

# PATSPO Newsletter



## PATSPPO Develops Its Communication Strategy

PATSPPO finalized developing its communication strategy in February 2021. The strategy was designed with a view to secure the commitment and support of major stakeholders through information and communication, to raise awareness on PATSPPO activities among stakeholders and other user groups and encourage participation among researchers or partners.

The strategy prioritizes stakeholders in order to communicate well with the project's key stakeholders. It is believed that the strategy would help guide future communication activities of PATSPPO and ensure the project's effectiveness. The strategy is available on PATSPPO website and can easily be downloaded.

## Farmers Trained on Seed Collection and Handling



↑ Farmers being trained in a plantation forest in SNNPR.

Four hundred eighty-six farmers were given a seed collection and handling training in 10 districts of Oromia, 5 districts of Amhara, and in 3 districts of SNNPR Regions of Ethiopia. Out of the total participants 136 were women; and five of them were staff members of Amhara Forest Enterprise. The training capacitated the farmers on how to select mother trees, how to collect tree seeds and how to handle the collected seeds among others.

## Outreach Training Given to PATSPPO Stakeholders



↑ Participants of the training

A training workshop on Awareness, Extension and Public Relations, known shortly as 'outreach', was organized by the PATSPPO project in collaboration with Unity University.

The workshop was aimed at helping participants carry out successful outreach by producing material on tree-seed extension and public relations as well as learn the principles of communication and areas of concern in communication for social change. It integrated theoretical and practical sessions with group discussions and exercises. During the practical sessions, the participants produced public-relation material, seed leaflets, posters and media spots. Fifteen participants drawn from four tree-seed centers, the Amhara and Oromia Forest Enterprises, the ECCC and EEFRI participated in the week-long training held 8–14 March 2021.

One of the participants, Lemma Kitila, who is head of the Dima Tree Seed Center, said, 'The training was very interesting from the beginning till the end. It was very applicable for communication is useful in our daily activities.'



## PATSPO Produces Various Outputs

Since it went operational in May 2017, the PATSPO project has produced over 45 outputs including planning and technical publications such as annual plans, training reports, publications with technical information, posters etc. The outputs were prepared in English, and Amharic. So far one technical publication, *Guidelines to Establishment of BSOs*, has been translated into Oromiffa language. PATSPO plans to translate more of the publications, particularly those with less perishable contents, in Amharic and Oromiffa.

Most of the outputs have been printed, but almost all of them are available online in the output page of PATSPO website:

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

PATSPO plans to distribute the hardcopies of the printed outputs to its key stakeholders soon.



Some of PATSPO publications

## Exceptional Performance Observed at the Bishan Gari BSO



The *Moringa stenopetala* trees at Bishan Gari BSO



The survival rate of trees planted at Breeding Seedling Orchards (BSOs) established in 2020 was generally very satisfactory. But the performance of *Moringa stenopetala* at the Bishan Gari BSO, established near Lake Langano, in Sembero Rogicha Kebele in Heben Arsi District is exceptional.

According to the PATSPO Oromia Region Coordinator, Tiglu Seboka, when the *Moringa stenopetala* trees were planted in late September 2020, their average height was about 30 cm. In just six months, the trees have grown to an average height of 1 meter. To the surprise of the PATSPO technical staff, some of the trees have even grown over two meters. The survival rate of the moringa trees planted on 1.3 hectare of land is 98 percent.

"The way the trees have grown in just six months is far beyond our expectation," Tiglu said, "I think the trees have grown fast owing to two reasons; first, the agroecological zone must have been very suitable to the species, and second, the BSO management activities such as watering, weeding, hoeing, as well as fencing and guarding have been done effectively. I have divided the rows among the ten workers. And there has been competition among them. They work hard and take very good care of the trees as the vegetables in their backyards."