

PATSCO Newsletter



Major stakeholders physically attending the hybrid consultation workshop in Addis Ababa.

Stakeholders agree on the need for a second phase of the PATSCO project

Participants from the Government of Ethiopia, the Royal Norwegian Embassy and CIFOR/ICRAF, who attended a hybrid stakeholders consultation workshop PATSCO facilitated on 19 August 2021, all agreed on the need for a second phase of the PATSCO project. The workshop was organized to discuss lessons learned from first phase of the project as well as the justification for a second phase of the project.

Director of the Forest Development Directorate, at Environment Forest and Climate Change commission, Bitew Shibabaw, said, 'We have observed that PATSCO is highly relevant to Ethiopia's tree planting and forestry initiatives, and it has been effective in the delivery of most of its outputs, and the potential for impact is considerable.' He underlined the need for long-term financial and technical support to develop the tree seed sector in Ethiopia. And he expressed the Ethiopian Government's interest to further collaborate during the implementation of the second phase of the project (PATSCO II).

After the workshop, an additional three-month no cost extension was granted to PATSCO I, which will then end by March 31st, 2022. PATSCO has been implemented in Ethiopia since April 2017.

A National Tree Seed Network website launched



The home page of the website.

A national tree seed network website, which was jointly created and built by the Environment, Forest and Climate Change Commission (EFCCC) and the Ethiopian Environment and Forest Research Institute with financial support from PATSCO was launched at a workshop held in Bishoftu on 4 October 2021

in the presence of Deputy Commissioner of EFCCC, Kebede Yimam and various actors of the tree seed sector.

The web-based system was launched to facilitate tree seed supply and use in Ethiopia. The system provides information about seed suppliers and consumers, as well as about available tree seeds and their suitable planting zones and the quality of seeds from laboratory tests. Seed suppliers and seed centres can register the name of the tree species and the amount of the seeds they have in stock. Consumers can see the registered seeds and order the amounts of seeds they want. The web-based platform also calculates the amount of sold and available seeds and generates reports monthly and annually. The system brings together the different actors in the seed sector, shortens the seed consumption chain and enhances data management.

At the launching workshop, Deputy Commissioner Kebede Yimam said, 'The networking website is important in making the seed sector effective and modern.'

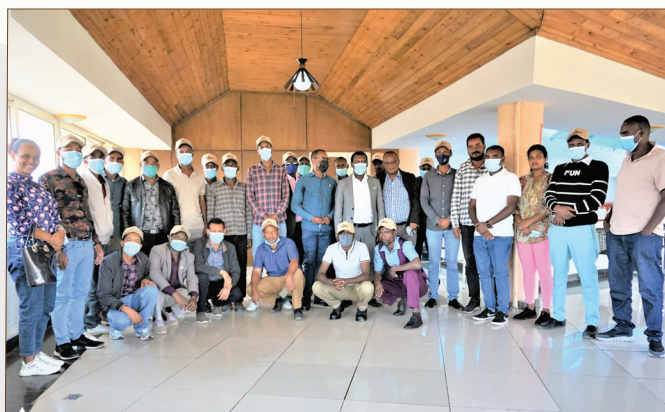
PATSPO renovates the FRC seed extraction unit

PATSPO completed the renovation and construction of the seed extraction unit of the Forestry Research Centre (FRC) in Addis Ababa. The project demolished the old one and constructed a tin-roofed and a plastic-roofed shelters. It also constructed a concrete floor which is used to dry seeds under the sun away from dirt and dust. PATSPO also installed water taps that are used to wash seeds. The project also constructed toilets and shower rooms for the workers at the seed extraction unit.



↑ The newly constructed shelters from inside (left) and outside (right).

PATSPO staff support a training course in tree seed procurement



↑ Participants of the training of trainers on tree seed procurement.

The ICRAF Regreening Africa project organized a training of trainers in Adama, from 20 to 22 October 2021 to improve seed sourcing and procurement capacity in local partners. Three PATSPO staff members provided the training to the 28 training participants, which were staff of NGOs, community tree-seed dealers, farmers, district extension workers and private seed suppliers.

The participants were trained in how to select seed sources and mother trees, how to identify mature seeds, collection methods and equipment, processing methods for different types of seeds, testing in the field and laboratory, and seed documentation and storage. Participants also visited the Forestry Research Centre in Addis Ababa to experience routine tree-seed handling work, such as viability testing conducted in the laboratory, and view facilities, like cold store and other features supported by the PATSPO project.

PATSPO contributes to conservation of *Juniperus procera* in Ethiopia



↑ One of the *Juniperus procera* BSOs established by PATSPO.

A hybrid workshop, discussing the activities carried out by a project, *Juniperus procera*: Development of a Concept for the Provision of Forest Reproductive Material in Ethiopia (JUPRET), was held in Addis Ababa on 29 and 30 September 2021. The JUPRET project (2019-2021) has been implemented jointly by the Ethiopian Environment and Forest Research Institute, Federal Research and Training Center for Forests, Natural Hazards and Landscape in Vienna, Austria, and ICRAF/PATSPO.

In Ethiopia, *Juniperus* forests are mostly reduced to areas fragmented and/or very degraded. The workshop participants underlined the need to conserve this valuable timber tree. Dr. Abraham Abiyu, a senior officer with the PATSPO project, told the participants that *Juniperus procera* was among the 14 tree species for which PATSPO has established seed orchards. Two of the 25 breeding seed orchards and one of the 6 seedling seed orchards established by PATSPO are of *Juniperus procera*. The orchards contribute to genetic conservation and seed procurement of this important indigenous tree species.