

## QUARTERLY REPORT JANUARY TO MARCH 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 captures the progress of the programme for first quarter (January-March) of the second year.

It starts by summarizing the main achievements of the first quarter. Then it continues in going into more detail, component by component. In these sections the reader will also find explanations if some activities have been delayed or have not been organized at all.

The report then assesses the performance and status of the programme management. Finally, we end with an opportunities and constraints update and some recommendations for the next quarter.

The annexes provide detailed information about programme budget utilization and a follow up on the annual work plan.

This report is to be distributed to the main stakeholders of the programme as well as the donor and their relevant contacts.

Major achievements of this quarterly period include:

- Multi-stakeholder platforms have started functioning in both *Woredas* and conducted their first meetings.
- A certification process of onion seed has been initiated as planned in both programme target *Woredas*. A total of five hectares (2.5 hectares in each of the *Woredas*) has been covered .
- A training was conducted for landless youth on responsible agro-chemical spraying. The training topics covered entrepreneurship, agrochemical spraying techniques and management, sprayer maintenance, group formation and management, business plan preparation and handling customers.
- A 10-day training-for-trainers programme has been organized for producer and producer groups on potato and onion production techniques, post-harvest handling and value chain concepts and techniques.
- Field days on the topic of certified onion seed production and marketing were successfully organized in both programme target *Woredas*.
- An Amharic language version of the VCF guidelines has been issued.
- A one day familiarization workshop on the Annual work plan and budget has been organized for all relevant partners.
- The programme website has been designed and launched ([www.agrobig.et](http://www.agrobig.et)).
- The programme M&E unit has been successfully established.

- A complete Capacity Building Framework has been produced to be distributed among participating *Woredas*.