

PATSPO Newsletter



The MTR team while reviewing PATSPPO activities in Amhara Region

Mid-term review team concludes PATSPPO is on track to deliver its outputs

The mid-term review team that reviewed the PATSPPO project in January 2020 found that the PATSPPO Project is on track to deliver its outputs leading to meeting the main objectives. "It (PATSPPO) is highly relevant to Ethiopia's tree planting and forestry initiatives and has been effective in the delivery of most of its outputs. To date the project has been delivered efficiently and the potential for impact is considerable. Stakeholder engagement has been good, and all of the stakeholders interviewed, were enthusiastic and supportive of the project," the team concluded in its final report.

PATSPPO has been awarded no-cost-extension



PATSPPO has been awarded a one year no-cost-extension to continue working until December 31st, 2021. The extension has been awarded with a view to spend allocated project funds and ensure that the remaining planned activities will be carried out. PATSPPO was a four-year project that was to be implemented from 2017 to 2020. Since the project has achieved a lot in the past four years, government partners have shown interest to continue working in partnership with PATSPPO.

PATSPPO establishes 12 new BSOs



A *Hagenia abyssinica* BSO established in Oromia

PATSPPO established 12 new Breeding Seedling Orchards (BSOs) in Amhara and Oromia Regions in 2020.

In Amhara Region six new Breeding Seedling Orchards (BSOs) were established in July and August 2020 including *Pinus patula*, *Albizia gummifera*, *Afrocarpus falcatus*, *Eucalyptus grandis*, *Acacia decurrens*, and *Moringa stenopetala*. PATSPPO worked in close partnership with Amhara Forest Enterprise to establish the six new BSOs.

Similarly, PATSPPO worked with Oromia Forest Enterprise, to establish six BSOs in Oromia. The tree species planted, to be used as future quality seed sources, were *Hagenia abyssinica*, *Eucalyptus globulus*, *Moringa stenopetala*, *Eucalyptus grandis*, *Cupressus lusitanica*, and *Juniperus procera*. The BSOs have been fenced and guarded, and the seedlings are being watered and weeded regularly to ensure a high survival rate.

Farmer seed collectors trained in four regions

Five hundred twenty-three farmers received training on tree seed collection and handling to improve quality of seeds collected in Ethiopia. The seed collectors, 395 men and 128 women, were trained in 2019 and early 2020 in four regions of Ethiopia: Oromia, South, Amhara and Tigray regions. The theoretical session of the training was accompanied by a practical session of collecting seeds, identifying mother trees and determining when the seeds are mature.

The farmers appreciated the quality of the training materials prepared and published by PATSPO. They said the contents are very informative, relevant and have lots of pictures, which helped them to understand what is written more easily. The participants have been motivated to construct temporary stores for the seed they collect. It is sure that the training would help to increase the quality of tree seed collected by the farmer groups and supplied to seed dealers and regional tree seed centres.



Farmers being trained in tree seed collection in Oromia

AFE Director General appreciates working with PATSPO



Director General of the Amhara Forest Enterprise, Biadgign Shiferaw

Director General of the Amhara Forest Enterprise, Biadgign Shiferaw, said PATSPO is a project that has made a tangible difference for the enterprise. PATSPO has so far established 12 Breeding Seed Orchards (BSOs) in Amhara Region. Regarding BSOs, the Director General said, 'Forest development is a long-term investment. One has to be farsighted enough to establish quality tree seed sources today to get good tree seeds in the future. What PATSPO has been doing in this regard is commendable as it supports the sustainability of the enterprise.' The Director General appreciated PATSPO's effort to build the capacity of the staff of the enterprise through training. PATSPO has provided different types of equipment to the only tree seed laboratory in the region, which is part of AFE's regional tree seed centre and trained the staff. 'The change PATSPO has brought to our enterprise is visible and we appreciate working with the project,' Biadgign added.

PATSPO's support increases efficiency of the AFE tree seed laboratory

PATSPO's equipment and training support to the Amhara Forest Enterprise (AFE) tree laboratory in Bahir Dar has greatly increased the efficiency of the laboratory. PATSPO has supported the AFE tree seed laboratory, which is the only tree seed laboratory in Amhara Region, with items such as petri-dishes, weighing dishes, blades, tweezers, glass boxes as well as bigger equipment such as light magnifying lenses, a seed grinder, a moisture meter and a germination cabinet.

'Tree seeds need to be grounded to measure their moisture contents. We used to grind seeds with mortar and pestle, but thanks to PATSPO, we have now a grinder that grinds seeds,' says Alamrew Workie, a laboratory technician working in the AFE tree seed laboratory. Alamrew further said, 'Previously, it used to take us seventeen hours to measure moisture content of seeds using a drying oven. If there was power interruption, we needed to record the time and wait until the grounded seed has stayed in the oven for seventeen hours. In some cases, it took three days to measure the moisture contents of seed. After PATSPO provided to our laboratory a moisture meter, we have been able measure the moisture content of seeds in just five minutes.'

PATSPO has also supported the repair and maintenance of the cold store room at AFE during the last 3 years.



The AFE tree seed laboratory in Bahir Dar