EDRI officially welcomes new Executive Director

The new Executive Director of EDRI, H. E. Mr. Mekonnen Manyazewal meets the entire EDRI staff in an introductory session organized on 9 December, 2016.

H.E. expressed his happiness for coming to EDRI and called for a collaborative effort in moving the institute forward by building on what has so far been achieved.

Dr. Gebrehiwot Ageba stressed that Mr. Mekonnen’s familiarity with EDRI in his previous engagement in the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) will help his activities in his appointment as the Executive Director.

H.E. Mr. Mekonnen Manyazewal’s appointment became effective as of November 10, 2016.

EDRI and JICA launch Phase III Policy Dialogue

The Ethiopian Development Research Institute and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Ethiopia Office, held their first High Level Forum of the Phase III Policy Dialogue on Industrial Development at the Sheraton on the 2nd of February 2017.

In an endeavor to draw lesson for Ethiopia, the high level forum discussed issues of income inequality, polarization and youth unemployment based on East Asian counties’ experiences during their early stages of industrialization. The contribution of Japan for GTP II has also been presented jointly by Prof. Izumi Ohno, National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS) and Mr. Keiji Katai, Senior Deputy Director, Private Sector Development Group, JICA.

The third phase Policy Dialogue is a continuation of Phase II, which was successfully concluded in July 2016. The nine forums under phase II provided insightful deliberations on export promotion; foreign direct investment (FDI) promotion; strategic FDI promotion focusing on technology transfer; the role of handholding program for local enterprise capacity building; and GTP II Vision and Targets for the Industrial Development Competitiveness Chapter with reference to the experiences of Asia.

EDRI moves up the Top Think Tanks in Sub-Saharan Africa Index

The Global Go To Think Tank Index Report has ranked EDRI 10th among 95 Top Think Tanks in Sub-Saharan Africa. This category is dedicated to excellence in research, analysis and public engagement on a wide range of policy issues aimed at advancing debate, facilitating cooperation, maintaining public support and funding, and improving the overall quality of life. This year’s ranking has moved EDRI five ranks up compared to the 2014 ranking which placed it 15th.

The index is an initiative of the Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program (TTSCP) of the University of Pennsylvania whose goal is to increase the profile performance of think tanks and raise public awareness on the role of think tanks in governments and civil societies around the globe.

The report has also ranked EDRI 18th among 75 Best Government Affiliated Think Tanks worldwide which are recognized for outstanding policy research.

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Joint Seminar held between MoANR, EDRI & JICA

A policy seminar was held on Agriculture and Rural Development to transform the rural economy of Ethiopia. The seminar was jointly organized by the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resource (MoANR), Ethiopian Development Research Institute (EDRI) and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). This half day seminar was organized on March 20, 2017 at the Conference Hall of the MoANR under the theme “Market Oriented Smallholder Farming”. More than 35 participants that were represented from various institutions took part in this important seminar.

In the occasion, brief opening remarks were delivered by H.E. Dr. Iyasu Abraha, Minister, Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resource and H. E. Shinichi Saida, Ambassador of Japan in Ethiopia. Both speakers emphasized on the importance of producing market oriented and high value crops to improve the livelihood of smallholder farmers in Ethiopia.

In line with this, different presentations were delivered by scholars.

Finally, Dr. Gebrehiwot Ageba, the Director of Programmes at EDRI, gave a closing remark on the issues deliberated by participants during the seminar.

EDRI presents key findings from STIP

EDRI in collaboration with the Agence Française de Développement organized a workshop on Ethiopia’s Structural Transformation and Industrial Policy at the Hilton Hotel Addis Ababa on 18 January 2017.

Key findings and recommendations from policy research on export incentive effectiveness, manufacturing competitiveness and governance of industrial policy have been presented.

The seminar started with opening remarks from H.E. Mr. Mekonnen Manyazewal, with the Rank of Minister, Executive Director of EDRI and Mr. Ignace Monkam Daverat, Regional Director, AFD.

The first study, presented by Dr. Mulu Gebre-eyesus from EDRI, “Export Incentives Effectiveness in the Ethiopian Manufacturing Sector,” found that though Ethiopian manufacturing relative wages are too small to compete against comparators in Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa, the sector’s poor relative productivity levels have eroded those perceived advantages. Moreover, the main challenges to competitiveness in the global market are inefficiency in public service delivery, limited capacity within the sector, and shortage of supply of quality raw materials and skilled labor. Within the domestic market, unsophisticated consumer demand, malpractices within the sector and unfair competition are found to be the significant challenges identified.

Following up on studies that optimized the competitiveness of the Ethiopian manufacturing sector, the second STIP research on “The competitiveness of the Ethiopian Manufacturing Sector,” presented by Dr. Tigabu Degu, reveals poor performance in export revenue and diversification. Using qualitative analysis, the study further reveals the reasons for this including inefficient public service and limited capacity of the sector and despite available young and easily trainable workforce and abundant fertile land, the sector suffers from shortage of skilled labor and that of supply in quality raw materials. The study recommends strengthening the industry-university linkage and the law enforcement capacity of the government.

Finally, Dr. Girum Abebe and Ashagrie Demile presented a study titled “Industrial Policy Network and Bureaucratic Capacity of Key Public Institutions in Ethiopia” that examines the industrial policy network and the implementing capacity of the institutes within it. The study uncovers that public sectors, despite the positive self-image of their bureaucrats, are characterized by provision of mediocre services due to the lack of capacity and motivation of the mid-level bureaucrats that occupy offices. Therefore, the study suggests that maintaining the complementarity of the institutional objectives of the various public institutions along the policy network and building their implementation capacity be given as much emphasis as designing the robust national plans.

The seminar was attended by high level policy makers, government bureaucrats, and key experts from think tanks, the academia and the private sector, such as industry associations.
Policy dialogue EDRI & OCP

The Ethiopian Development Research Institute and OCP Policy Center co-organized the first edition of the Strategic Dialogue on “Growth Strategies and Industrial Policies: Towards Structural Transformation in Africa” at the Sheraton Addis Hotel, 8-9 February 2017. The seminar centered around topics concerning growth strategies in Africa involving prominent experts from think tanks, academia as well as policy makers.

The first panel titled “Building Competitiveness and Financing Economic Transformation in Developing Countries” brought together experts from both countries to deliberate on issues related to the manufacturing sector as the main driver of growth in Africa.

Structural transformation of low income developing countries and the anticipated role of multidimensional South-South cooperation has also been discussed. In this panel the former chief Economic Advisor to the Prime Minister of Ethiopia, Mr. Neway Gebre-ab and the Managing Director of the OCP Policy Center, Mr. Karim El Aynaoui participated bringing in perspectives from the two countries.

In an in-focus session, “Doing business in Ethiopia”, Mr. Elias Geneti, President of the Addis Ababa Chamber of Commerce described the realities of the business environment in Ethiopia while Mr. Teka Gebreyesus, Deputy Commissioner of the Ethiopian Investment Commission briefed enabling systems and incentives put in place by the government of Ethiopia to make the business environment as attractive and conducive to private investors.

The need for structural change for sustainable growth has also been one of the topics on the agenda. Mr. Yohannes Ayalew, Vice Governor and Chief Economist, National Bank of Ethiopia discussed how public infrastructure could aid growth from the perspectives of Africa, Latin America and East Asian countries.

Experts from the two countries also discussed the possibility of integrating African countries into regional and global value chains through the agricultural sector. In this session, it has been said that in light of the fact that agriculture lies at the center of their economies, development strategies of African countries should focus on trade linkages amongst themselves. The agricultural performances of the two countries have been presented by researchers.

The seminar also featured success stories from the Moroccan private sector with a business model that promotes knowledge and technology transfers, a model that can be copied by other countries in Africa.

On the final panel, perspectives from the business sector and research have been discussed in light of why Africa occupies the bottom place in the global value chain.

It has been indicated that the next edition of this economic policy dialogue between experts, policy makers and business people in Ethiopia and Morocco will take place in Morocco.

The collaboration between EDRI and OCP Policy Center provides concrete evidences which serve as the bases for the dialogue on issues of growth in Africa.

Seminar Papers presented at EDRI

‘Pathways Less Explored - Locus of Control and Technology Adoption’ on 24 March 2017, by Dr. Alemayehu Seyum and Fanaye Tadesse

‘Sensitivity of Hydro-power Generation to Uncertain Water Resource Availability Due to Future Climate Change - The Case of Ecuador on 17 March 2017 by Pablo Carvaja

‘The Rapid – But from a Low Base – Update of Agricultural Mechanization in Ethiopia: Patterns, Implications and Challenges on 17 February 2017 by Dr. Bart Minten, Guesh Berehanu, Mekidim Dereje and Sinishaw Tamiru

‘Job Referral and Strategic Network Formation: Expermintal Evidence from Urban Neighbourhoods in Ethiopia’ on 20 January 2017, by Marc Witte

Publications

Subjective Wellbeing and Institutions: The Case of Rural Ethiopia
Tsegay Gebrekidan Tekleselassie, EDRI

Research Report 28

Do Water Users Associations (WUAs) in Ethiopia have the capacity to sustain the use of irrigation schemes? Evidences from Central and Southern Ethiopia
Mekonnen Bekele Wakeya, EDRI

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Training on Executive Project Management

The Ethiopian Development Research Institute (EDRI) organized its 5th round training on “Executive Project Management (EPM)” from April 18-21, 2017 at Ghion Hotel in the capital. The training was delivered for 46 top management staffs that came from various public enterprises.

The training was organized with the purpose of enhancing the project designing, planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation capacities of these participants. The training was delivered by a Senior Professor who came from the University of South Africa. In the occasion, Dr. Gebrehiwot Ageba, Director of Programmes at the EDRI warmly welcomed participants and gave brief opening remarks regarding the importance of this event.

Finally, participants reflected the idea that the training was found to be extremely important and helpful to manage their projects in more effective and efficient manner.

In a similar development, EDRI also organized 5 days training at Hawassa University, Hawassa from April 24-28, 2017 for participants drawn from various Regional Government Bureaus that are running different development projects. The training basically focused on project designing, planning, implementation and monitoring and evaluation aspects. The feedback obtained from the trainees has indicated that the training was practical, interactive and gap filling.

Featured Publications

Martin Duhvenberg, Gunnar Köhlin, Peter Martinsson, Haileseassie Medhin
Thanks but no thanks: A new policy to reduce land conflict, Journal of Environmental Economics and Management, Volume 77, Pages 1-142 (May 2016)


Michiko Iizuka and Mulu Gebreeyesus. Using Functions of Innovation Systems to Understand the Successful Emergence of Non-traditional Agricultural Export Industries in Developing Countries; Cases from Ethiopia and Chile, The European Journal of Development Research


EDRI’s Participation in International Conference

Dr. Tagel Gebrehiwot participated in the ‘Food Security and Sustainability’ Conference held on March 29-30, 2017 in Paris.


Dr. Dawit Wubeshet participated in the Ecosystem Services Accounting for Development Research Project Workshop Group Meeting held on March 26–30, 2017 in Kenya.

Dr. Berihu Assefa and Dr. Alebel Bayru took part in the World Bank’s 18th annual conference on Land and Poverty held on March 20 – 24, 2017 in Washington.

Dr. Mulu Gebreseyes participated in the conference on ‘Youth Economic Vulnerability, Inequalities, Exclusion and Violence in Africa’ held on March 1-3, 2017 in Nairobi.

Dr. Alemu Bezabeh, Dr. Haileslassie Ameha and Dr. Mintiwab Bezabeh took part in the workshop on ‘Adaptation to Increase Resilience to Climate in Ethiopia Agriculture; Empowering farmers to Adopt the Right Water Management Technologies for their Firms’ on February 7–15, 2017 in Gutenburg.


Dr. Tigabu Degu participated and briefed about the status of PARI in a Meeting held on December 7-10 in Kenya.

Dr. Seid Hassen participated in ‘Energy, Climate Change and Environment’ conference held on December 11-14 in California.

Dr. Dawit Wubeshet, Dr. Hailemariam Teklewold and Dr. Haileslassie Ameha participated and Dr. Zenebe Gebregziabher presented paper in the EID’s annual conference on December 7-15 in Chile.

Dr. Abebe Damtew participated in ‘Renewal and Matchmaking of the Energy and Economic Growth’ conference held on December 3-4 in America.

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