



Bale Bulletin

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PFM working group strengthened and to be taken up by Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MoARD)

The PFM working group (PFM-WG) has been operational since 1999 in order to provide platform to all stakeholders to share experiences that will further strengthen the development of PFM in the country, consolidate lessons and contribute to policy formulation. With the increased interest from both government and NGOs to support PFM, the working group, on its last meeting, decided that MoARD should be approached to take up the lead and be the chair of the group. As per the facilitation assignment given to the BERSMP, there have been a number of discussions with the Ministry where the Ministry's encouragement to and interest in PFM as well as its agreement to assign a chair for the group were expressed. This commitment will definitely encourage and strengthen the work of all those who have been working hard to develop a sustainable natural resource management system in the country while ensuring the wellbeing of communities. [Read Full Story](#)

Promoting Bamboo as a sustainable livelihood option

BERSMP is working closely with partners to ensure the programme's bamboo initiatives are part of nationwide programmes that are being implemented by both government and non-government organisations. To this end, the programme has recently supported the Eastern Africa Bamboo Project in publishing bamboo processing manuals and has also become member of the bamboo taskforce that plans to support the bamboo sector in order to utilise the huge potential in Ethiopia. The programme has also become an affiliate member of the International Network for Bamboo and Rattan (INBAR) to link up with individuals and organisations that have been involved in this sector for a long period of time and to access the publications available for use by members. [Read Full Story](#)

Strengthening the zonal steering committee

As part of the institutional arrangement of BERSMP, a steering committee has been set up at zonal level which guides the programme's implementation. The committee involves key zonal offices and collaborators and has key roles in guiding implementation approaches, information and experience sharing, as well as monitoring and evaluation. In August, the committee held its meeting with members representing all relevant organisations of both Bale and West Arsi Zones. Adjustment of the committee's internal regulation and establishment of *eco-region core planning team* and *eco-region planning working group* were the major points that were discussed and clarified during the meeting. [Read Full Story](#)

Participatory Forest Management Plans Formulation Process Increased Community's Sense of Ownership

Within the overall process of establishing sustainable participatory natural resources management systems there are three main stages (Investigation, Negotiation and Implementation) and a number of sub-stages. Forest management plan (FMP) formulation is one of the sub-stages under the Negotiation stage. During the formulation process of FMPs, it was observed that communities have started recognising their role in the management of the forest resources. A sense of ownership of the resources has increased and there are some self-motivated actions by the communities as a result of establishment of forest management systems. [Read Full Story](#)

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