



ALERT: IMPACT OF BELG/GU SEASON ON THE FOOD SECURITY SITUATION

DPPC has issued an early warning special Alert resulting from findings of the July multi-agency Belg and pastoral area assessment conducted in Belg growing and pastoral areas. The results of the assessment confirmed that the performance of the Belg/Gu season of 2004 in most Belg producing and pastoral areas was very poor resulting in poor Belg production in many cropping areas. Regarding the pastoral areas, although the Gu rains in most areas of the pastoral areas started early or on time the cessation was early around the end of April. The rains were missing in May during which much of the precipitation for adequate water and pasture supplies and crop development are normally expected. Very poor to poor rains in many places of the pastoral areas in general and Somali Region, Borena in Oromiya and South Omo in SNNP regions in particular were reported. Therefore, the food security situation of many of the Belg producing and pastoral areas in the coming months is precarious. The most severely affected areas are Somali Region, Borena, Bale, West and East Hararghe zones of Oromiya, South Omo, Gamu Gofa, Wolayia, Hadiya, Konso and Derashe of SNNP region. Consequently, additional emergency food from August to December 2004 will be required. The poor performance and/or total failure of the Belg rains in the Belg and long cycle crop producing areas of north eastern, eastern central and southern parts of the country that led to repeated planting have also caused seed shortages. Detail report of the assessments and the additional food and possibly other requirements will be issued in early August. For full document of the Alert visit: www.dppc.gov.et

FIFTY SIX PASTORALIST REPRESENTATIVES TO VISIT PASTORALIST DEVELOPMENT ISSUES IN KENYA

On the 1st August, 56 pastoralist leaders and federal, regional and woreda level Government officials from Afar, Somali, Oromia and South Omo working with the World Bank Pastoralist Community Development Project (PCDP) will visit Kenya on a ten-day exchange to the Arid Lands Resource Management Project (ALRMP). This visit has been arranged and part-funded by PCI/OCHA and will give the participants an opportunity to investigate many aspects of pastoralist development in Kenya. The group will visit Samburu, Wajir and Isiolo districts to meet pastoralist leaders, NGOs, civil society organisations and representatives from the Government of Kenya. Many pastoral areas of Kenya are facing a serious drought and the participants will have the opportunity to see how community managed protected grazing areas and emergency boreholes are working as an efficient drought mitigation strategy to protect livestock herds. This is a follow up to a visit made in April of senior federal and regional level officials from the PCDP and regional pastoral bureaux heads to ALRMP where they met senior level officials from ALRMP as well as visiting pastoralist areas where the ALRMP is being implemented. For further information contact PCI: scott-villiers@un.org

FAO REHABILITATES SMALL SCALE IRRIGATION SCHEMES

In order to make the best possible use of existing irrigation systems, FAO has been involved in the rehabilitation of small scale irrigation schemes. Accordingly, rehabilitation of four irrigation schemes in Oromia and SNNPR and upgrading of three traditional irrigation schemes in Amhara were completed and handed over to the beneficiaries. The schemes will enable the development of about 595 ha and benefit about 2,220 farming households. Training in improved irrigation practices was also organized for 184 Development Agent (DAs) and woreda experts from 28 woredas and 386 farmers from 21 irrigation schemes in Amhara, Oromia and SNNP regions. The training covered irrigation agronomy, water management, operation and maintenance of irrigation systems, socioeconomics and irrigation cooperatives, and was supported with field visits to demonstrate the various aspects of water management practices. For further information contact FAO: fao-ethiopia@fao.org

GAA/ CCF LAUNCH NEW DEVELOPMENTAL RELIEF PROJECT IN FENTALE WOREDA

German Agro Action (GAA) and Christian Children's Fund (CCF) launched a new project that addresses 19,000 beneficiaries in 14 kebeles of Fentale Woreda, East Shoa Zone. In addition to a food component of 270 tonnes of wheat, pulse, protein-food and oil, US\$100,000 will be utilized in Cash-for-Work intervention at a rate of eight Ethiopian birr per day. The activities in this project include road construction, construction of three retention dams, cisternes and channels, raising of 30,000 fruit- and multipurpose trees. HIV/AIDS is handled as a crosscutting issue in all sites by supporting NGOs and local health workers. The project is financed by the German Ministry of Economic Cooperation. For further information contact GAA: gaa.eth@telecom.net.et

Contributions are welcomed. Please submit to UN OCHA-Eth by COB Thursday, berhanem@un.org