting drought, acidic soil, and other issues associated with climate change impacts. For instance, if farmers use improved seeds, they can double their production; this will also ensure food security based on EIAR data.

This advancement has been made to boost farmers' usage of the improved seeds and extend their access to them. Additionally, there is now a mechanism in place for individuals engaged in the race system to communicate their requirements and schedules ahead of time.

Ethiopia's commitment to improving its seed sector is crucial for achieving sustainable agricultural development and ensuring food security. The establishment of the Ethiopian Seed Enterprise, engagement with private seed companies and NGOs, and the implementation of stringent quality assurance mechanisms have all contributed to enhancing the availability and accessibility of improved seeds.

Additionally, efforts have been made to enhance farmers' knowledge and skills in seed management and conservation.

Capacity-building programs, farmer field schools, and extension services have been implemented to educate farmers on best practices in seed selection, storage, and multiplication. This empowers farmers to become active participants in the seed sector, enabling them to save and exchange seeds, maintain genetic diversity, and contribute to the conservation of local seed varieties.

Furthermore, the Minister of Agriculture (MOA) advocates for increased access to seeds at all levels, from distribution to research organizations; extension services are offered; fertilizer and pesticides are made available; and regulatory services are rendered.

According to Melaku, researchers as well as development organizations are creating more effective seeds that are resistant to moisture stress and drought in an effort to combat the effects of climate change. In this moment, it is possible to employ early-maturing, moisture-tolerant corn and sorghum.

As to him, all relevant parties, such as public and private companies, are attempting to increase the amount and

quality of seed supply by utilizing both domestic and foreign technologies, as seed is a crucial input for agricultural output. The government has recently updated the Seed Proclamation, granted plant breeders' advantages, and approved contract farming in an effort to draw in both domestic and foreign seed enterprises.

According to Karta, the institute is attempting to provide producers with as much information as possible early to eliminate confusion regarding the availability of the best seeds, and farmers should become more knowledgeable through acquiring information about new types as well as enhancing their skills to adapt to improved seeds.

He further stated that in order to develop and market the best seeds, private investors and interested parties should collaborate with the research institute.

By investing in seed research, farmer education, and conservation efforts, Ethiopia is building a resilient and vibrant seed sector that can support the country's agricultural growth and empower its farmers in the face of emerging challenges.



Zimbabwe signs agreement to host 2024 ECA Conference of Ministers

BY STAFF REPORTER

Harare, Zimbabwe, - The Economic Commission for Africa, Executive Secretary, Claver Gatete, and Zimbabwe's Finance Minister, Mthuli Ncube today in Harare signed the 2024 Conference of Ministers (COM) Host Country Agreement. Zimbabwe is set to host the 56th Session of the ECA Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development from 28 February to 5 March, in Victoria Falls.

"To drive industrialization that is sustainable and creates jobs, eradicates poverty and contributes to sustained

economic growth, Africa must build climate resilience, be able to access finance for its development and reap benefits from its natural resources" said Mr. Gatete at the signing ceremony for the 2024 Conference of Ministers (COM) Host Country Agreement in Harare, Zimbabwe.

The theme for the 2024 COM is "Financing the transition to inclusive green economies in Africa: imperatives, opportunities and policy options", which Mr. Gatete said, was very timely as the continent grapples with multiple crises.

The Conference brings together African Ministers of Finance, Planning and

Economic Development, governors of central banks, and entities of the United Nations system. In addition, it will include the participation of pan-African financial institutions, youth representatives, African academic and research institutions, development partners, intergovernmental organizations and other key stakeholders on an annual basis to engage and exchange views on the state of economic and social developments in Africa.

Mr. Gatete said the aim was to end the conference with a strengthened focus and invigorated call to action for mobilization of climate and development finance and the reform of the Global Financial Architecture. Furthermore, the conference

will call for the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement and the leveraging of technologies for Africa's development.

Speaking at the same event, Zimbabwe's Finance Minister, Mthuli Ncube noted the advanced state of preparedness of the conference and also highlighted the significance of the event to the country.

"This presents an opportunity to enhance the country's global image as we pursue our engagements and re-engagement drive with the international community" the minister emphasized.

Source: UNECA

Planet Earth

Ethiopia's journey towards improved seed industry, efforts to ensure food security

BY FIKADU BELAY

Ethiopia's agricultural economy has always been based mostly on seeds due to its diverse environment and rich agricultural lifestyles. Crop resilience, productivity, and overall food security are all significantly influenced by seeds. Ethiopia has started a journey to strengthen its seed industry because it understands the value of high-quality seeds and needs to raise farmers' incomes, assure food security, and improve agricultural production.

Over the years, Ethiopia has faced numerous challenges in its seed sector, including limited access to improved seeds, a lack of genetic diversity, and inadequate seed quality assurance systems. These challenges have hindered the country's agricultural development and reduced farmers' ability to cope with climate change, pests, and diseases.

According to Ethiopian Institute of Agriculture Research (EIAR) data, since the institute's establishment, over 1,400 improved seed species have been distributed into the country, yet producers are only



providing a small quantity of high-quality seeds. The greatest seeds haven't spread throughout the country due to a farmer's intelligence issue, informational gaps, logistical issues, a tendency to concentrate just on a few varieties of the best seeds, and a lack of resources. Furthermore, the seed program's stakeholders stated that there is a gap in the structural structure.

Technology Multiplication and Seed Research Director with EIAR, Karta

Kaske (PhD), told the Ethiopian Herald that although about 1.1 million quintals of quality seeds are produced annually on average, a relatively small proportion of farmers actually use these quality seeds out of all those who are engaged in agriculture.

Ethiopian Seed Association Board Chairperson, Melaku Admasu, stated on his part that the most significant hurdles facing the country are related to weather, land, infrastructure, foreign currency, security in

seed production areas, early generation seed scarcity, certified seed scarcity, inadequate information, and lack of awareness.

However, the Ethiopian government, in collaboration with various stakeholders, has taken significant steps to address these issues and promote the production and distribution of improved seeds.

According to Karta, the institute is taking a number of measures to address the issue and raise farmers' knowledge of the importance of utilizing the improved seeds. Also, he stated that farmers in the area where the rallies took place are now more demanding that their crops be grown using the improved seeds. Among these activities, the institute created the EIAR-EGS improved seed marketing link platform, which has the potential to boost accessibility and overcome industry barriers.

Due to limited information access, only 50–56 percent of the improved seeds are being distributed up to this; this will significantly reduce the gap between production and dissemination of improved seeds, he added.

This link platform will allow participants in

See Ethiopia's journey... page 19