

# Newsletter

Published by Office of Research Affairs



January 2019

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# Chaya

## The New Guest in Town

Chaya, a spinach variety, was introduced to Dire Dawa, Harar and the surrounding community representatives and Haramaya University community on an event organized at Tony Farm. Chaya is a multi-purpose edible plant.

food insecurity the country faces. Mr. Daniel Alemu, lead investigator of the project and an instructor in Haramaya Institute of Technology, gave demonstration on how to prepare different food items from the vegetable and dis-



New Addition to Dire Dawa Tony Farm Spinach-Chaya Variety

According to Dr. Wassu Mohammed, one of the researchers in this project, Ethiopia has major problems in Iron and Vitamin A deficiencies and majority of the vegetable and field crops the country produces are not drought resistant. To this end, the introduction of this vegetable crop to the Ethiopian food system has its merits to alleviate the problem of

cussed advantages of including Chaya to our tables at home.

According to Mr. Daniel it is advisable to cook the leaves for 20-25 minutes before cooking them as desired. The vegetable crop is very rich in Iron, Vitamin A and Calcium and its very nutritious nature makes it ideal for new mothers to consume.







Achieving not only food security but also nutrition security was another point discussed during the event. The Ethiopian community should also look for food sources with high nutrition values and researchers are encouraged to conduct research activities in such areas in order to improve the living standard and food quality of the community.

Attendees were encouraged to take the seedlings of the vegetable crop to their homes, grow them and make the vegetable a regular on their tables. The vegetable crop is ideal to grow on hot and semi-arid areas such as Dire Dawa, Afar, Somalia, etc. It can also be used for animal feed once it has

been laid on the sun for a short period of time.

“The University has given financial support to 165 projects, and research site on 13 research



stations and 57 farmer training centers (FTCs) were made available for research as well as extension activities,” according to Mr. Admkew Haile, Research Facilities Directorate Director and Vice-president for Research Affairs Delegate. The field trial of the variety on Dire Dawa Tony Farm goes along the line of the University’s community engagement activities and its commitment to ensure food security and improve quality of life of the community. Such projects on nutrition and nutritious foods and technology should always be encouraged and supported. ■



# Research Extension Activities of 2010 E.C.

The University's extension activities have reached an all-time high with supports to and collaborations with 71 farmer training centers



*Agricultural Activities and Extension Experts Evaluation at Doba Woreda and Lencha Wedesa FTCs*

(FTCs), a numbers of youth associations, cooperatives and individual supports in the Eastern and Western Hararge zones. The Vice-president for Research Affairs Office (VPRA) has also provided different varieties of crops to MSc and PhD students coming from various institutions. The activities in the FTCs, youth associations and cooperatives are very encouraging, and have shown the University's role as a development agent in the country's economic growth. It is also a demonstration for the community that the University strives to improve the capacity of farmers and increase their production and productivity.



*Seed Multiplication at Raree Research Station (HU Main Campus)*



Seed multiplication is also one of the major activities of the Office. In collaboration with five cooperatives in five woredas and other stakeholders countrywide, mostly in Eastern and Western Hararghe zones, it was possible to accomplish such a task with five crops and crop vegetables. Potato was harvested twice a year using irrigation and rainfed production.

Crop	Number of varieties	Quantity of certified seeds
Potato	4	3240qt
Wheat	3	312qt
Groundnut	4	285qt
Chickpea	1	50kg
Maize	1	25qt



Agricultural Activities and Extension Experts Evaluation at Doba Woreda and Lencha Wedesa FTCs



Crop Trial and Vermicompost Technology at Umar Kulu FTC



In order to improve the capacity of famers and increase production and productivity, support was made with seed cleaner, seed thresher, drip irrigation equipment including water pumps and geomembrane for water storage, mobile and fixed poultry houses, and bee hives; in addition to expert consultancy and professional support in underground water detection and analysis.



*Drip Irrigation Equipment Support to a Model Farmer in Tinike*



*Improved Technology at Bate and Gende Boye*





As one way of changing the lives of farmers and encouraging others to follow in their footsteps, model farmers in and around Haramaya, Tini-ke, Gende Boye, Bate, Ifa Bate, Kuro, Becheke, Meta, and Kombolcha were provided with different varieties of maize, potato, sorghum, wheat, faba bean, chickpea, cabbage, spinach and carrot. And more than 70 women association members have received



wheat, maize and haricot bean support. Of the model farmers, Mr. Yaya Ahmed, Mr. Jemal Yusuf, Mr. Hassen Amede, Mrs. Kimya Kemal and Mr.

Usman Ahmed were a few we talked to, and they have expressed their delight in the support they have been given by the University. They have asked for the continuity of the support as the University has an obligation to partake its experts, knowledge and technology in order to improve farmers' lives. While the professional as well as the material support are all to be encouraged, the community should always be mindful to not fall into an always-expectant-mind-set.





In Haramaya Woreda, Adele Iftu, Adele Agro-business, Adele Weteha associations and two more in Tuta Kenisa with each association having 10 youth were part of the support with potato, maize, shallot, and drip irrigation equipment. These associations were given 3kg of shallot (onion), 20qt potato and maize crop seed and their productions were notable.

research station in addition to the seedlings made available to end users. The station's yearly production and income is increasing each year. In 2010 E.C. the station made available 1,455,000 sweet potato seedling worth 1.09 million birr, 1997 orange seedlings, 216 lemon seedlings, 337 tangerine seedlings, 30 bitter or sour orange seedlings and 1285 papaya seedlings, a total of 3865 seedlings to end users. To Harar SOS 300,000 seedling worth 225,000 birr, to Western and Eastern Hararghe through CARE Ethiopia 568,000 seedlings worth 426,000 birr and 400,000 seedlings worth 300,000 birr respectively were sold. To Fedis Agricultural Research Center and Babile Research station 38,000 seedlings worth 28,500 birr and 149,000 seedlings worth 140,250 birr respectively were given free of charge. ■

<b>Crop/Technology</b>	<b>Number of Varieties</b>	<b>Quantity</b>
Sesame	2	2.5qt
Potato	2	1110qt
Wheat	7	48qt
Groundnut	4	28kg
Chickpea	2	90kg
Sorghum	5	208kg
Maize	9	30.5 qt
Animal Feed	3	39kg
Carrot	1	32kg
Garlic	1	70kg
Shallot	1	4kg
Cabbage & Lettuce	2	6kg
Bean	3	263kg
Faba bean	7	21kg
Bean	4	76kg
Sweet Potato	2	220
		Seedling
Vermiworm	1	180 Worms

#### **2010 E.C.'s Seed Distribution through Research Extension Activities**

Besides the inclusive activities with FTCs, associations and model farmers, the Office was also instrumental in the distribution of seedlings through the Dire Dawa Tony Farm. A total of 3500 seedlings of orange were raised in the

# University Acquires New Research Station

Haramaya University has acquired a new research station in Kurfa Chele Woreda from the woreda administration. The research station was established by the NGO Care Ethiopia; and upon the project's completion, the woreda administration has handed over the station to the University. The Project had been using the site as a farmer training center (FTC).

The site is in good condition and the animal farms and facilities built such as beef fattening, goat farm, apiculture, improved forage production and the easy manure management and biogas production make it an ideal working environment; and research and extension activities could be initiated without any delay.



Haramaya University has always strived to support the community in research and extension activities and the dissemination of improved technologies, and this addition to the already existing 11 research stations will make the Kurfa Chele community beneficiaries.

On the handing-over occasion, a community discussion session was held and members of

the community expressed their anticipation of the various research activities and the support they will receive from the University. They said that they appreciate the University's initiative to continue the works of Care Ethiopia in supporting the community to improve their agricultural production and productivity and their livelihood.





Mr. Admkew Haile, Research Facilities Directorate Director and Vice-president for Research Affairs Delegate, heavily emphasized that the University operates on a budget allocated by the government and “it would be impossible to make donations for each and every person that asks.” “However,” he added, “the University is there to support and if the community does 50% of the work, they can ask to be supported for the remaining.” Mr. Admkew added, “The University has knowledge and experts, and it is possible to engage and assist the community through various training and expert consultations.”

On the day, animals donated by Care Ethiopia were also distributed to 60 community members by lot. The 35 goats, 9 cattle of which 5 and 134 poultries were distributed because the animals’ breeding and history is not known



and this might make it difficult to produce improved and top-quality breeds.

Mr Aliy Teleha, Kurfa Chele Woreda Administrator, said, “We are very happy that the University has decided to work with the woreda.” And has urged the people who won the lot “to not sale or trade rather use these improved varieties to crossbreed and improve the local varieties you find in your neighborhoods”.



Mrs. Dabo Bushura and Mrs. Meftuha Abdulatif were among the lucky ones to win the animals and they were elated with what they received. “I am happy and I will do my part to crossbreed these improved breeds with local

ones,” said Mrs. Dabo. Mrs. Meftuh on her part said, “I want to improve my livelihood and I am very happy.” ■



# CHAMPS

**Ethiopia** Child Health and  
Mortality Prevention  
Surveillance

# So Far

The Child Health and Mortality Prevention Surveillance (CHAMPS) Project has been establishing its roots in Harar and Kersa towns. The project working on the health promotion and mortality prevention of children under-5 has had various activities to increase aware-

ness in the community around Kersa, Weter and Harar. The two-sided approach with the social and behavioural science team and the clinical team supporting each other, the project is quite different in sensitizing the community of the scientific implementations and activities of the clinical team.

The social science team has been very engaged in community outreach programs, health promotion activities, conducting trainings as well as establishing a radio program. The “Training the Trainers” (ToT) in Harar and Kersa involved religious leaders, community based organisations (Iddir and Afoosha), health extension workers and the lead mothers in the Women’s Development Army to further engage and inform their communities on CHAMPS objectives and activities, simple and clear understandings of the minimal invasive tissues sampling (MITS) procedure, the patient journey, small interventions demonstrating concern for child health, and a ‘cascading down’ plan. The project has also devised a program on nutrition, sanitation and hygiene to be given at Hiwot Fana Specialized University Hospital to patients and their families and relatives in the waiting area.



*3rd Scientific Advisory Board (SAC) Meeting in Harar and Hiwot Fana Hospital Visit*





*Photo Elicitation in Gola and Health Education Program in Hiwot Fana Specialized University Hospital*

CHAMPS and the acceptability of Minimally Invasive Tissue Sampling (MITS) also received the go ahead from the Ethiopian Islamic Affairs Supreme Council. The Fatwa – a response to a question posed by an individual or a court of law – was obtained from a ‘Mufti’s’ (legal scholar) authoritative legal opinion.

A fifteen-minute radio program, in both Amharic and Afan Oromo, has also been initiated in January 2019. The radio program introduces MITS and other project activities and answer health related questions from the community.



*TfD Performances in Kersa and Harar Health Science College*





Besides the trainings and community communications for and with, the project also works hard on capacity buildings of its staff members. In line with this notion, the project provides various trainings such as bereavement care,

Participatory walks were also conducted at Hiwot Fana with community members to provide feedback to the clinical team on the MITS journey. The project in collaboration with English ACCESS Micro-scholarship Program was also involved in a community clean-up involving 70 youth.



qualitative research, Theatre for Development (TfD) to name a few. The TfD training was conducted by Prof. Mufunangi Magalasi from the University of Malawi. The social science team conducted TfD performances in Kersa to engage the community in the dialogue about CHAMPS activities.





# RUFORUM Biennial Conference 2018: Aligning African Universities to Accelerate Attainment of Africa's Agenda 2063

Haramaya University, one of the universities in Ethiopia in the RUFORUM Network, was the first to join the Network back in 2009. The Network avails the opportunity for African universities to share their best experiences as well as challenges and possible solutions. The event also opens doors for various stakehold-

2018 and the membership of universities has also increased to 105 in number.

A side event that was anticipated was the awarding of the top 23 Young African Entrepreneurs. These youngsters came up with innovative ideas and shown entrepreneurial spirits “taking advantage of the vast growth

prospects within their countries and the continent at large” said Prof. Mabel Imbuga, Board Chair of RUFORUM.

Given the lack of communication and information of activities in universities despite their massive generation of knowledge through research, innovations and skilled manpower production, RUFORUM saw it fit to organize a training session whereby Public Relations

Officers and Communication Officers (PROs and COs) of member universities have the opportunity to equip themselves with the skills and knowledge of PR, the role it has with social media interaction to showcase the works and activities of African Universities. The training focused on PR and its strategies, effective media relations, crisis communication plan with practical and on camera media training.



*HU Booth was visited by the University's Former President Prof. Belay Kassa among others*

ers in the sector of agriculture, technology dissemination and development to collaborate, partner with and share knowledge.

The Conference that took place in Nairobi Kenya in October presented the opportunity for member universities and other stakeholders to showcase the research and academic activities and opportunities they provide. RUFORUM has grown its participants from 380 from 25 countries to 900 from 37 countries in



Haramaya University was also represented in an exhibition booth to showcase its research and academic activities in the agricultural front. The University has been instrumental to the development of skilled human power in agriculture and the release of various crop varieties over the years. ■

## Office Celebrates Tony Day

Office of the Vice-president for Research Affairs celebrated Tony Day for the third time in July 2018 at the University's Dire Dawa Research Station.

The Office has organized this event in order to appreciate the workers on their hard work and to have a discussion on issues of concerns.

According to Mr. Shibiru Wakjira, Dire Dawa Research Station Manager, this year alone 3800 citrus family seedlings have been made available to the surrounding community. The farm has been serving as a research site and demonstration field for Haramaya University researchers and students as well as different projects.

Many projects, regional agricultural offices and organizations working on agriculture and re-



lated fields have taken seedlings and varieties of many crops, vegetables and fruits because of the good performance and quality produces they have found at the farm.





### *Papaya and Mango Research*

The farm has added mango and spinach researches this year. In previous trials mango research has been a failure in Dire Dawa and its surrounding areas. Areas surrounding Erer

have been ideal for mango production. But with the introduction of new mango varieties, the site is hoping for a fruitful result. ■

## Training Conducted on Fall Army Worm (FAW)

Productivity and Environmental Sustainability (PES) for Food Security and Poverty Alleviation Research Theme in collaboration with Agricultural Entomology professionals from the School of Plant Sciences conducted training on Fall Army Worm (FAW) for fifty professionals, Agricultural Office Heads and 32 Development Agents (DAs) of East and West Haragahe zones. The training was designed to enable the participants to properly identify the pest, the different stages and where to look for it. It also took into consideration indigenous knowledge in including the use of botanicals and cultural practices.

This unwelcomed pest entered the country a year ago and now it covers almost all regional states of the country except Somali and Afar regions. It is the major pest against maize even though over eighty plant species are recorded as its host. The pest was detected recently in East Hararghe Zone of Oromia Regional State on irrigated maize.

Close monitoring of the pest population and damage including the consideration of economic thresholds is to be given emphasis. Unless the damage percentage reaches 20% of the plant population, it is advised to take all indigenous cultural practices like ploughing to kill and expose the larvae to predators, sun for desiccation and smashing of the egg masses. Insecticide use is advised as a last resort when all other means of management fails and the damage level crosses 20% of the plant population. There should be maximum care in the time of spraying and pesticide management if the use becomes imperative. Insecticide application is recommended to be at late afternoon or evening when the moths are active and pollinators are back to their nest from foraging. ■



# Consultative Forum Held between Ministry of Federal and Pastoral Development Affairs and Five Universities

A Consultative Forum was held between the Ministry of Federal and Pastoral Development Affairs (MoFPDA) and five universities to evaluate the planning phase and to discuss on the implementation and follow up of the planned activities following the strategic Memorandum of Agreement signed earlier this year. The forum is organized by the MoFPDA and Haramaya University in May 2018 at Triangle Hotel, Dire Dawa.

Mr. Shanko Delelegne, Director General of MoFPDA, said, “We [MoFPDA and the selected universities as well as other development partners] believe that we need to work more to continuously develop capacity so as to strengthen our collaborative effort to ensure sustainable pastoral area development.” According to Mr. Shanko, the general objective of the joint venture was to enhance the efforts and research findings, and plan for the establishment of an Institute of Peace and Development,



implementation and evaluation of problem-solving research among the MoFPDA, universities, and other development partners. He also indicated that the forum is organized with the aim of ensuring mission clarity, common understanding; identifying priority areas for 2011 E.C.; learning from each other, networking, and data and information sharing; and, understanding and planning integrated monitoring and evaluation.

Haramaya University presented a proposal entitled “Enhancing Resilience and Reducing Vulnerability of Pastoral Communities through Climate Smart Pastoral Development Interventions”. It was indicated that the first activity is to evaluate the design, implementation and impact of pastoral area development policies and strategies, which include, among others, pastoral development interventions related to livestock, water, off-farm activities, with emphasis on livelihoods diversification and commercialization.

The presentations emphasized that the partnership is a cornerstone in enhancing the institutional capacity in professional associations to promote national cohesion and integration in Ethiopia.

Representatives from MoFPDA, Haramaya, Addis Ababa, Hawassa, Wollo and Civil Service universities, and other partners such as USAID, Meles Zenawi Foundation, Justice for All-Prison Fellowship Ethiopia and UNDP were in attendance. ■



opment, which makes the outcomes of the project sustainable.

Dr. Muluken Gezahegn, a member of the local organizing committee, said that the workshop was aimed at strengthening networking, joint planning,



# BENEFIT-ISSD Project, Oromia East Unit Held Performance Evaluation of Seed Sector Development Workshop

The BENEFIT-ISSD East Oromia Unit conducted a workshop on performance evaluation of Seed Sector Development Project in East and West Hararghe zones on the achievements and future interventions at Ras Hotel, Harar Town.



Different challenges are present in the access to quality seed in the country such as lack of information on quality seed at farmers' level, limited access to quality seed by farmers,

and neglecting important food security crops by public organization and private companies. To ensure farmers access to locally preferred crop varieties ISSD project is integrating different seed sector components (formal, informal, and intermediate).

Farmers have limited capacities of technical and managerial skills to be engaged in quality seed marketing. Thus, ISSD project is working to improve farmers' technical, managerial and organizational skills, so that they become entrepreneurs in seed business marketing.



In addition, key focus of 2018 such as variety promotion through crowd sourcing approach, strengthening organizational and financial capacities of seed producers' cooperatives (SPCs), piloting conventional seed marketing, installing two post-harvest seed cleaning machines in East and West Hararghe zones, and establishing two mini-laboratories for quality seed test in East and West



Hararghe zones were indicated in a plenary presentation.

HU- Seed Quality Control and Certification Center provides guidelines and standard quality seed production, field level inspection, sample collection procedures in line with seed laws and regulations. Some challenges such as seed quality problems due to lack of seed infrastructure (value addition, store standardization, seed processing technologies), poor facilitations from seed producers and their partners, lack of pre-planning have been indicated during this session.

Despite all the achievements of BENEFIT-ISSD Project, different bottlenecks including limited technical and managerial skills of cooperatives, weak cooperation and collaboration among partners and stakeholders, weak seed marketing system, lack of seed data management (production, demand and supply), limited access to pre-basic and basic seeds, limited post-harvest seed processing technologies, limited participation of women in SPCs, weak transparent audit services of SPCs are being negatively impacting the business of quality seeds.

To solve the aforementioned challenges, BENEFIT-ISSD project, Oromia East unit presented target interventions for 2018 to improve efficiency of seed sector development in East and West Hararghe zones. The target focuses indicated are improving efficiency of conventional seed marketing system for 2018, business plan development for certified and basic seeds production, and support needed for this joint action plan and responsible bodies to own and ensure the implementation. Based on these focuses of 2018, partners and stakeholders were grouped in East and West Hararghe clusters and developed joint action plan.

A total of 40 representatives from Haramaya and Oda Bultum universities, Chercher Oda Bultum Union, Fedis Agricultural Research Center, East and West Hararghe Zones Cooperative Agencies and Woreda Cooperative Agencies from (Babile, Kersa, Habro, Oda Bultum and Mieso) participated in the workshop. ■

## Eastern Ethiopia Common Bean Innovation Platform Established

Lowland Pulses Research Program of Haramaya University in collaboration with Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research (EIAR) held a one-day workshop to establish eastern Ethiopian common bean stakeholders and innovation platform; the workshop was organized through the support from Tropical Legume-III Project.

The workshop conducted in February 2018 brought together stakeholders from East and West Hararghe zones and woredas, Dire Dawa Administrative Council, Harari and Somali regional states and Haramaya University. The key objective of establishing this multi sectoral platform was to identify the major production and marketing opportunities and bottlenecks, enhance the linkage among its value chain actors, and share responsibilities to overcome the identified challenges thereby provide possible solutions to enhance the production and productivity of common bean in eastern Ethiopia.

Beans are increasingly becoming an important crop which largely contributes to the national economy (commodity and employment) and cash income in the country. In Eastern Ethiopia, unlike in other parts of the country, more than 90% of common bean is produced by intercropping with maize, sorghum, chat and so on.

Haramaya University's Lowland Pulse Research Program has immensely contributed in the technology generation and dissemination activities since its inception in the 1980s. The program works in collaboration, primarily, with EIAR and other international organizations such as CIAT. The program undertakes its research activities on seven university-owned research stations: Babile, Dire Dawa, Errer, Fadis, Haramaya, Gurawa and Hirna in eastern Ethiopia. So far, the program has developed and released 11 improved common bean varieties of different market class. In collaboration with local, regional and national partners, efforts have also been made to distribute these technologies to farmers. ■



# Changing Lives through Progressive Research: Annual Research, Extension and Community Engagement Workshop Conducted

The 35th Annual Research, Extension and Community Engagement Workshop was conducted at Haramaya University from March 29-31, 2018.

The workshop has always been a way for a dialogue between the University and members of the community as well as governmental and non-governmental organizations, Farmer Training Centers (FTCs), model farmers and coops and unions.

Dr. Jemal Yousuf, Vice-president for Research Affairs, in his key note speech said, “In order for us [the University and its community] to remain competitive, in addition to conducting cutting-edge scientific research, we are also expected to serve as intellectual hubs, providing knowledge, support, and innovative solutions to local communities, government sectors and other stakeholders. For this purpose, we need to establish effective and meaningful partnership with local private and public sectors players to establish regional center of excellence, innovation hubs, and state of the art laboratories, digital/data centers that would enable informed research and development interventions among others.”

Prof. Chemedha Fininssa, the then President of the University, on his part said, “The efforts and achievements of the University’s research and extension should be supported by research in order to transform the new technology

contribution for the national development.” He further explained that the University is working its part to contribute for the sector transformation by producing skilled manpower, conducting cutting-edge researches on the sector and giving short term training for co-operatives.

The first day of the workshop saw more than 370 participants and Competence Assurance Certificate was given to nine cooperatives the University works with. The certificate was issued based on the Seed Proclamation No. 782/2013 Article 20 to produce crop seeds of certified class. The seed multiplication co-operatives: Awbare (wheat), Haji Faji (potato), Lelisa Ifadin (sorghum), Oda Ifa (maize), Bishan Babile (maize), Fula Hunda Tofik (maize), Awsherif Barisa (maize), Lega Hamaresa (maize) and Jalela Gudina (maize & wheat) have shown



promising progress and the University has awarded their hard work through recognizing their potential and certifying them so that they are able to produce crop seeds of certified class and provide for the market.

Four presentations were made focusing on research extension activities of the University,





ject and article registration as well as other office forms can be found and downloaded from the web-site.

Another addition

activities undertaken by BENEFIT-ISSD in the area, community engagement and watershed management activities before the floor was opened for discussion. Many of the farmers were happy with the progress the University has made following the discussion they had last year on the 34th annual workshop and expressed their gratitude. The overall Internet presence of the journals under the Office was also indicated and the two AJOL indexed journals: East African Journal of Sciences and Law Review have had 4000 and 800 per month download and 33 and 38 country views were recorded respectively. The Office has also improved its webpage and has added new features on the University's official website. Now, externally funded projects, articles published by researchers from the University, and pro-

tion to this year's workshop is the availability of policy briefs to participants. The policy briefs were prepared in three languages: English, Amharic and Afan Oromo. The availability of these briefs would help in reaching the local community with new research outputs, technological advancements and improved extension works.

In the last two days of the workshop, research activities funded by the University's grant were presented. A total of 57 research activities were presented with the final discussion concerning research grant, proposal review committee, research facilities and laboratories, etc. was held with the University's top management. ■

## | OFAB East Node Established

Open Forum for Agricultural Biotechnology (OFAB) is continent-wide initiative with a network of eight Chapters in Africa. The Ethiopian chapter has been hosted by the Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research (EIAR) since March 2014. OFAB provides a platform of discussions related to biotechnology and its relationship to agricultural development in Ethiopia for stakeholders from bureaus related to agriculture, research and academia, as well as the private sector. Concurrent to OFAB East Node establishment, stakeholders from East and West Hararghe Bureaus of Livestock and Fisheries, East and West Hararghe Bureaus of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Mechara Research Center, Fedis Research Center, private company (Chercher Oda Bultum Farmers' Union), region-

al higher institutions (Oda Bultum University and Dire Dawa University) and HU senior agriculture experts participated in the consultative meeting.

Biotechnology plays an important role in agriculture, medicine, industry and environment to satisfy the needs of the ever-growing human population.

The need for creating network with opinion leaders, as well as interact with policy makers and raising awareness have been emphasized. Many issues related to agricultural biotechnology application, safety regulation, biodiversity conservation, capacity for testing and research on biotechnology were forwarded by the stakeholders during the discussion session. ■



# Haramaya University Hosted the 24th National Annual Conference of Plant Protection Society of Ethiopia

The 24<sup>th</sup> National Annual Conference and Silver Jubilee of the Plant Protection Society of Ethiopia (PPSE) entitled Emerging and Re-emerging Plant Pests in Ethiopia: Status, Interventions and Future Prospects in a Changing Climate was held in March 2018 in Haramaya University (HU). The conference was organized with the aim of reviewing the 25 years endeavors and achievements in protecting Ethiopian agriculture from ravages of plant pests and indicating the way forward.

Most of the members of the Society are the fruits of the School of Plant Sciences. Prof.



Dr. Tsedeke Abate, one of the founders of PPSE urged the agricultural research and development actors to clearly quantify the monetary value of the hitherto and future achievements and suggested home-grown approach and innovation, and creation to flourish in future.

Awards and certificates were given to various organizations and individuals who have so far made immense contribution to PPSE and plant protection.

An exhibition was also arranged by the University to show the contribution it made in plant protection and agricultural production on a national level. Theses and dissertations works of graduates, the relevant research activities undertaken, journals published, the insect pests collected, and the agricultural products and technologies delivered to farmers and consumers show the University's contribution and commitment to the agricultural sector.

The conference was attended by

350 participants including honourable guests, representatives of sponsors, paper presenters, society members, HU staff and postgraduate students. ■

Chemeda Fininsa, the then President of the University, noted that the contribution of HU in protecting plants of Ethiopia has been immense through producing competent graduates in the last six decades.





# Climate SABC Aims to Bridge Gaps in Climate Smart Agriculture

Africa Center of Excellence for Climate Smart Agriculture and Biodiversity Conservation (Climate SABC) hosted by Haramaya University is aiming to train efficient agricultural and climate change experts in Africa.

The Center financed by the World Bank came to be operational in 2017 and is currently teaching 51 students drawn from Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Malawi, Tanzania and Zimbabwe in various fields of agriculture and biodiversity.

The major objective of the Center is to produce well trained manpower that can help curb and withstand the challenges the agriculture sector faces due to climate change, says Center leader Prof. Nigussie Dechasa.

Africa's agriculture is highly prone to impacts of climate change and it requires a lots of handwork and expertise knowledge to tackle the problem. In this regard, the Center would play an essential role in building the capacity of professionals working in the area, he adds.

According to Prof. Nigussie, Haramaya University has a long-standing reputation in agricultural studies. The establishment of the Center is another addition that would promote its research activities.

The Center also strives to come up with innovative and problem-solving technologies and knowledge that can create tangible impact on communities. And it would also expect to further advance educational and research programming in the fields of agriculture and biodiversity to greater heights, as to the Professor. Besides serving as a center of excellence, it would also help strengthen the people to people relations among the African nations as it fosters linkage among their different learning institutions, he notes. The Center is also collaborating with Ethiopian and other continental universities and agricultural research institutions to find solutions to pressing issues of the agricultural sector, particularly in relation to climate change.







# Haramaya University JOURNALS



## East African Journal of Sciences

Submission Address  
[aueastjs@gmail.com](mailto:aueastjs@gmail.com)



## East African Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities

Submission Address  
[ejssheditorialoffice@gmail.com](mailto:ejssheditorialoffice@gmail.com)



## East African Journal of Health and Biomedical Sciences

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Further Information

Kidesena Sebsibe, Publication Officer

Tel, +251 255 530 045

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