



European Union
Delegation to Ethiopia

Press Release

31 January 2011

The European Union allocated 13.7 million Euros (equivalent to 301 million birr) grant to improve conditions of life of farmers facing climate change effects

On 31 January 2011, H.E. Mr. Andris Piebalgs, European Commissioner responsible for Development and H.E. Mr. Sufian Ahmed, Minister of Finance and Economic Development of Ethiopia signed a 13.7 million Euros (301 million birr) grant agreement to strengthen Ethiopian's capacity to tackle climate change. .

This Global Climate Change Alliance – Ethiopia (GCCA-E) project launches a specific action oriented towards climate variability observed in Ethiopia. It is expected to contribute to significantly improve the livelihoods of the rural population.

The EU Commissioner for Development Andris Piebalgs stated: "The EU has a solid experience in the fight against climate change. We have a joint responsibility to work together with the African continent in the mitigation and adaptation efforts towards the impact of Climate change. This will not only ensure an environmentally-friendly development but also an inclusive and sustainable growth in Ethiopia, benefiting to all".

The primary objective of the GCCA-E is to contribute to build a neutral and climate resilient economy. This will be done through 1) institutional supports to policies and programs benefitting mainly to the Environment Protection Agency; 2) raise stakeholders' awareness on climate change issues and enhance their knowledge and 3) identify and test climate change practices in specific areas on the existing SLM project.

This project will be implemented in several watersheds alongside the Nile Basin covering Tigray, Amhara, Oromia, Benishangul Gumuz, and Gambela National Regional States. An estimated of 110,000 households in these five regions are expected to benefit from this component.

GCCA-E will be implemented from April 2011 until April 2015 through Federal Environment Protection Authority (EPA) and Ministry of Agriculture (MoA). The funds have been delegated to two European Members State's development agencies: French Development Agency (AFD) and German International Cooperation (GIZ). These two institutions will provide a technical support to this programme. AFD will support the Capacity Building and knowledge base components of the project while GIZ will assist the Sustainable Land Management (SLM) activities.

Background:

Following the 15th Conference of Parties (CoP 15) in Copenhagen in 20XX, the European Union has set out a Global Climate Change Alliance instrument in 25 prone climate change affected countries; the overall objective of the GCCA is to support the mainstreaming of climate change into current programs as well as national capacity-building to manage the climate change agenda in countries.

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