



Ethiopian Chamber of Commerce and Sectorial Association (ECCSA)

On

A Consolidated Report on Regional Public Private Dialogue (PPD) Forums on Commercial Forestry & Wood Processing Industries Development

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1. Background

Ethiopia has achieved strong economic growth over the past decade owing to huge public investments. In order to sustain this growth while observing issues of sustainability and climate proofing (zero net GHG emission and sound climate change adaptation), and at same time attaining middle income country status by 2025, the government has been taking various measures including the formulation and implementation of the Climate Resilient Green Economy (CRGE) Strategy. The Strategy identifies four strategic pillars to act on through 2030:

- i. Improving crop and livestock production practices for higher food security and farmer income while reducing emissions (agricultural and land use efficiency measures);
- ii. Protecting and re-establishing forests for their economic and ecosystem services, including as carbon stocks (increased GHG sequestration in forestry);
- iii. Expanding electricity generation from renewable sources of energy for domestic and regional markets; and
- iv. Leapfrogging to modern and energy-efficient technologies in transport, industry, and buildings.

In Ethiopia, the forestry sector has limited contribution to the national economy (only about 4% of the GDP). Weak participation of the private sector in terms of investment is one of the key reasons for failure to harness adequately the potentials existent in forest and related products. As a result, the country continued spending millions of dollars for the importation of various wood and related products to meet the growing demands.

The Ethiopian Chamber of Commerce and Sectorial Association (ECCSA) organized a federal level Public-Private Dialogue (PPD) forum on April 2017 in Addis Ababa, which was based on the study findings of the Ethiopian Forest sector review commissioned by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MEFCC) – currently reestablished as “Environment, Forest and Climate Change Commission (EFCCC) with financial support from the WB. The PPD deliberated on key challenges categorized under seven major issues that were considered as barriers to commercial forest investment in the country (issues related to policy and regulatory environment, lack of access to suitable land, lack of access to finance, absence of PPP framework, inadequate education, research and development support, absence of sectoral associations of forest sector actors and low productivity and under developed market). At the end of the PPD consensus was reached among participant’s clearly defining ways to resolve the challenges and by assigning responsibilities to relevant government sector offices and institutions, including the private sector to expedite agreed actions in order to overcome the barriers. To this end, a National Working Group (ad-hoc committee with representation from all

sides) was formed to follow up and steer implementation of actions agreed at the PPD; the host for the Committee being the then MEFCC now EFCCC.

However, in the following years, it was found out that the effort of steering the initiative from national level needs to be complemented with more actions and dialogues at regional levels to attain the desired goal intended to be achieved at the end. This is because most forest investments are regional by nature, and decisions to avail land for investments are done by the respective regions.

Recognizing this need, it was decided by ECCSA and the World Bank Group to organize and hold initial level Private-Public Dialogue in four regions i.e. SNNPRS, Amhara, Oromia and Tigray to overcome the challenges and lift barriers to commercial forestry and wood processing industries related investments. Accordingly, quick assessment studies were conducted in the four regions as supplementary to the original forest sector review done at national level covering: a brief analysis of the overall situation of forestry in the respective regions with a particular emphasis to forest cover and its potential, status of wood-based industries and on each region's legal regimes. The Quick assessment studies assisted to further pin down major barriers to commercial forestry and wood industries development and finally suggesting recommendations on how to tackle the challenges faced in the sector.

Subsequent to the assessments, Public- Private Dialogue (PPD) forums on commercial forestry and wood processing industries development were undertaken in all of the four regions. The specific dates of the PPDs were on May 7, 2019 in Tigray, on May 10, 2019 in Amhara, on May 24, 2019 in SNNPR and on August 8, 2019 in Oromia. Each of the PPD events were attended by participants drawn from government (including higher regional government officials and pertinent sector representatives), the private sector, the academia, development partner institutions, and the media. In each forum, the main barriers and challenges to commercial forestry and wood processing industry development prevalent in each region were deliberated on and finally, recommended measures were identified and agreed up on to alleviate barriers/challenges.

At the start of each of the PPD forum, findings of the quick assessment on the challenges and corresponding recommended measures on commercial forestry and wood processing industries development for each region were presented and then participants gave their reflection on the findings and recommended actions. Finally, a technical working group was established in each forum (for each region) to follow up the implementation of agreements reached. The following sections of this report, therefore, provide more detailed information on major issues discussed in the PPDs, categorized as common issues across regions and unique ones to each region.

2. Common issues raised during the PPD events

2.1. Issues related to Policy and Regulatory Environment

- The dominant view towards forest management objectives in Ethiopia including regional government’s policy direction on forestry being skewed towards conservation and protection than utilization;
- Regional governments reluctance to enact their respective forest proclamations, subsidiary regulations and directives opting merely to operate on the basis of the federal Forest Development, Conservation & Utilization proclamation No. 1065/2018; as the Federal law is a general one and not refelecting conditions/problems existing in the regions, is beleived to have contributed to the inefficiency of government’s enforcement agencies’ to effectively exercise/discharge their respective roles/mandates, resulting in a semi or wholly unregulated forest utilization conditions across these regions;
- Lack of cross-sectorial coordination among government agencies prevent the private sector to have access to a one-stop shop service, thereby rendering to costly and cumbersome service provision for effectively engaging in commercial forestry.

2.1.2 Lack of Access to suitable land for Commercial Forest Development

- The absence of land identified and demarcated for commercial forestry; despite generous incentives to private forest investments has limited the private sector investment in the sector considerably resulting in only few such engagements to date by government owned enterprises and private entities (i.e. one in Amhara region, four small scale investors in SNNPRS, and one in Oromia region) in commercial plantation;
- Lack of awareness and absence of clearly defined property right related to land in forest areas have been a disincentive for private investments in the sector and often being a cause for land tenure conflict with local communities where investment attempts were made.

2.1.3 Lack of Access to Finance and support grants

- Access to long-term finance was identified as the most acute constraints for private sector operations across all regions, the reasons for this being:
 1. The inclination of both government as well as private financial institutions towards short maturing loans with high interest rates;
 2. Commercial forestry being considered as high-risk venture due to the long gestation period of forests, as well as market, environmental and social factors including land tenure conflicts;
 3. Due to preferences accorded to few selected government development projects than forest sector investments by the Development Bank of Ethiopia (DBE) and the Commercial Bank of Ethiopia (CBE) for loans and advances;

4. Generally, the high collateral requirement of private banks for any long-term loan.
- Prevalence of these factors has contributed to the lesser engagement of the private sector in commercial forestry investments, both in plantation development as well as wood-processing.

2.1.4 Inadequate Education, Research and Development support

- The current education system not well-streamlined enough to produce efficient, qualified professionals that could work in rural areas in the government's extension programs;
- Absence of universities and TVET institutions that provide specialized and tailor-made education and courses suiting the forestry and wood processing industries' needs;
- Capacity gaps of forest research institutes to extend education, research and development support as well as to produce adequate research outputs;
- Lack of skilled personnel in some disciplines such as wood technology, forest genetics, and laboratory technicians for modern and high-tech equipment operations;
- Weak coordination and collaboration among research institutions;
- Poorly equipped forest research system which lacks modern facilities;
- Unsustainable forest sector higher education, research and management structure that induced lack of trained forest extension workers at woreda and kebele levels;
- Frequent institutional restructuring and inadequate service provision for efficient forest management planning.

2.1.5 Absence of public – private partnership policy framework to harness potential in commercial forestry development

- Absence of well-articulated Public Private Partnership (PPP) system for forestry;
- Lack of legislative instrument to create awareness about the concept;
- Weak capacity of the private sector to conduct economic and financial analysis;
- The structure and business culture of both government and private sectors not being robust enough resulting in poor contract management and lack of confidence to pursue and promote PPPs in commercial forestry;
- Absence of PPP system being a loss of opportunity to empower local private sector to tap into its knowledge, skills, expertise, resources, and technology transfer from outside sources, thus hampering commercial forestry development in the country;

2.1.6 Absence of sectorial associations representing forest sector actors

- Despite government directive issued pursuant to proclamation no. 341/2003 allowing the establishment of sectorial associations of forestry sector actors, no forest development and wood producers associations are established at regional and woreda levels to date;
- The absence of such sectorial associations resulted in the low visibility of the sector as well as lesser interest representation forcing the government to engage with individual firms than a broader platform, causing sector specific issues to be overlooked.

2.1.7 Low Productivity and under developed Market

- Wood processors are experiencing severe shortage of supplies due to mismatch between local production (supply) and demand;
- Wood processors internal capacity limitations and unavailability of wood technology forced them to supply low quality products unlike the imported ones;
- forced them to supply low quality products unlike the imported ones;
- The local market condition being discouraging for locally produced wood products; the demand is inclined towards importation of furniture, semi processed woods and other wood products costing the country heavily in foreign currency flight;
- Lack of finance for infrastructure development at forestry areas restricted movement of products from and to commercial plantation and markets.

2.2 Unique issues identified at each of the respective regions

2.2.1 Amhara Region

- Tax is imposed on imported improved forest seed while seeds for grains is exempted from tax and this is due to less attention provided to forestry sector;
- Lack of attention and failure to participate small-holder growers at regional policy discussions related to the sector;
- Free grazing practiced in forest areas due to failure of the regional government to develop appropriate land use policy and planning exercise;
- Lack of alternative energy sources for the local community, and the regional government's prohibition of movement of wood products with the aim to stop deforestation in the region, particularly affecting more local women;
- Forest products exportation practiced without any value addition in the form of logged lots, i.e. lack of value addition and or processing of forest products;

2.2.2 Southern Nation, Nationalities and Peoples Region

- Extensive use of firewood becoming a serious problem in rural areas which calls for policy makers to provide serious attention to find other means to minimize its impact;
- Inconsistency between lease provision for bamboo processing industry and bamboo forest development; i.e. the lease period provided for bamboo processing industries being 80 years while it is only 25 years for bamboo growers;
- Lack of a dedicated government body to provide extension packages for forestry development program as an incentive, and lack of forest extension activities at kebele level despite the plan by the regional government to increase the economic contribution of forest sector to 8% of regional GDP;
- The criteria set by the SNNPRS Investment Commission for granting a duty-free vehicle privilege for forest investments demands land size of 100 hectares; investors in region could not easily access such size of land at once;
- Collaboration among different public sectors, capacity building in business rules, reconciling inconsistencies in enforcement of laws needs to be considered to reach at desired end in the area of forestry development;
- The 50-hectare cap prerequisite to access loan from the Development Bank doesn't consider the practical reality existing in the region, requiring taking up the issue to the top management of the Bank for reconsideration;
- Lack of awareness of wood processing industries on the overall impact of deforestation and depletion of the natural forest, particularly impacts to the local community livelihoods; and
- The smuggling of tree logs and other forest products like charcoal in the region requiring strong controlling mechanism to be established by the regional government.

2.2.3 Tigray region

- The bid specification on public procurements not being encouraging to local wood processors as it is very broad and difficult for local manufacturers to fulfill them whilst being easy for importers of similar products;
- The micro financing institutions /MFI/ credit limit being only up to 1.5 million Birr; needs to be revised as this doesn't consider the reality on the ground i.e. current price tags of machinery and spare parts for wood product manufacturing are far more than the allowable limit by MFI;
- There are no agreed product standards and provision of skill enhancing trainings to improve production and productivity;
- Due to duty free incentive provided to hotel owners to access imported household and office furniture, local wood product manufacturing enterprises are facing stiff price competition as the former are importing with discounted price as compared to locally manufactured products;

- Locally produced raw and semi processed woods are supplied with less quality due to inaccessibility of modern processing plants;
- The tax imposed on category “C” tax payers who are engaged in round wood supply is very high;
- The fact that the region is in the process of finalizing a strategy to promote export and investment performance of both domestic and foreign investors including commercial forest development and wood processing sector, this will be a good opportunity that needs to be tapped into;
- The absence of professionals in the area of wood processing industry needs to be addressed through close cooperation between TVET institutions and the private sector so as to provide this with professionals having the desired skill and quality on wood processing technology operation;
- Well organized forest resource information system and data base management is needed to bring significant impact on the sectors development;
- The 30% advanced payment required to participate in government procurement bids being a major obstacle for private actors to partake in the bid process;

2.2.4 Oromia region

- The frequent change of government priority and subsequent restructuring resulted in weak performance of government institutions; non-transparent service provision and conflicting mandates inducing high staff turn-over, low morale of employees, discontinuation of programs and projects, displacement of documents and files resulting in loss of institutional memories;
- The restricted movement of round wood in the region limits supply of raw material to the market; mainly to wood product manufacturing industries limiting them to use their capacity and skill to the fullest, and also creating a restricted situation to access markets both for suppliers and processors;
- The unavailability of regulatory mechanism and business strategy for forest and wood processing industry promotion and development have limited the private sector engagement resulting in poor value chain development and inefficient use of forest resource in the region.

3. Resolutions

3.1 Commonly agreed issues at Oromia, Amhara, SNNP and Tigray regions’ PPDs

- Regional Governments should develop land use plans to shorten time to access suitable and ready-to-investment land for forest development and processing;
- There should be an incentive and support for small holders and pastoralists who allot part of their land for forestry to increase the resource base;

- Develop a regulation for private sector engagement in commercial forest investment within government owned productive forests through concessional arrangements;
- Regional governments should enact their own regional versions of forest laws with complementary set of regulations and directives for effective implementation in accordance with the new forest policy and the revised federal forest law;
- There should be a regular platform established to warrant vertical and horizontal harmony of policy and practices among government institutions, to ensure conducive engagement with the private sector and non- governmental organizations;
- The Development Bank of Ethiopia (DBE) needs to revise its policy and encourage the private forest investors to use the existing long-term loan provisions, also to revising its collateral requirement for feasible projects;
- Regional governments, in collaboration with DBE shall facilitate special financing scheme for large scale private or public-private commercial forest plantations, for instance, through lease financing scheme with low interest rate and long repayment period and look for other source of funds which support the sector;
- Regional governments should work in close cooperation with small-holder growers, wood-processors and other operators in the sector, addressing their challenges, from plantation to manufacturing of finished wood products stages;
- There is a need for extensive awareness creation and sensitization of regional decision makers, private and public operators in the sector and other social structures, including local community and even religious institutions on the importance of forestry development in the economy, its conservation and wise use, as well as on related policies and legislations dedicated for the sector;
- Regional governments should develop their own comprehensive PPP policy and legislative instruments to implement PPP so as to further expand existing partnership between public enterprises with their private counterparts, both domestic & foreign alike to promote joint ventures;
- Regional governments should encourage and assist the establishment of forestry sectoral associations at regional, town and woreda levels allowing the private sector to have a platform of its own to organize, streamline/align and voice its concerns;
- Regional governments and all other relevant stakeholders should support forestry sector development through applied research, improved service delivery and innovation;
- There is a need to develop a scheme where the TVETs and universities design a curriculum in consultation with the private actors of the forest industry in order to produce demand- based professionals and skill fit to the market;
- Research centers, universities, TVET and relevant government institutes needs to establish a platform where performances are evaluated, challenges are identified and way forwards are defined;

- In the short term, regional governments should provide attention to establishing and strengthening small and medium scale wood-based industries until such time that large scale commercial plantation and transport infrastructure systems are in place;
- Regional governments should provide priority to establish forest producer cooperatives; clustered smallholder producers in their respective vicinities of forest industries in the form of out-grower schemes;
- Announce government contracts for raw material and manufactured wood product supplies;
- Link growers with research centers to improve their capacity to produce quality materials and negotiate for better price, and facilitate for access to markets so as to strengthen the link between raw material suppliers and the wood product manufacturing industries;
- The government needs to mobilize the community for the development of infrastructure in forested areas;
- Regional governments should provide support to wood product manufacturers to establish industries (e.g. sawmills, chip wood, plywood factories) equipped with efficient and new technologies;

3.2 Region specific Resolutions

3.2.1 Amhara region

- The region should develop an integrated land-use plan based on available technical data on land and natural resources to address the challenges raised in relation to land use planning and management;
- The regional government should work in collaboration with relevant sector offices for a meaningful engagement of stakeholders in development of strategic framework which balances competition to land between private investors and forest growers;
- The responsible government offices should take into consideration that land use and administration laws and regulations are subject to revision when necessary;
- Expanding private commercial forest development would likely provide solution in stabilizing the increasing demands of fuel wood for domestic consumption and construction wood in the region;
- Wood sector association should be established in the region, so that they can facilitate and modernize the wood processing sector as well as support the investment of value-addition using technologies that could bring efficiency and value additions;
- The existing PPP formed between the Amhara Forest Enterprise and Chinese investors can be used as a role model to establish other PPPs in the region and other regions;

3.2.2 Southern Nation Nationalities Peoples Region

- Establishing a forest enterprise in the region is under consideration as a feasible means to promote the sustainable management and development of forest in the region;
- There is a need to identify and demarcate specific areas for forestry investments;

- The region's government officials need to understand the potential that private sector could bring in terms of ensuring sustainability in the forest sector development, i.e. more jobs through investments, technologies, additional revenues/incomes, import substitutions and the like to which the regional government need to create conducive environment so as to bring these changes.

3.2.3 Oromia Region

- It is essential for the region to adopt or develop a Rural Land Administration and Utilization law pursuant to Proclamation No. 456/2005 which recognized the maximum tenure security for farmers as their tenure rights have no time limits, and as well for private actors who are interested to engage in commercial forest development;
- The region should start implementing the land use plan and a regulatory framework its preparation to be finalized soon, which would enable to monitor the proper usage of the land according to its suitability and function;
- The region needs to implement the legal entitlement given in the Oromia Forest Proclamation no. 72/2003, Article 10 (4), which permits anyone who established own forest plantation be able to sell his/her forest product as is (in situ) or as sawn wood of desired dimension.

4. Way forward

During PPD events undertaken at regional levels as well as the debriefing session held to inform national level stakeholders on results of regional PPDs, key strategic issues discussed and agreed up involving national level actors including, the Environment, Forest and Climate Change Commission /EFCCC/; the Forest Sector Transformation Unit (FSTU-EFCCC); the Ethiopian Development Bank, the Ministry of Trade and Industry, representatives from selected private wood processing industries, the Ethiopian Chamber of Commerce and Sectorial Association (ECCSA) and the from the World Bank. A representative from FTSU-EFCCC has remarked that establishing regional level forest development funds to be operated through partial reimbursement or as a result-based incentive mechanism are vital to facilitate capacity building support when needed and for development of forest plantations and wood processing industries across regions. In this connection, The FSTU-EFCCC with financial assistance from Norway and UNDP has been preparing to launch a financing scheme called "Challenge Fund" which is expected to allow the private sector and the smaller holder growers to access this financing scheme upon successful development and submission of feasible projects/investment plans. It is believed, this financing arrangement will be the first of its kind in the country for the sector and will be good opportunity for private investors and small out growers alike who are eager to be engaged both in plantation development as well as the processing of forest products. The scheme will start operating once EFCCC top management approves it.

Accordingly, the national level debriefing meeting agreed on the following points as next steps that the National and Regional Working Groups assisted by the FSTU-EFCCC, ECCSA and its regional chapters would pursue so that agreements reached at PPDs are adequately realized:

- Consultation platforms of continuous for public-private engagement to be established and held among key actors to set common targets, discuss on strategic approaches to ensure sustained solutions and evaluate achievements which is to be led by FSTU/EFCCC;
- Form a Working Group in each region and maintain its continuous actions in following-up of progresses and achievements, and strategize the way forward;
- Attention should be given to capacity building and experience sharing among actors engaged in the development of the sector (tree growers, plantation estates, industrial processors and relevant stakeholders);
- Manage and find lasting solution to security problems and conflicts in forest planation areas, including ownership and on overall invested property safeguarding;
- Promote the development of joint ventures both in commercial planation and processing, and out-growers schemes in the sector;
- The government (EFCCC) should lead on the efforts to bring changes in the sector, particularly on the development of the sector by providing needed policy and administrative support to private and public actors engaged in forest plantation and wood processing investments;
- Develop a tool to continuously disseminate the results of PPDs to the general public and policy makers through ECCSA Information and Capacity building Directorate;
- FSTU-EFCCC to take over the initiation of the PPD activities and working more closely with the private sector actors;
- ◆ ECCSA and FSTU to develop a joint action plan to be implemented for supporting the efforts of forest sector investments by the private sector and/or through public-private initiatives.

The Ethiopian Chamber of Commerce and Sectoral Association (ECCSA) has also agreed to undertake the following activities in collaboration with FSTU;

- Provide orientation workshops for policy makers & other stakeholders about ECCSA's Federal & Regional levels Commercial Forestry and Wood Processing Development PPD efforts;
- Jointly regional chambers, establish & Strengthen 'Tree Growers and wood processing association at federal and regional levels;
- Support Technical Working Groups (TWGs) established at regional level linking them with Regional Investment Boards, in action plan preparation and capacity building;
- Prepare a comprehensive data base of wood and forest related companies;
- Assess on availability of finance for Commercial Forestry & Wood Processing from national and international sources;

- Undertake additional advocate work targeting policy makers and other pertinent stakeholders using different means (conference, workshop, etc.) related to forest industry and trade development; and
- Disseminate documents related to the regional PPDs to the wider public using website, brochure, booklet, etc.

5. Lessons Learned

The assessments and PPD forums conducted gave an important lesson that the following issues need attention in the effort to improve the private sector's engagement in the development of commercial forestry and wood processing:

- The emergence of Commercial Forestry sector in the economy would be an essential factor to catalyze the move of Ethiopia to achieve its Climate-Resilient Green Economy (CRGE) Strategy and goals;
- There are abundant resources at regional level which we are yet to tap and use sustainably, including vast forests, woodlands and trees on farms resources which can provide goods and services important to the national economy and to employment;
- If proper interventions and policy adjustments are made in commercial forestry development area, the sector has the potential to contribute to sustainable economic growth, create green jobs and help in climate change adaptation and mitigation objectives;
- There are exemplary good practices and initiatives that can be enhanced and replicated across regions. One such good initiative is the Amhara Forest Enterprise's determination to develop community owned forest in the region, pooling existing resources at hand (the land owned by the community, and the knowledge and skill of the Enterprise). The Enterprise has managed to engage with a Chinese Company through joint venture which is very important for skill and technology transfer as well as to mobilize needed capital for investment. Similar initiatives also exist (started) in Tigray and SNNPs regions, where wood processing factories (e.g. the Maichew Particle Board factory) work in collaboration with tree growers (as out-growers) establishing market linkage for small holder growers. These practices need to be further improved and upscaled to have meaning result to the economy and employment;
- The potential to expand small-scale tree plantations in all regions can be significantly improved by providing adequate incentives (technology, land, finance and tax related), creating market linkages, and introducing innovative production system to overcome quality problems and fragmented production situation.

6. Conclusion

At the end of each regional PPD, a Technical Working Group was formed, composed of government officials, professionals and members of the private sector to make continuous follow ups on the implementation of agreed recommended measures and also address prevailing challenges hindering the growth of commercial forestry and wood processing industries development in each region. Members of the regional technical working group are listed as follows:

6.1 Amhara region

1. Bureau Trade and Market Development - Chair of the committee;
2. Amhara Forest Wilde Life Management Protection Authority, committee member;
3. Bureau Industry and Investment, committee member;
4. Bureau of Agriculture, committee member;
5. Ethiopian Development Bank, committee member;
6. Bureau of Rural Land Administration and Use. committee member;
7. Bureau of Education, committee member;
8. Amhara Forest Enterprise, committee member;
9. Bahir Dar University, committee member;
10. Amhara Development Association, committee member;
11. Organization for Rehabilitation and Development in Amhara, committee member;
12. Environment and Forest Research Center, committee member and
13. Amhara Region Chamber of Commerce and Sectorial Association as Secretary of the committee

6.2 SNNPR region

1. SNNPR Bureau of Trade and Market Development,
2. SNNPR Chamber of Commerce and Sectoral Associations
3. SNNPR Investment Commission
4. SNNPR Agriculture and Natural Resource Development Bureau,
5. SNNPR Environmental Protection, Forest and Climate change Control Bureau
6. Development Bank of Ethiopia South Branch
7. Urban Development Bureau
8. Miche Furniture
9. Dama Furniture and
10. Amen Bamboo Development

6.3 Tigray region

1. Tigray Region Bureau of Trade Industry and Urban Development,
2. Tigray Region Bureau of Agriculture and Rural Development Forest Development and Utilization Directorate,

3. Tigray Region Bureau of Trade Industry and Urban Development's Investment Development and Trade Development Directorate,
4. Mikelle Environment and Forest Research Center,
5. Tigray Region Environmental Protection, Rural Land Administration and Utilization Agency,
6. Dedebit Credit and Saving Association,
7. Maichew Particle Board Manufacturing PLC and
8. Tigray Region Chamber of Commerce and Sectoral Association.

6.4 Oromia Region

1. Oromia Region Environment, Forest and Climate Change Authority,
2. Oromia Region Forest and Wildlife Enterprise /OFWE/,
3. Oromia Chamber of Commerce and Sectorial Association,
4. Tree grower from Agaro (Ato Teyib Ababulbu),
5. Wood processor from Jimma (Ato Ahmed Musse),
6. 3F Office and Household Manufacturing PLC,
7. Development Bank of Ethiopia (DBE),
8. Oromia Trade Bureau,
9. Bureau of Oromia Industry and Micro Enterprise Agency,
10. Oromia Region Bureau of Agriculture and Natural Resource,
11. Oromia Region Rural Land Administration and Use Bureau,
12. Oromia Region Investment Commission,
13. Oromia Region Cooperative Agency,
14. Oromia Forest Resource Research Center,
15. Oromia region Bureau of Technical and Vocational Education and Training