



New ADPC Project

"Glocal" Partnerships for Agribusiness Development in Ethiopia: Sub-National Diaspora Engagement Policies and Practices

The African Diaspora Policy Centre (ADPC) is very pleased to announce support from Nuffic for the provision of Tailor-Made- Training (TMT) to Ethiopian government officials. The TMT will target officials serving in the numerous Diaspora Coordinating Offices (DCOs) in different regions of the country. The direct beneficiaries of the training will be senior policymakers tasked with mobilising the Diaspora entrepreneurs in the growth and expansion of the agri-business sector of the economy. The project is jointly managed by the Diaspora Engagement Affairs Directorate of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and ADPC. The duration of the project will be from 1 June to 1 October 2015.

Ethiopia is one of the leading countries in Africa for creating enabling domestic environments for the diaspora to participate in the development of their homeland. Furthermore, Ethiopia has developed a **National Diaspora Policy** which the government has been trying to translate into programmes and practical actions in a number of critical sectors for economic growth and development in the country. In addition to that, the government has been providing all sorts of incentives to the members of the diaspora interested in participating in the development of their homeland. More importantly, the government has initiated a meaningful and reliable dialogue with the diaspora and is celebrating a Diaspora Day in August this year.

Nevertheless, when it comes to the practical engagement of the diaspora entrepreneurs at the regional level, the policy is oftentimes hampered by a lack of awareness and misperception about the potential role that diaspora can play, and what regional governments can do to support this. For instance, regional DCO staff experience a lack of communication and coordination among themselves as well as a lack of access to expertise and "best practice" examples of diaspora engagement for agribusiness development. Similarly, many of the regional DCOs have insufficiently institutionalized and contextualized the National Diaspora Policy, and that also hinders the development of appropriate interventions to support diaspora-driven agribusiness development in a sustainable manner. This problem to a lesser extent also applies to the federal DCO officials engaged in translating the diaspora policy into practical actions. In short, both regional and federal DCO staff have not yet developed coherent policy instruments for sustainable diaspora-driven agribusiness development in the country.

The long-term goal of this action is to leverage diaspora-driven agribusiness development for increased food security and agricultural transformation in different regions of the country.

¹ "Glocal" refers to entities having features or relating to factors that are both local and global (Oxford Dictionary). So in this sense it refers to an adaption of global practices in a more localised context.

The short-term goal of this action is to contribute to a more systematic and sustainable engagement between regional DCOs and prospective diaspora agribusiness entrepreneurs and professionals active in this sector of the economy.

The tailor-made training course will contribute to:

- A better understanding of the nexus between migration and development, by presenting
 the most recent insights and developments in the field. This will be tailored to the specific
 policymaking needs of the Ethiopian government officials serving in the Diaspora
 Coordinating Offices (DCOs) set up in different regions of the country, as well as the diaspora
 returnees interested in investing in agribusiness enterprises;
- A consultation platform for multi-stakeholders in the agri-business sector of the economy for best practices and 'lessons learned' about leveraging diaspora engagement for agribusiness development;
- Hands-on tools to enhance the know-how, technical capabilities and the increasing of networks and strategic partnerships among diverse stakeholders active or interested in the agri-business sector, including the international SMEs operating in the country;
- Guidance on facilitating the institutionalisation of Diaspora relations and the integration of Diaspora- driven development into a national development agenda; and,
- Methods of improving communication with the diaspora to dispel misconceptions, better coordination mechanisms and developing coherent policy instruments for sustainable diaspora-driven agribusiness development in the country.

By the end of this tailor-made training, participants will:

- Be better equipped to manage and mitigate common misperceptions about the engagement of the diaspora in the promotion of the private sector of the economy in general, and in the agribusiness in particular;
- Be able to compare and contrast their own strategies and interventions used to leverage diaspora engagement in the agribusiness sector with those from other regions of the country;
- Have access to a network of expertise and a range of best practices from across the African
 continent and beyond on, on which new interventions can be based and/or existing interventions
 can be fine-tuned; and,
- Have developed a policy 'roadmap' for how to implement and contextualize the national diaspora policy in their own regional context, specifically with regard to agribusiness.

NB. "Glocal" Partnerships for Agribusiness Development in Ethiopia: Sub-National Diaspora Engagement Policies and Practices is supported by Nuffic.



For more information about the "Glocal" Partnerships for Agribusiness Development in Ethiopia: Sub-National Diaspora Engagement Policies and Practices, see the www.diaspora-centre.org.