



Press Release

“Workshop on linkages of climate change, population dynamics and RH/FP in river basins, forest, protected and pastoralist areas of Oromia Regional State”

PHEEC in collaboration with Oromia Regional Bureau of Health and Jimma University has organized two days (November 1 -2, 2016) National Level Workshop at Capital Hotel, Addis Ababa on the linkages of climate change, population dynamics and reproductive health/family planning with focus on river basins, protected areas and pastoralist communities of Oromia Regional State. The workshop was conducted with the major objective of exploring the linkages among climate change, population dynamics, RH/FP, and development issues and recommend multi-sectoral partnership. The workshop has brought together around 100 participants drawn from different government and non-government organizations (NGOs) working on diversified sectors and universities including higher officials.

It had entertained presentations on 1) research papers and 2) best practices and experiences. The paper presentation on researches and best practices were supported by in-depth review and follow up reflection by experienced and renowned experts in the respective areas. Moreover, there were general discussions by participants, which were moderated by highly experienced individuals.



Photo 1: Ato Shiferaw Legesse (right), delivering opening remark and Dr.Efrem Tekle (left), delivering keynote address

The meeting was opened by the speech of His Excellency Dr. Shiferaw Teklemariam, Minister to MEFCC through his delegate Ato Shiferaw Legesse. In his speech, he emphasized that “promoting integrated development interventions will be inevitable to bring sustainable and equitable development through addressing the multidimensional challenges of the community and the country at large”.



Photo 2: Prof. Taye Tolemariam (left) and Dr. Hassen Yusuf (right) delivering keynote address

In addition to the opening speech, welcoming speech by Ato Negash Teklu (Executive Director of PHE-EC) and keynote addresses by four Government officials, Dr. Efreem Tekle (Director, MCH Directorate, MOH), Dr. Hassen Yusuf (Head, Environment, Forest and Climate Change Authority, Oromia Regional State) and Ato Alemayehu Hunduma representing Dr. Derje Duguma, Head, Oromia Regional Health Bureau.



Photo 3: Negash Teklu (left) delivering welcome speech and Partial View of workshop participants (right)

The event has got electronics media coverage by Ethiopian Broadcasting Corporation, Sora promotion (promoted 30 minutes of program in Addis TV) and Print media coverage by Press agency issued on Ethiopian Herald (<http://www.ethpress.gov.et/herald/index.php/news/national-news/item/6514-workshop-stresses-on-integrated-approach>), Beressa, Addis Zemen (<http://www.ethpress.gov.et/addiszemen/index.php/news/national-news/item/9756-2016-11-04-16-45-28>) and Al Aharam in Arabic language

There were fifteen papers of researches and best practices presented on the workshop.

Following the discussant reflection and general discussion on the presentations, participants breakout group discussion (four groups) on the following four points with one group dealing on one issue.

1. What are the progresses in the aspects of linking climate change, population dynamics and RH/FP in development activities so far and recommendation for future?
2. What are the progresses so far in the aspects of linking researches with development and recommendation for future?
3. What efforts were made so far to address unmet need of RH/FP and future recommendations?
4. What mechanisms can we put in place to a better collaboration among the multiple development actors towards achieving the development goals?

The group, after discussing on the above questions, had presented their result in the plenary sessions and discussion was made thereon.

Finally, the workshop was concluded by the following take away messages and agreements.

- Purposeful and demand driven research has to be initiated
- Strengthen information sharing and knowledge management on the existing best practices and experiences. The efforts made by PHEEC has to be strengthened with others collaborations and support
- There is a need to have framework for bringing the intended change: this has to be established by discussing with the responsible body, look for budget and building accountability mechanism
- Develop integrated M&E indicators into all sectors
- Initiate forum that raises fund for researches

In this regard, it was agreed to put a step forward action by establishing a sort of *ad hoc* committee that comprises Planning Commission of Oromia, Environment, Forest Climate Change Authority of Oromia, Agriculture and Natural Resource Bureau of Oromia, Health Bureau of Oromia, Pastoralist Commission of Oromia, Oromia Forest and Wildlife Enterprise, Jimma University and from government body, and PHEEC and ODA from civil society organizations. The right government body for the leadership position will be identified jointly among those proposed government members. This ad hoc committee will strive to work on sorting out mechanisms of integration primarily in Oromia and then upscale practices into other regions and national level.

Population, Health and Environment Ethiopia Consortium (PHE-EC) is a non- governmental non-for-profit organization established in 2008. The consortium was established with a vision “to see Ethiopia with a sustainable use of resources, resilient ecosystems, sustainable livelihoods, and a healthy population”. The organization has also a mission “to contribute to sustainable development in Ethiopia by promoting and enhancing the integration of population, health and environment through multi-sectoral approaches”.

Population, Health and Environment Ethiopia Consortium currently has 60 member organizations that are working in all regions of Ethiopia. Moreover, the organization is playing crucial role at the strategic and policy level through engagement in the different technical advisory committee like UN Women, CRGE facility, REDD+, Ethiopian Charities and Societies Forum (ECSF) and Consortium of consortium at national level. In addition, PHEEC is working with Population for Sustainable Development Alliance (PSDA), African PHE Network, Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PCJA), Climate Action Network (CAN) and International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) at regional and international levels.