

Current status of ABS implementation in Ethiopia

Ashenafi Ayenew

**Director, Genetic Resource Access and Benefit
Sharing Directorate (EBI)**

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1. Institutional and Legal Frameworks

1.1. Institutional Frameworks

- Ethiopian Biodiversity Institute (EBI) is mandated for
- the conservation and sustainable utilization of biodiversity, and
- **ensuring fair and equitable sharing of benefits** accrued from the use of biological resources of Ethiopia.
- It is also the Focal Institute to the CBD.

- **the Institute is responsible to ensure that**
- **the country's biodiversity and the associated community knowledge are properly conserved and sustainably utilized, and**
- **Its communities get fair and equitable share of benefits arising from their utilization.**

- To effectively implement ABS issues,
- EBI has established **GR ABS Directorate** as core process since 2010.
- The Directorate is mandated (authorized) to
- **regulate GR transfer (access to GR)** and
- **to ensure** that the country and its communities
- **get fair and equitable share of benefits** arising from the utilization of their GRs.

1.2. Legal Frameworks

- **After ratifying the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and**
- **International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture,**
as well as
- **adopting international model laws and guidelines,**

- **Ethiopia has issued Access to Genetic Resources and Community Knowledge and Community Rights**
- **Proclamation**(No.482/2006) and **Regulation** (169/2009).
- **The legislations focus on PIC, MAT, Multilateral System of Access and how to implement relevant activities.**

- **Ethiopia has put in place domestic legislation to facilitate access to its genetic resources and ensure fair and equitable benefit sharing.**
- **Furthermore, Ethiopia has acceded to the Nagoya Protocol and developed Code of Conduct to administer the ABS issues.**

- In order to better communicate and ease administration of ABS issues,
- Ethiopia has **translated** Nagoya protocol into three local languages, namely: Amharic, Afan Oromo and Tigrigna.
- It has translated the National ABS Law into two local languages, namely: Afan Oromo and Tigrigna.
- Moreover, Ethiopia has translated the CBD text into Amharic.

2. ABS Practice in Ethiopia

- **Ethiopia has provided access permit for non-commercial and commercial purpose access requests**

2.1. Access permit for non-commercial purposes

- **Most of the non-commercial access requests have come from research and higher learning institutions**

- So far more than hundred thousand samples were delivered to different applicants

2.2. Access permit for commercial purposes

- The recently signed agreement between EBI and a private USA based company on access and benefit sharing
- From the use of *Dichrostachys cinerea*, *Osyris quadripartitum* and *Withania somnifera* species
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- for the purpose of producing **essential oils, cosmetics and herbal medicine** is a notable example.
- From the agreement, Ethiopia earned an upfront payment and the agreement stipulates that
- The benefits accrued from the access of the above genetic resources will be shared equitably between the company and the local communities/the government of Ethiopia.

- **Moreover, local companies that were using different genetic resources**
- **such as *Aloe* and *Moringa stenopetala* species for various commercial purposes**
- **came into legal agreements with EBI for the use of the genetic materials in a way that**
- **The agreements enable income generation for the companies as well as the local communities and sustainably utilize the resources base.**

**Genetic Resources accessed 6 July 2012 by DOCOMO Plc. USA
based company**

***Dichrostachys
cinera***



Osyris species



Withania somnifera



Aloe Species accessed by local company

the **G Seven trade and Industry PLC** Company accessed Aloe species for extracting naturally existing oils in order to replace the batching oil which the company has been importing from abroad. The oil used to soften fibers for making sacks



ABS Implementation Challenges in Ethiopia

- **Ethiopia and local communities are not adequately benefiting from accessing their genetic resources.**
- **Due to limited capacity and lack of effective enforcement and follow up mechanisms on the ABS**

Planned future actions

- **Build material and human capacity for bio-prospecting and Negotiation**
- **Promote and increase the number of genetic materials access for research, development and benefit sharing**
- **Control unauthorized movement of genetic resources**
- **Establish ABS Clearing House Mechanism**

Summary

- **Nagoya Protocol acceded**
- **Code of Conduct for ABS developed**
- **Based on the Code of Conduct:**
- **three plants species accessed for foreign commercial company**
- **two plant species accessed for local companies to promote conservation and sustainable use of the species**
- **ABS funds secured and disbursed for conservation that benefit respective local communities**
- **many Material Transfer Agreements signed with national and international institutions**

Thank you !

THANK YOU!