



MEDIA ADVISORY

CARE International Hosts Conference in Ethiopia on the Future of Pastoralism in an Uncertain Climate

*For immediate use. For further information, contact **Yonas Tafesse**, Communications Advisor, CARE Ethiopia through Cell phone #: **0923-26-92-25**.*

CARE International is going to host a conference from 1st to 4th of September 2014 in Addis Ababa to discuss the challenges facing pastoral communities across the East and Southern Africa (ESA) Region dry lands and how to achieve resilience in the face of a changing climate. More than 80 participants engaged in policy, practice and research in Ethiopia, including the Ethiopian Federal Government ministries and United States Agency for International Development (USAID) as well as 10 other countries in ESA Region are expected to participate on the four day conference.

The conference is hosted by CARE Ethiopia, the Adaptation Learning Programme for Africa, the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) Climate Change Agriculture and Food Security Programme (CCAFS) and the International Centre for Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE). Proceedings will be opened by Ato Berhanu, Director of State of Environment, Assessment and Reporting Directorate for the Ministry of Environment and Forestry in Ethiopia.

The conference takes place against a backdrop of impending food insecurity for an estimated 2.7 million people in Ethiopia due to drought caused by failed rains. The situation is compounded by the fact that many of these people have not managed to recover from the worst drought to hit the Horn of Africa in 60 years in 2011, leaving almost 12.4 million people in need of urgent assistance.

Droughts have always affected the Horn of Africa but with the impact of climate change exacerbating their nature and frequency, coupled with other factors, these recurrent crises are eroding progress made through long term development programmes. It is clear that a new response aimed at achieving long term resilience is needed.

The conference will therefore focus on understanding how climate change is exacerbating the entrenched drivers of vulnerability among communities, what the barriers and drivers of change are and how community-based adaptation approaches can play a valuable part of an integrated and coherent approach to achieving resilience in vulnerable dry land communities.

The conference outcomes will serve to influence improved policy and practice and to inform decisions on adaptation finance and resilience programming in the region's dry lands. New insights and recommendations generated at the conference will be taken forward by the participants in their respective countries and in the African Ministerial Conference of the Environment (AMCEN) which will be held in Egypt, the 4th Climate Change and Development conference in Morocco and the UN Climate Summit in New York, all in September 2014.



Notes to editors:

1. **CARE** is a leading humanitarian organization fighting global poverty and providing life-saving assistance in emergencies. In more than 80 countries around the world, CARE places special focus on working alongside poor girls and women because, equipped with the proper resources, they have the power to help lift whole families and entire communities out of poverty.
2. **CARE Ethiopia (CE)** has developed ample experience and excelled in two main areas of climate change: community-based adaptation and resilience building. This can be generally considered CE's niche in climate change. Community-based adaptation (CBA) activities are implemented in food security programs in chronically food insecure areas of the highlands and mid-highlands of Ethiopia. Adaptation is also incorporated as a component to specifically address livelihood diversification, income generation, crop diversification, asset building, marketing and value chain improvement initiatives. Furthermore, resilience-focused programming is implemented in the pastoral and agro-pastoral livelihoods settings in lowland areas. Resilience building is a major component in CE's programs which target to improve the capacity of communities to resist the impacts of shocks, manage and reduce disaster risks through informed decisions, and quickly recover and transform livelihoods, making households less vulnerable to climate shocks. USAID is one of the big donors which hugely support the CBA and resilience building activities of CE.
3. **The Adaptation Learning Programme for Africa (ALP)**, implemented by CARE International, is a five year programme operational in Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique and Niger. The Programme aims to increase the capacity of vulnerable households in Sub-Saharan Africa to adapt to climate variability and change, through incorporating community-based adaptation (CBA) approaches for vulnerable communities into development policies and programmes in its countries of operation, with plans in place to replicate across Africa. ALP is supported by UK Aid from the Department for International Development, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland, and the Austrian Development Cooperation.

To find out more, visit www.care-international.org or www.careclimatechange.org.

4. **The CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS)** is a strategic partnership of CGIAR and Future Earth, led by the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT). CCAFS brings together the world's best researchers in agricultural science, development research, climate science and earth system science, to identify and address the most important interactions, synergies and trade-offs between climate change, agriculture and food security. More information is available on www.ccafs.cgiar.org.
5. **icipe's** mission is to help alleviate poverty, ensure food security and improve the overall health status of peoples of the tropics by developing and extending management tools and strategies for harmful and useful arthropods, while preserving the natural resource base through research and capacity building. For additional information, visit www.icipe.org.

For more information, or to arrange an interview with one of the conference organisers or experts on CBA and resilience please contact **Yonas Tafesse** through cell phone #: **0923-26-92-25**.