

**Trip report to Liberia to work on
Memorandum of Understanding with
the Ethio-Liberia bilateral cooperation
technical working group**

February 22-26, 2017

Monrovia, Liberia

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Primary Health Care in Ethiopia
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Table of contents

I. Introduction	
I.1 Nomination of an expert on behalf of the Ethiopian Ministry of Health	2
I.2 Travel to Liberia	2
I.3 Preparation for the technical group meeting	3
I.4 Reviewing the MoU of the MoH	3
2. Meeting with the Liberian high officials	
2.1 Meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs	4
2.2 Meeting with the Liberian technical working group	4
2.2.1 Meeting of the Liberian MoA working group	5
2.2.2 Meeting with the Liberian MoH representative	5
2.3 Revised MoUs	6
3. Consultative review meeting	6
4. Acknowledgement	8
5. Financing the trip	8
Annexes	
Annex I: List of Ethiopian experts	9
Annex II: Tentative schedule of the working group meetings	10
Annex III: Draft MoU for MoH	11
Annex IV: Revised MoU for MoH	14
Annex V: Liberia visit in pictures	18

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I. Introduction

I.1 Nomination of an expert on behalf of the Ethiopian Ministry of Health

On February 17, 2017, the Ethiopian Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs, through Ato Metasebia, the Director General for African Affairs, contacted the Federal Ministry of Health in relation to the draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that is scheduled to be signed between the Ethiopian Ministry of Health and its counterpart, the Liberian Ministry of Health. Later, Ato Metasebia contacted Prof Mengesha about the planned trip to Liberia to work on the MoU with a joint technical working group. Prof Menegesha was on another engagement and he delegated Wzo Emebet Zerfu to travel to Liberia between February 22 and 26, 2017 on behalf of the Ethiopian Federal Ministry of Health.

I.2 Travel to Liberia

A delegation of six representing five Ministries travelled to Liberia on 22 February. The nominated experts and the Ministries they represented were as follows:

- Dr Alemayehu Mekonnen, Ministry of Livestock and Fishery (MoLF)
Director, Ethiopian MoFA's team leader
 - Ato Azmera Kebede, Ministry of Education (MoE), TVET department
Director
 - Ato Tesfaye Worku – Ministry of Industry (Mol), Agro-processing department
Team leader
 - W/t Rahel Kiflu – Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), African affairs department
Delegate
 - Ato Samson Abebe - Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International legal affairs department
Delegate
- Wzo Emebet Zerfu – representing Ministry of Health (MoH), International Institute for Primary Health Care in Ethiopia
Resource Center Officer

See annex I for more details on the Ethiopian experts.

Mr Nathaniel Naybe of the Liberian Ministry of Foreign Affairs welcomed the expert team at Liberia airport and he processed a diplomatic immigration pass. He also helped in arranging accommodation for the experts.

1.3 Preparation for the technical group meeting

22 February 2017

W/t Rahel informed the Ethiopian delegates that MoUs have been drafted in preparation for HE Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, the President of the Republic of Liberia's upcoming visit to Ethiopia. The MoUs were scheduled to be signed as bilateral co-operation agreements between the two countries on 28 February. W/t Rahel stated the Liberian MoFA has sent the draft MoUs on 21 February for review. She distributed the draft documents to the respective Ministry representatives of MoLF, MoE, and MoH. W/t Rahel indicated the draft MoU for MoI has not been sent. She also clarified that there was no representation from the Ministry of Youth and Sports. Further, Rahel explained that the interest expressed by Liberian delegates at the initial stage was on livestock and fishery; but the draft MoU prepared for cooperation was with the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA). Dr Alemayehu clarified that the Ministry of Livestock and Fishery has been separated from the MoA since the past one year. He volunteered to represent both MoA and MoLF.

Then, W/t Rahel distributed the schedule of the meeting. (See Annex II) Ato Tesfaye explained that the Ministry of Commerce and Industry are two separate Ministries in Ethiopia, whereas in Liberia it is under one Ministry, named as Ministry of Commerce and Industry. He stated he will focus on agro-industry in his discussion with the Liberian high officials.

Each representative, then, reviewed the contents of the MoU and added possible areas of collaboration between the two countries for suggestion at the respective technical working group meeting the following day.

1.4 Reviewing the MoU of the MoH

Emebet went through the "Memorandum of understanding between the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Liberia and the Federal Ministry of Health of the Democratic Federal Republic of Ethiopia on cooperation in the field of health and medical sciences". (See Annex III)

The MoU's Article 3 specified the development of reciprocal relations and cooperation in the fields of health and medical sciences between the two countries by means of:

- a) Exchange of medical doctors and other health professionals and experts;
- b) Training Liberian health and medical workers
- c) Exchange of information on health and medical science and health research development
- d) Holding conferences and seminars, and
- e) Any other forms of cooperation as mutually identified by the Parties

Further points were added by Emebet as follows:

- a) As above
- b) Training medical and health workers (health programmers, health care implementers), including field visits (as further elaboration of health workers)
- c) Training policy makers with field visits (new point)
- d) Exchange of information on health and medical science and health research development (as (c) above)
- e) Holding conferences and seminars; organize fora to communicate research findings, policy changes and other updates (partially new- further elaboration)
- f) Experience sharing in designing innovative health care systems to address challenges as a result of a changing landscape (new)
- g) Support host visits to consolidate efforts for cross-country learning and experience sharing on health programs, (new) and
- h) Any other forms of cooperation as mutually identified by the parties.

The added suggestions have been discussed between Ato Samson and Emebet.

2. Meeting with the Liberian high officials

23 February 2017

The Ethiopian delegates, accompanied by Mr Nathaniel Naybe, went to the Liberian MoFA. Honorable Ministers including: Mr Emmanuel Munyeneh, Assistant Minister for International Cooperation and Economic Integration; Mr Thomas Gbokie, Je, Deputy Minister of Regional Development, Research and Extension unit of the Ministry of Agriculture and Mr Patrick T Worzie, Assistant Minister for planning and development, MoA, officially greeted the team at the entrance of the building and accompanied them to the Minister's meeting room. Then, Mr Munyeneh introduced the schedule of the day. (See Annex II) He informed the Ethiopian experts that a brief meeting with the HE Marjon V Kamara, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Mr Dehpue Y Zuo, Deputy Minister of International Cooperation and Economic Integration would follow.

2.1 Meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs

HE Marjon V Kamara welcomed the Ethiopian delegates to Liberia. The Minister stated there has been high expectation of the visit and that the meeting is hoped to be fruitful. She stated all the representatives of the technical Ministries would be at the MoFA to discuss the draft agreement. HE Kamara said the draft MoUs were sent just before the Ethiopian delegates boarded and that there was no time for consultation. The Minister stressed the need for inter-African cooperation. She stated that Liberia has faced problems in the area of agriculture and that they would like to prioritize and focus on agriculture to address many gaps and to bring about positive economy. HE M Kamara explained that Liberia would

like to benefit from Ethiopia's experience. Her Excellency said Ethiopia has made tremendous progress and it would give Liberia a real opportunity to start something concrete.

In the area of education, the Minister stressed the importance of the development of skill sets for employment. She explained that standard academic institutions are not adequate to engage the youth and that there are challenges in the area.

Finally, the Minister stated Ethiopia and Liberia have a different historical background and are different from the rest of Africa. She said the two countries have every reason to be examples and have to build and strengthen their relationship.

She invited the Ethiopian delegates to introduce themselves and Dr Alemayehu introduced all the delegates. In addition, each delegate was given an opportunity to introduce themselves.

2.2 Meeting with the Liberian technical working group

2.2.1 Meeting of the Liberian MoA working group

The review meeting with the MoH representative was scheduled at 2pm. Thus, Emebet had time to attend the MoA technical working group session that took place in the morning.

The meeting was chaired by Mr Thomas Gbokie, Je, Deputy Minister of Regional Development, Research and Extension unit of the Ministry of Agriculture and Mr Patrick T Worzie, Assistant Minister for planning and development, MoA. Dr Moses M Zinnah, the Minister of Agriculture joined the meeting later on.

Dr Alemayehu clarified that he represented the MoLF. He said that the draft MoU was on agriculture and that he has changed the MoU to reflect the livestock and fishery sector. But, Mr Gbokie mentioned that agriculture is the priority area for Liberia. Dr Alemayehu, then, suggested developing two MoUs: one for agriculture and another for livestock and fishery. A consensus has been reached and two MoUs were developed. Ethiopian livestock expert Ms Etagegnehu Belay, who works in Liberia, joined the meeting and explained the working situation in Liberia and provided technical support.

2.2.2 Meeting with the Liberian MoH representative

Emebet presented the changes and additional cooperation areas for the Liberian MoH representative as discussed under section 1.4. The two reps read the MoU line by line and agreement was reached at the end.

It was agreed that training of health workers will include health programmers, health care implementers as well as field visits. The point has been revised as "training of health and medical workers".

It was also agreed that “Holding conferences and seminars” includes organizing fora to communicate research findings, policy changes and other updates. The sentence remained as in the original.

The other points added by Emebet have been accepted by the MoH representative.

Emebet provided the revised MoU to Ato Samson for his final edition and presentation to the MoFA. (See Annex IV)

2.3 Revised MoUs

All the five MoUs were amended by the Ethio-Liberia technical working group and were ready by 4pm for a meeting with HE Ellen Johnson Sirleaf , the President of Liberia and Liberian Ministers.

3. Consultative review meeting

24 February 2017

Mr Emmanuel Munyeneh called for a meeting at 10am. He stated that after the technical working group reviewed all the MoUs, the Liberian group met with HE Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. He clarified that HE the President, after a careful review of the draft of the respective MoUs, have made some strategic changes that emphasized specific areas of priorities (areas that can easily be consummated within the scope of HE tenure). Mr Munyeneh emphasized that the changes, however, did not detach from the MoUs the technical working groups had prepared, except that the ones listed by the President have been of utmost priority.

Mr Munyeneh listed the President’s priority areas as follows:

MOU on Livestock and Agribusiness

- Livestock and fisheries policy including exchange and information sharing
- Livestock and fisheries production and productivity
- Livestock and fisheries science and technology cooperation and capacity building

MOU on Agriculture and Agribusiness

- Post-harvest technology and agriculture mechanization
- Value addition technologies for agriculture and natural resources
- Investment promotion, including domestic and foreign direct investment as well as investment strategy through Diaspora

MOU on Medical Science

- Exchange of medical doctors and other health professionals and experts

- Exchange of information on health and medical science and health research development
- Holding conferences and seminar; experience sharing in designing innovative health care systems to address challenges as a result of the changing landscape

MOU on Industrial Development

- Analyzing and identifying sectors with strong growth potential for partnership and industrial development
- Industrial cooperation and joint investment, especially in the fields of agro-processing industry: wood work, food and beverage industry, etc.
- Industrial cooperation and joint investment in chemical industry, textiles and garment, leather and footwear and engineering industries

MOU on TVET

- Exploring strategies for integrating conflict sensitivity and peace-building education into TVET
- Developing strategies for sustainable TVET financing and rebranding

Mr Munyeneh stated that, to this end, all Ministers and Technicians were encouraged to come to the MoFA to begin conclusive work with the experts from Ethiopia.

Then, Deputy Minister Mr Dehpue Zuo thanked the working group for the work they did very well. He stated that based on the technical group's assessment, the documents were revised at policy level. Mr Zuo specified that the Ethiopian respective Ministries should also approve the documents. He suggested using the time while the Ethiopian delegates were in Liberia. He elaborated that with the President, they have identified and picked up priority and practical areas in Liberia context that needed focus in the short term for quick outcome and impact. Mr Zuo clarified, for instance in the area of agriculture, priority for Liberia may not be a priority of Ethiopia. Each country needs to design its own program when the MoU is implemented.

Then, Mr Thomas Gboki, Jr , Deputy Minister, Department of Regional Development, Research and Extension, Ministry of Agriculture, stated they had a fruitful day the previous day. He mentioned some priority areas for the bilateral cooperation between Republic of Liberia and the Federal Republic of Ethiopia.

Later, the technical working group of each Ministry took time to further develop their respective MoU by involving Ministers and Technicians and finalized the edition. There was no representative from Liberian MoH and there was no need to revise the MoU.

4. Acknowledgement

Finally, Mr Emmanuel Munyeneh, on behalf of the Liberian MoFA and Ministries, presented his compliments and expressed thanks and appreciation for the delegates' participation in the two days technical working sessions.

5. Financing the trip

It was planned that the Ethiopian MoFA would pre-finance the trip costs and each Ministry would reimburse the costs of travel, accommodation and per diem related to the trip. Ato Metasebia approached Emebet to discuss the matter before the travel date. However, she explained that the International Institute for Primary Health Care in Ethiopia would not be in a position to cover the trip costs since the Institute is implementing a project and there is no allocated budget for this purpose. Ato Metasebia suggested that the reimbursement will be requested to the Federal Ministry of Health.

Upon her return, Emebet summarized the expenses and settled the travel advance payment at MoFA. (See annex V for letter written to the MoFA)

Annex I

List of Ethiopian experts

Feb 22-26, 2017

No	Name	Organization	Department	position	Contact details
1	Dr Alemayehu Mekonnen	Ministry of Livestock & Fishery (MoLF)	Disease prevention and control directorate	Director	alemalemayehu22@gmail.com 0920 662277 0911 609922
2	Ato Tesfaye Worku	Ministry of Industry (Mol)	Agro-processing	Team leader	Tefayeww93@gmail.com 0914 078758
3	Ato Azmera Kebede	Ministry of Education (MoE)	TVET	Director	azmezirb@yahoo.com 0911 069350
4	W/t Rahel Kiflu	Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA)	African affairs	Delegate	kiflulili@gmail.com 0973 748757
5	Ato Samson Abebe	MoFA	International legal affairs directorate	Delegate	Sam01mta@gmail.com 0911 824227
6	Wro Emebet Zerfu	IIfPHC	-	Resource center officer	e_zerfu@yahoo.com 0916 583081

Annex II

Tentative schedule of the working groups' meetings

No	Ministry	Date of meeting	Time	Venue
1	Commerce and Industry	Thursday 23	9am	Foreign Service Institute, 2 nd floor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
2	Agriculture	Thursday 23	9am	Conference room, 4 th floor of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
3	Education	Thursday 23	2pm	Conference room, Conference room, 4 th floor of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
4	Youth and Sports	Thursday 23	2pm	Conference room, 4 th floor of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
5	Health	Thursday 23	2pm	Conference room, 2 nd floor of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Annex III

Draft MoU for MoH

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH
OF THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA
AND
THE FEDERAL MINISTRY OF HEALTH OF THE DEMOCRATIC FEDERAL REPUBLIC
OF ETHIOPIA ON COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF HEALTH AND MEDICAL
SCIENCES**

The Ministry of Health of the Republic of Liberia

and

**The Federal Ministry of Health of the Democratic Federal Republic of
Ethiopia(hereinafter referred to as the “Parties):**

Realizing the desire to foster and strengthen relationships between the two parties and understanding the importance of working together in solving common health issues;

Being aware of the mutual interest of the two parties in the fields of prevention of diseases and promotion of public health;

Recognizing the importance of the health of the population for national development; and

Having realized that cooperation in expanding these exchanges will develop further good relations and collaboration between the health sectors in their respective countries;

Have reached the following understanding:

Article 1

The Parties will endeavor to promote cooperation between the two countries in the fields of health and medical sciences and other activities on the basis of equality and mutual benefit.

Article 2

This Memorandum of Understanding will be implemented, on behalf of the Liberian Party, by the Ministry of Health and, on behalf of the Ethiopian, by the Federal Ministry of Health of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia hereafter referred to as the "Parties."

Article 3

The Parties will make all efforts to promote, in accordance with their respective national legislations, the development of reciprocal relations and cooperation in the fields of health and medical sciences between the two countries by means of:

- a) Exchange of medical doctors and other health professionals and experts;
- b) Training Liberian health and medical workers;
- c) Exchange of information on health and medical science and health research development;
- d) Holding conferences and seminars; and
- e) Any other forms of cooperation as mutually identified by the Parties.

Article 4

The Parties, within the scope of their capacities, shall seek the establishment and development of direct bonds between the State Institutions and Organizations of both countries.

Article 5

The Parties, if necessary, will hold joint meetings alternately in Liberia and Ethiopia to evaluate the results of the implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding, to the development of health activities in the two countries.

Article 6

The activities under this Memorandum of Understanding will be carried out in accordance with the respective national legislations of the Parties and

with their budgetary availability. Each event will be negotiated between the Parties on a case-by-case basis, through diplomatic channels.

Article 7

1. This Memorandum of Understanding will come into effect on the date of its signing and will remain valid indefinitely.
2. Either Party may notify the other, through diplomatic channels, of its intention to terminate this Memorandum of Understanding. Termination will be effective six (6) months after the date of the notification.
3. This Memorandum of Understanding may be amended at any time, by mutual consent of the Parties, through diplomatic channels.
4. Any dispute relating to the interpretation or implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding will be settled by direct negotiations between the Parties, through diplomatic channels.
5. Similarly, either Party may terminate this Memorandum of understanding at any time or said termination shall become effective six (6) months following notification to the other Party.

Done in the city of Addis Ababa, on this _____ day of _____, 2017, in English language, all texts being equally authentic.

For the Ministry of Health
Republic of Liberia

For the Ministry of Health
Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

Dr. Bernice Dahn

H.E Prof. Yifru Berhan Mitke

Annex IV
Revised MoU for MoH

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH OF THE FEDERAL DEMOCRATIC
REPUBLIC OF ETHIOPIA
AND
THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH OF THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA
ON COOPERATION
IN THE FIELD OF HEALTH AND MEDICAL SCIENCES

The Ministry of Health of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Liberia (hereinafter jointly referred to as the “Parties” and separately as the “Party”)

Realizing the desire to foster and strengthen relationships between the two Parties and understanding the importance of working together in solving common health issues;

Being aware of the mutual interest of the two Parties in the fields of prevention of diseases and promotion of public health;

Recognizing the importance of the health of the population for national development; and

Having realized that cooperation in expanding these exchanges will develop further good relations and collaboration between the health sectors in their respective countries;

Have reached the following understanding:

Article 1

The Parties will endeavor to promote cooperation between their countries in the fields of health and medical sciences and other activities on the basis of equality and mutual benefit.

Article 2

The Ministry of Health of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Liberia will be the responsible authorities for the implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding (hereafter referred to as MOU).

Article 3

The Parties will make all efforts to promote, in accordance with their respective national legislations, the development of reciprocal relations and cooperation in the fields of health and medical sciences between their countries by means of:

- f) Exchange of medical doctors and other health professionals and experts;
- g) Training of health and medical workers;
- h) Training of policy makers;
- i) Exchange of information on health and medical science and health research development;
- j) Holding conferences and seminars;
- k) Experience sharing in designing innovative health care systems to address challenges as a result of the changing landscape;

- l) Support host visits to consolidate efforts for cross country learning and experience sharing on health programs, and;
- m) Any other forms of cooperation as mutually identified and accepted by the Parties.

Article 4

The Parties, within the scope of their capacities, shall seek the establishment and development of bonds between state Institutions and Organizations of their countries.

Article 5

The Parties, if necessary, will hold joint meetings alternately in Ethiopia and Liberia to evaluate the implementation of this MOU.

Article 6

- 1) The activities under this MOU will be carried out in accordance with the respective national legislations, policies and strategies of the Parties and with the availability of budget.
- 2) Each activity will be negotiated between the Parties on a case-by-case basis, through diplomatic channels.

Article 7

Any dispute relating to the interpretation or implementation of this MOU shall be settled by negotiation, through diplomatic channels.

Article 8

This MOU may be amended by the mutual written consent of the Parties through diplomatic channels.

Article 9

6. This Memorandum will come into effect upon signature and will continue in effect until terminated by either Party.
7. Either Party may terminate this MOU, at any time, by giving the other Party six (6) months prior written notice through diplomatic channels.

Signed at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on this _____ day of _____, 2017, in two copies, in the English language, both texts being equally valid.

Annex V

3 March 2017

Main Office Finance and Administration Department
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Addis Ababa

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Settlement of advance payment to travel to Liberia to work on MoU

As recalled, I was assigned to travel to Liberia representing the Federal Ministry of Health to work on the Memorandum of Understanding with the Liberia-Ethiopia bilateral cooperation technical working group between February 22 and 26, 2017.

I have been given an advance cash payment amounting **\$1,150** (US Dollars one thousand one hundred fifty only) for accommodation, meals and sundry expenses.

A summary of the expenses is as follows:

Description	Budget	Actual expense	Difference	Remark
Accommodation (B&B)	600.00	451.00	149.00	
Per diem for meals	400.00	500.00	(100.00)	The working team stayed for 5 days (Feb 22 to Feb 26, 2017)
Miscellaneous	100.00	50.00	50.00	Entry visa to Ghana (transit)
Service fees	50.00	50.00	-	
Total	1,150.00	1,051.00	99.00	

Please find attached the original receipts for lodging and entry visa fee to Ghana. I have also enclosed **\$99** (US Dollars one hundred only) to settle the difference.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Kind regards,

Emebet Zerfu

Annex V

Liberia visit in pictures



MoFA compound



Ethiopian experts at the MoFA main entrance waiting for honorable Minsters



Mr T Gbokie, Deputy Minister & Mr P Worzie, Assistant Minister (right to left)



HE Marjon V Kamara,
Minister of Foreign Affairs



Just after the meeting with the Minister, Mr Munyeneh, Assistant Minister & Mr Zuo, Deputy Minister explaining the day's program

Bi-lateral cooperation working groups



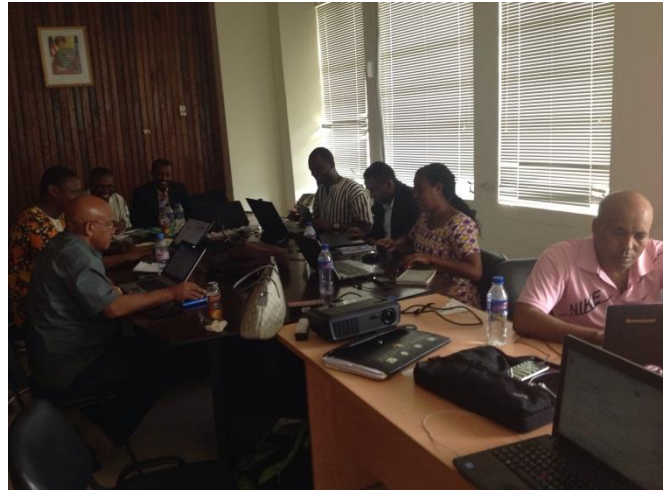
Dr Zinnah, Minister of Agriculture (left) in a meeting with the agriculture working group



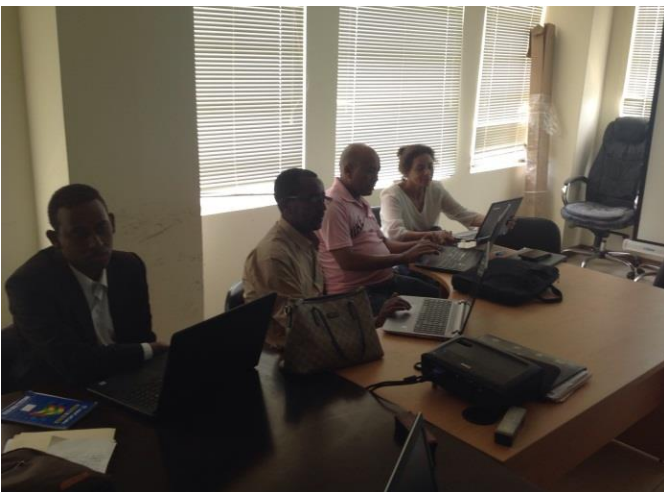
The Minister of Agriculture, Etagegnehu, Mr Gboki, Dr Alemayehu, Ato Azmera (right to left)



Consultative review meeting – all technical working groups



Liberian Ministers and Technicians working with the Ethiopian experts



Ethiopian experts: Samson, Tesfaye, Azmera & Emebet (left to right)



Dr Alemayehu; Samson; Emebet; Nathniel; Etagegnehu; Mr Gboki; Rahel; Azmera & Tesfaye (left to right)

