

Welcoming address

*Dr. Alemu Gezahgne, Director for Forestry Research
Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research (EIAR)*

Workshop participants,
Ladies and gentlemen.

On behalf of the Holetta Agricultural Research Center, its management, researchers and the community staff, I would like to welcome you all to Holetta for the workshop organised on Indigenous Fodder and Soil Improving Tree and Shrub Species.

This workshop is important and timely for the farming community we are dealing with in the highlands. As all of you are aware, the highlands of Ethiopia are characterised by a high density of human population, a huge livestock population and diversity, as well as degraded land. Under such circumstances; one can hardly think of a better agricultural production for food self-sufficiency and a better life for the community. Hence, changing the environment to meet the greater demand for food and feed is critically important. This workshop and its output will definitely contribute to this effect.

The Holetta Agricultural Research Center is one of the centers under the Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research. The center conducts research to avail useful agricultural technologies to farmers and others in the areas of crop improvement and the production of barely, bread wheat, teff, highland oil crops, highland pulses, potato, and highland fruits. Similarly, the center works on livestock with special reference to dairy, draught animals, animal feeds and nutrition, as well as highland forage production research. In the areas of natural resource management, soil and water management, forestry and others, research projects and programmes are conducted and coordinated at our center. The center owns better facilities and quite an adequate number of both research and administrative staffs. This will enable us to meet our long-term goal in which we see reduced poverty and an improved livelihood of the farming community and the nation at large.

Ladies and gentlemen, in this workshop about eleven general and specialised research papers will be presented in the course of today, followed by field excursions to Galessa and Jeldu areas tomorrow. A group discussion will be held the day after tomorrow.

Your active participation and contribution will be highly appreciated for the success of the workshop and I am confident that this will be demonstrated in your deliberations. Please, also feel free and at home to contact the workshop organisers for any kind of issues you may consider important.

With this I would like to wind up my welcome address and may I invite Dr. Alemu Gezahgne, Director for Forestry Research officially to open the workshop.

Thank you for your attention

Mr. Yohannes Gojjam
Center Director
Holetta Agricultural Research Center