

## QUARTERLY REPORT APRIL TO JUNE 2014/SUMMARY

The Agro-business-Induced Economic Growth (Agro-BIG) Programme, Ethiopia is an Agricultural Development programme using the Value Chain Development Approach to develop selected agricultural value chains in north-western Ethiopia, more specifically in Mecha and Fogera *Woredas*. The pilot phase of the programme runs through 2013 to 2015. Overall the programme is working with a budget of 9.1 million euros.

This report covers the progress of the programme in the second quarter (April-June) of year 2014. The main body of the report explains accomplishments by programme component while the annexes provide detailed information about programme budget utilization and a follow up on the annual work plan. Below are bullet points of the major accomplishments in the quarter.

- A total of 57 (2 females) cooperative leaders drawn from Fogera (19), Mecha (11) and Bahir Dar (27) were trained in areas of cooperative management and leadership, store management, marketing and business plan preparation.
- The seed certification process has gone through the formal procedure and the harvest of the seed growers has got certified
- With the facilitation of Agro-BIG onion seed certification services to local onion seed producers provided for the first time.
- A ten days skill training which participated 24 (5 females) unemployed youth was organized on agrochemical sprayer and related services.
- In collaboration with Bahir Dar Polytechnic College, a total of 50 unemployed youth were trained in water pump maintenance and manual well drilling services (24) and irrigation canal minor maintenance service (26).
- Basic office amenities are procured and distributed to four irrigation cooperatives that have got refresher training in the first quarter.
- To share good agronomic and marketing practices specifically in input supply and management, production, post-harvest handling, value addition, cooperative management and output marketing, exchange visits have been organized in two rounds for selected cooperative leaders, local officials and experts. In Mecha 42 (2 females) and Fogera 42 (11 females) took part in the visit.
- A week long study tour to Kenya has been organized for six zonal administrators and agriculture department heads that are supposed to closely support programme implementation.
- The VCF, MGF and IDRF procedures and operational guidelines were approved by the Finnish MFA. Following the approval of the guidelines, awareness raising meetings for *Woreda* steering committees and technical committees were organized.
- Programme baseline survey data collection was done in selected sample *Kebeles* of the two target *Woredas*. All the collation, encoding and analysis of the household data completed and the report is finalized.

