

CURRICULUM VITAE

Name : Regassa Feyissa
Profession : Agricultural Research Scientist
Qualification: MSc. In Plant Physiology and in Plant Biochemistry

Experience:

Leadership

One of the founders and Director of Ethio-Organic Seed Action (EOSA). EOSA is a NON GOVERNMENTAL Organization working on the development of the scientific basis for agro-biodiversity management and promotion, as well as on National and Global policy Frameworks for implementing intergovernmental arrangements such as CBD and International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources.(Current)

Board Member of the Action Group on Erosion, Technology and Concentration (ETC Group), formerly RAFI, an International Civil Society Organization Headquartered in Canada. (Current)

Director of the Ethiopian Plant Genetic Resources Centre and Ethiopian Biodiversity Institute (1993-1995).

Co-ordinator of the African Biodiversity Network (BidNET) (1993-1995).

Programme leader of the African Community Biodiversity Development and Conservation programs (CBDC) (1993-1995).

Member of the Global Programme Co-ordinating Committee for the CBDC programs implemented in the countries of Africa, South East Asia and Latin America.

Head of Crop Genetic Resources Conservation and Evaluation Department at of the Ethiopian Plant Genetic Resources Centre (1984-1993).

Program and Technology Development and Advisory Services

Developed crop conservation techniques, procedures and standards for seed genebanks and field gene banks.

Developed and promoted simple and low cost methods for screening crops for tolerance to drought soil salinity and frost.

Developed training manual and curriculum for agricultural crop/plant genetic resources conservation and development programmes.

Served as organiser and resource person for more than 15 international plant genetic resources conservation and development training programmes.

Resource person and technical Advisor for Southeast Asian Community Based Biodiversity Conservation and Management programmes. Have trained technicians for these programs.

Served as FAO and the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI) Resource person

and Reviewer of the International Gene Bank Standards and country genetic resources conservation programmes.

Served also as one of the reviewers of the Global Biodiversity Conservation Strategy (UNEP, 1994).

Served as World Bank consultant and one of the reviewers of the Ghanaian agricultural and plant genetic resources programs supported by the Bank. Served as a leader of this review team.

Involved in the development of the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) funded Ethiopia's Project " A Dynamic farmer Based Approach to Ethiopia's Plant Genetic Resources" and also served as a National Programme Co-ordinator (NPC) to this project.

One of the founders of the Global Community Biodiversity Development and Conservation (CBDC) Programme.

Formulated the Ethiopian CBDC project and led the process of project development for Kenya, Zimbabwe, Sierra Leone, Burkina Faso and Botswana.

Technical Advisor to the International Technical Programme (ITP) of the CBDC.

Resource Person in developing the scientific and technical objectives, hypothesis and methodologies for Southeast Asian countries CBDC programmes.

Developed and promoted strategies for farmers based agricultural crop conservation and enhancement, for seed supply and seed reserve systems and for community based seed banks in Ethiopia.

Member of the Executive Committee of the Biological Society of Ethiopia, and Associate Editor of the Ethiopian Journal of Biological Science.

Involvement in policy development

National level

Served as a member of the National Task Forces that drafted the National Seed Policy and Strategy and the National Plant Genetic Resource Conservation and Development policy and strategy.

Served as a member of the National Seed Industry council and the National Technical Committee of the Ethiopian Forestry Action Plan (EFAP).

Involved in the development of the Ethiopian National Conservation Strategy supported by IUCN.

Served as a Chairperson of the National Committee that drafted National policy and legislation for Farmers', Breeders' and Local Community Rights.

Have drafted strategies and programmes for biodiversity conservation and management in Ethiopia.

Have developed Biodiversity Conservation policy and strategy for Oromia Region.

International level

Have been on various missions to advise and assist in developing national plant genetic resource policies, strategies and programmes for some African and South East Asian countries.

Served as one of the experts in preparing African Common Perspectives and Position on the Convention on Biological Diversity. This was done according to the decision made by the 5th Session of the African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN) in Addis Abeba in 1993.

Served as a negotiator and an expert in the negotiations and development processes and Sessions of Intergovernmental Committee on the Convention on Biological Diversity, on the International Undertakings for Genetic Resources, on FAO Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Utilisation of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, and on others, as a delegate of Ethiopia and as a resource person on personal capacity.

An Ethiopian official delegate with credential to the First Conference of the Parties on the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Served as a member of Expert Panel of the Convention on Biological Diversity on Access to genetic resources and benefit sharing.

Relevant published works

Regassa Feyissa. Germplasm Conservation at PGRC/E 1991. In : J.M.M. Engels, J.G.Hawkes & Melaku Worede (eds.). Plant Genetic Resources of Ethiopia.

Regassa Feyissa 1991 Germplasm Conservation Manual. Plant Genetic Resources Centre of Ethiopia

Regassa Feyissa. 1989. Participatory Approach to the Planning and Implementation of Rural Development Projects. In : Proceedings of Workshop on Seed Programme Development. CRDA, Addis Ababa.

Melaku Worede, Tesfaye Tessema and Regassa Feyissa. Keeping Diversity Alive : An Ethiopian Perspective. In: Steven Brush (eds.). Conserving Crop Diversity On-farm: Issues and Cases. International Plant Genetic Resources Institute.

Regassa Feyissa. 1993. The Importance of Community Seed Bank Development. In : Proceedings of CRDA Workshop, Addis Ababa.

Regassa Feyissa. 1994. Genetic Erosion in Ethiopia. Proceedings of the Natural Resource Conservation and Management Workshop. Addis Abeba, Ethiopia.

Regassa Feyissa. 1995. Status of coffee genetic resource conservation in Ethiopia. In : Proceedings of a Workshop on Coffee and Associated Crops in Ethiopia.

Regassa Feyissa. Agriculture and Biodiversity : A Global overview of the issues, pressures, trends, choice and possible solutions. In: the Proceedings of Biodiversity Information. The PANOS Institute, London.

Regassa Feyissa. 1997. Integrated Conservation of Agricultural crop diversity : a strategic option

for linking conservation to utilisation. African Conference on Food Security and the Revision of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. Addis Abeba.

Regassa Feyissa. The Scientific Basis and Objectives of the Community Biodiversity Development and Conservation Programme. Proceedings of the first joint meeting of the GEF National Project Advisory and Overseeing Committee. Addis Abeba, 24 February 1997.

Regassa Feyissa and Worku Damena. 1998. Policy Issues Pertaining to Access and Benefit Sharing on Genetic Resources. Proceedings of the National Workshop on Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable use of Medicinal Plants in Ethiopia.

Regassa Feyissa, 1999. Mainstreaming biodiversity conservation towards sustainable agricultural development: an Ethiopian perspective. In: Food security through sustainable land use.

Regassa Feyissa, 1999. Community seed banks and seed exchange in Ethiopia: a farmer-led Approach. In: Participatory approaches to the conservation and use of plant genetic resources.(Esbern *et al* eds). International Plant Genetic Resources Institute(IPGRI).

Regassa Feyissa and Zerihun Woldu, 2000. Vegetation of the Rift Valley Lake Region of Ethiopia (to be published)

Regassa Feyissa, 2001. Forest resources ownership and use rights and the role of local communities in forest management. In: Imperative problems associated with forestry in Ethiopia. Biological Society of Ethiopia. Faculty of Science, Addis Abeba University.

Regassa Feyissa, 2001. Agro-biodiversity of Ethiopia (in publication)