



Clean your hands thoroughly for at least 20-40 seconds with soap and water, or an alcohol-based hand rub to protect yourself from viruses

ATA Hands Over Water Quality Test Kits, Navigational Tools and Provides Training on Test kits and Navigational Tools

New eVoucher 2.0 mobile app introduced

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One Stop Shop owners grow to establish an Import & Export company



National Digital Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services Stakeholders' Forum launched

On 1 September 2021, the first National Digital Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services Stakeholders' Forum was officially inaugurated at Adama Town in the presence of high-level federal and regional government officials, stakeholders, development partners, and other dignitaries.

The National Digital Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services Stakeholders Forum (DASSF) is established within the framework of a common goal of enhancing smallholder farmers' access to good quality and timely digital agricultural extension and advisory services, it is also expected to help the institutions support each other by minimizing duplication of resources and overlap of efforts.

The forum aims at enhancing the knowledge and information exchange between stakeholders on digital agricultural extension and creating functional coordination and networking among stakeholders engaged in generating, testing, documenting, and applying digital agricultural extension and advisory services. Moreover, it will consist of organizations who have a stake and are interested in sharing resources and knowledge in fostering digital agricultural extension advisory.

The forum will be set up at the national level mainly involving organizations that are actively operating at the federal level. However, the engagement of regional actors such as regional agriculture bureaus will also be ensured through their participation in national events, training programs and by exchange of information. The ceremony also saw members of the forum exhibiting their products and services to the participants with the aim of creating market linkages and potential partnerships.

ATA Hands Over Water Quality Test Kits, Navigational Tools and Provides Training on Test kits and Navigational Tools

On 1 July 2021, The ATA handed over 34 navigational tools and 16 water quality test kits to fifty woredas of Amhara Regional State that enclosed in Tana-Beles and Maychewy – Tarmaber and Chancho-Mehal Meda shallow Ground Water Mapping (SGWM) at Debre Tabor. The water quality test kits and navigational tools for potential shallow groundwater woredas were provided to Amhara Region Bureau of Water Irrigation and Energy Development and Amhara Region Bureau of Agriculture, respectively. The handover event was attended by Senior officials including Deputy Head of Amhara Region Bureau of Agriculture Ato Abebaw Getie, Deputy Head of Amhara Region Water Irrigation and Energy Development Bureau Ato Melese Sintayew, Yedemie Yeshalem ATA Regional Market Linkage and Strategic Services Director, Directors, and senior technical staffs of different sectors.

On the occasion, presentations about Integrated Shallow Ground Water Irrigation Development (ISGWID) project and a summary of shallow groundwater mapping status in Amhara region were given to the participants. On the presentation it was noted that the Amhara region has nearly 7.6-billion-meter cubic rechargeable groundwater at a depth of less than 30meters that can irrigate 421,737 hectares of land benefiting 843,315 smallholder households.

Moreover, the ATA also conducted several capacity building initiatives such as providing shallow groundwater Atlas maps, water quality test kits and Navigational Tools installed with hydrogeological maps. Accordingly, training on the navigational tools were given to 78 woreda experts and water quality test kits were given to 16 woredas of Amhara region.

The training related to navigational tools mainly focused on how to use tablets in field to collect, store and create the features' attributes to synchronize and verify the uploaded SGW maps on the tablets. This strongly helps the users to manage the time, resources and simplify the investigation to locate the appropriate SGW potential sites. The training on water quality test kits focused on chemical and physical water quality test and bacteriological test for water borne diseases. The water quality training is expected to establish and strength woreda laboratory working service and technical skills of water quality experts. Providing safe and quality shallow groundwater for irrigation and domestic water supply, significantly has a great role by increasing incomes of millions of smallholder farmers and develop and resilient community



New eVoucher 2.0 mobile app introduced

On 16 August 2021, The ATA, Rural Finance Service (RFS) team introduced a new eVoucher 2.0 mobile application in Oromia and Amhara region. Prior to the introduction of this application a pilot resting was conducted covering 10 regions in Oromia and 3 woredas in Amhara region. Following the completion of the application, the RFS team held a kickoff workshop and training to help prepare stakeholders acquaint themselves with the new app. The training session was attended by more than 1000 trainees from MFI/RUSACCOs and Unions and other relevant stakeholders to help them fully visualize the new application.

The new eVoucher 2.0 is an Android mobile application that will function in both connected and offline mode to collect farmers information using NFC tags so that they can be registered in the voucher program and allows them to purchase agricultural inputs with cash or credit. During the implementation of the previous version eVoucher 1.0, about 830 thousand farmers were enrolled and given access to input with cash and credit.

By the end of 2013 E.C 6.3 million smallholder farmers have used the Input Voucher Sales (IVS) system to purchase about 12.2 million quintals of fertilizers, seeds, and chemicals worth 16.96 billion Birr



Sidama region Field Day

On 27 August 2021 A Regional Maize field day was held in Hawassa Zuriya ACC Woreda, Sama Ejersa, Galo Argessa and Dore Bafana Kebeles of Sidama Region in the presence of Regional President His Excellence Ato Desta Ledamo, Regional higher officials and delegates. The field day was organized by ATA SNNP Regional Office in collaboration with the regional bureaus of agriculture and other stakeholders. The field day had almost 167 participants including high ranking regional government officials, experts, heads of ACC and non-ACC woredas BoA, development agents, Cluster Farmers, model farmers and other invited guests.

The field day created a good opportunity to enhance the understanding of stakeholders on the concepts ACC/FPC and the practical implementation of Maize farmers' production clusters (FPC), it also enabled innovation demonstration at field level and created a platform to identify major benefits and challenges observed in the FPCs as well as collected feedback from implementing cluster farmers and development workers as input for future planning, improvement, and effective implementation of FPCs.

Following the visit, a discussion session was conducted which recapped the highlights of the visit and the way forward, in which the Regional President His Excellence Ato Desta Ledamo expressed his appreciation of the work that the Regional ATA office has been doing to improve the capacity and lives of smallholder farmers. He also confirmed his government's commitment to support the implementation and development of farmers' production clusters (FPC).



ATA Staff donate blood



On 17 August 2021, the ATA staff in collaboration with the National Blood Bank Service conducted a blood donation program. The donation program was done in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture as a support to the ENDF.

Speaking at the occasion Dawit Phillipos, Senior Director of operations at the ATA said "There's no end to the benefits of donating blood for those who need it. One unit of blood can save three lives. That's why following the call from the Prime Minister we have decided to join forces with our stakeholders and answer this national call"

According to the WHO Blood is needed by women with complications during pregnancy and childbirth, children with severe anemia, often resulting from malaria or malnutrition, accident victims and surgical and cancer patients.

There is a constant need for a regular supply of blood because it can be stored only for a limited period of time before use. Regular blood donation by a sufficient number of healthy people is needed to ensure that blood will always be available whenever and wherever it is needed.

One Stop Shop owners grow to establish an Import & Export company

On 2 July 2021, Felege Ghion an Agricultural Inputs import, and export Share Company (SC) which was established by 35 Agricultural One Stop Shop (AOSS) owners in Amhara region was officially inaugurated in Bahir Dar town. The newly established company will be working to provide agricultural inputs such as seed, farm tools fertilizers and others to farmers in the region. As the demand for agricultural inputs and services is increasing from time to time, AOSSs face challenges in satisfying the increasing demand. This is mostly because importers refuse to provide inputs to AOSSs due to different reasons. To solve this challenge and satisfy the Smallholder farmers (SHF) input demand, the 35 AOSSs owners established one share company with a capital of 35 million ETB to import agricultural inputs to create accessibility as well as to export agricultural products. A similar company has been established in SNNP while another company is in the process of being established in Oromia.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by different stakeholders and invited guests from Oromia and SNNP prospective and similar AOSS owner's Board of Directors. Presentations on the regional agricultural potential and overall input demand as well as market opportunities was presented by Deputy head of Bureau Agriculture, AOSS Project Team and Share Company Board members.

Each of the newly established share companies in Amhara, Oromia and SNNP region will play a great role for the transformation of agriculture in short period of time through the development of sustainable, private sector driven and market oriented agricultural input distribution to the farmers.



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