

PATSCO Newsletter



Marching to plant trees at one of the BSOs at Antsewe on a misty day.

PATSCO establishes more BSOs

PATSCO established 2 new Breeding Seed Orchards (BSOs) and 4 Seedling Seed Orchards (SSOs) in July 2021. Two of the BSOs established at Antsewe planting site, near Shashemene, Oromia Region are of *Pinus patula* and *Afrocarpus falcatus*. One SSO of *Olea europea* was established at the same site.

Two other SSOs were established in Amhara Region in July 2021. One is of *Faidherbia albida* in Rib area, South Gondar Zone, and the other is of *Olea europea* in Yeraba area near Debre Markos. One more *Juniperus procera* SSO was established in Awada planting site, near Yirgalem town, Sidama Region. PATSCO also plans to establish a BSO of *Acacia decurrens* at Antsewe this year.

In collaboration with its major stakeholders, PATSCO has so far established 29 BSOs and SSOs of priority tree species in 4 regions of Ethiopia, which would serve as sources of quality tree seeds in the future.

CEEFRRC appreciates PATSCO's support



Director of CEEFRRC, Dr. Mehari Alebachew

Director of the Central Ethiopia Environment and Forest Research Center (CEEFRRC) in Addis Ababa, Dr. Mehari Alebachew, appreciated PATSCO's support to the research center.

'After the PATSCO project was launched, we have been more actively working in the tree seed sector. Our seed laboratory now has a very high standard. This is because PATSCO has supported us by purchasing and providing the necessary equipment and by training our staff.'

According to the Director, PATSCO has also maintained the cold store, where tree seeds are stored. PATSCO has further supported the center to establish a *Pinus patula* BSO, Dr. Mehari noted.

He further said, 'In addition, PATSCO has constructed us a wider space for seed drying, extraction, and storage at the center in Addis Ababa. This helped us to optimize the quality of seeds from when they are collected to when they are stored in cold store. And it enabled us to dry them retaining the right amount of moisture.'

Farmers call PATSPO's activities commendable

Farmers living in Dembecha and Debre Markos areas of Amhara Region find the PATSPO support very useful. Alamirew Kumlachew said that he is happy with the BSOs established in his area by PATSPO, 'The trees are planted here to be seed sources from where we easily can collect high quality tree seeds to be used in nurseries here and elsewhere. The project is very useful, because it plants trees that are new to us, and it has also created job opportunities to unemployed youth.'

Bewket Shiferaw, who has participated in a farmers' seed collection and handling training organized by PATSPO, said, 'The training was good and useful. Before the training, when we collected seeds, we did not care much about the seed quality. We just aim to fill sacks. Previously, I collected seeds from crooked trees as long as I found seeds on them. Now, I only collect from high quality trees.'

Mognhod Melesse, a woman farmer seed collector, who lives on the outskirts of Debre Markos said, 'We have received a training on seed collection. The training was useful to us. We used to collect seeds from whatever trees we could get seed from. But after we took the training, we collect from the right trees that are not too old or too young. We keep the collected seeds where there is no moisture. Based on the training, we keep the seed on raised timber or on piles of stones, so that it does not have contact with dust and soil.'



↑ Alamirew Kumlachew, right, and Bewket Shiferaw, middle.

PATSPO supports Gullele Botanical Garden



↑ Partial view of the newly established nursery

Gullele Botanical Garden expanded its nursery and raised over 60,000 seedlings of various indigenous plant species as part of a one-year project, 2020–2021, supported by the PATSPO project.

The project had two parts. During the first part of the PATSPO-supported project, the Garden raised seedlings of 26 indigenous plant species and expanded its nursery by 2 hectares, while in the second part it collected 14 endemic plant species from different parts of Ethiopia that are in the 'threatened' category of the Red List of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and planted them in the Garden.

Regarding the seedlings raised by the project, coordinator of the project on ICRAF's side, Prof. Sebsebe Demissew, who also came up with the project proposal said, 'We wanted to introduce native plants to our people, especially to children who have never seen most of these before. We wanted to promote such species because we wanted the people to appreciate them and to plant them in the future.'

PATSPO starts distributing its publications

PATSPO has started distributing a large number of its publications to its major stakeholders in Addis Ababa. Some of the stakeholders such as Ethiopian Environment and Forest Research Institute and Oromia Wildlife and Forest Enterprise have several branch offices across the country. Preparations have been made to distribute the publications to more stakeholders working in Oromia, Amhara and Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples States. The stakeholders have thanked PATSPO for distributing the hard copies of the publications. PATSPO has made available the soft copies of more than 100 easily downloadable publications, posters and guidelines on the PATSPO website:

<https://www.worldagroforestry.org/project/provision-adequate-tree-seed-portfolio-ethiopia>.



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