

PATSCO Newsletter



RNE and CIFOR-ICRAF sign the agreement to launch PATSCO II

The Royal Norwegian Embassy (RNE) in Addis Ababa and CIFOR-ICRAF signed the agreement to launch the second phase of the Provision of Adequate Seed Portfolios project (PATSCO II), on June 2, 2022. PATSCO II will be implemented for four years from 2022 to 2025. PATSCO I has been very much appreciated by various stakeholders.



Peter Minang, right, visiting the BSOs in Suba with Abrham Abiyu.

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

CIFOR-ICRAF Director for Africa, Peter Minang, visited BSOs established by PATSCO. After he visited six BSOs in Suba area, the Director said, 'PATSCO is doing a fantastic job, in terms of developing seed orchards, which is a big contribution to providing quality tree seed for the massive tree planting programs being implemented in Ethiopia. We see well-functioning partnerships with Oromia Forest and Wildlife Enterprise (OFWE), Amhara Forest Enterprise (AFE) and the Government. We do not see such partnerships in other places. This is a big departure from what we do in other countries. I think this work is getting significant recognition both from the donors and the Government. Everyone is expecting something different from PATSCO. I think it will bring a big change.'

During his visit to Ethiopia from 12-14 April 2022 Peter Minang held discussion with various stakeholders, donors and partners of CIFOR-ICRAF. He also had a meeting with the CIFOR-ICRAF staff in Ethiopia.

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PATSCO distributes seed collection tools to farmer groups



PATSCO distributed seed collection tools and equipment to 38 farmer groups collecting tree seed in Amhara, Oromia, and South regions of Ethiopia.

The tools included ladders to climb up trees, tarpaulin sheets to put under trees when collecting seed and to put pods and fruits on, while extracting the seeds, weight scales to weigh the collected seed, hand scissors to cut smaller branches seedpods with, bow saws to cut bigger branches, and wire sieves to separate seeds from chaff and debris.

'There are 25 farmer seed collector groups in Oromia, and the fact that our group got the tools means we have been recognized for our hard work,' said Teyib Hussien a seed collector from Gera District, in Oromia Region. 'The donation of the tools is thus a great motivator. We are very happy that we got this recognition. The tools are very useful.'

The home page of the website.

READ MORE > | <https://www.worldagroforestry.org/news/re-tooling-farmer-seed-collector-groups-ethiopia>

PATSPo provides training to farmer seed collectors

In February and March 2022, PATSPo trained 298 farmer seed collectors, of whom 44 percent were women. The seed collectors are working in Oromia-, Amhara- and South regions.

Since PATSPo was launched in 2017, nearly 1500 farmers have been trained including farmers in Tigray Region. The farmers are generally very happy with the training. Alemu Bireda, a farmer from South Region, said, 'The training is very useful. I am so happy that we are given recognition and are given the opportunity to receive such a training.'

Senior Team Leader of PATSPo, Soren Moestrup, said, 'The training courses improve the quality of seed collected and thereby support the fulfillment of the objective of PATSPo of supporting the seed sector in Ethiopia to provide quality seed for any type of tree planting.'

According to Moestrup, the number of women farmers participating in training is increasing progressively. Out of the total 1413 farmers who received the training, 441 were women.



One of the farmers' trainings in South Region

READ MORE > | <https://www.worldagroforestry.org/blog/2022/03/28/training-farmers-providing-tools-improved-quality-tree-seeds-ethiopia>

Training aimed at future management of BSOs



The participants while discussing in one of the BSOs in Suba.

A training workshop on the management of Breeding Seed Orchards (BSOs) was held by the Provision of Adequate Tree Seed Portfolios in Ethiopia (PATSPo) project 9–13 May 2022 in Addis Ababa.

The participants, who were researchers working under the Ethiopia Forest Development, which is the government organization in charge of the country's forestry sector, learned how to use R — an open-source programming, statistical software package that helps to validate data — to gain knowledge of the genetics of traits and the genetic performance of the trees in the BSOs to carry out selective thinning.

'We need to know if the traits we want to select for are inherited by the next generation, how they are correlated with each other, and which genetically inferior trees we should remove from the BSO due to poor genetics,' said Jon Kehlet Hansen, a Senior Researcher from University of Copenhagen. 'We cannot do this precisely without assessments and measurements and successive statistical analyses made by statistical software such as R.'

READ MORE > | <https://www.worldagroforestry.org/blog/2022/05/17/training-achieve-optimal-management-breeding-seed-orchards>

Building capacity of seed centers



Participants learning how to use seed processing machines.

On-the-job training in the use of seed processing equipment, seed documentation and seed laboratory procedures was given to staff of four tree seed centers.

The training, held from 23-27 May 2022, was aimed at improving the efficiency and service quality of tree seed centers. The tree seed centers in Ethiopia tend to depend on labors for seed processing and extraction. The participants were trained how to use the seed processing equipment that they have, but don't know how to use. A further intensive training was given to the newly employed staff at Hawassa Seed Center from 30 May to 1 June 2022 in Hawassa.

READ MORE > | <https://www.worldagroforestry.org/blog/2022/06/08/building-capacity-tree-seed-centres-ethiopia-ensure-seed-quality>



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