

National Workshop on The Vetiver System Applications

16 March 2009, Ghion Hotel, Addis Ababa

Closing Speech by Mr. Adane Kassa
Vice Chairperson of SLUF's Board of Directors

Distinguished Workshop Participants
International and National Resource Persons
Workshop Facilitator and Reporter
Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, I am indeed privileged to have been given this opportunity to make a brief closing remark at the end of this important national workshop on “**The Vetiver System for Soil & Water Conservation, Environmental Protection and Land Rehabilitation in Ethiopia**” successfully conducted from 16 to 18 March 2009.

As it was professionally presented by the international and national resource persons, thoroughly discussed and experiences shared by workshop participants, it is indeed true that vetiver, whose applications are promoted in more than 100 countries, is a *miracle grass*.

We have now a better exposure that apart from the hedge row for soil and water conservation (SWC), the vetiver grass (*Chrysopogon zizanioides*) has multiple uses, effective, simple to use, cheap and labour intensive; and grown over wide range of climatic and soil conditions.

The multiple uses of vetiver grass, among others, include: SWC; slope stabilization; land rehabilitation; landslide and flood protection; environmental protection (pollution control); crop protection (stalk borer control); animal feed; mulch; roof thatch; mattress; green leaves spread in house during holidays, weddings, public meetings, etc; mud brick making; strings and ropes; ornamentals; aromatic oils extracted from vetiver roots for medicinal (aromatherapy) and cosmetics purposes; and mitigation of global warming and climate change. There are indications that vetiver grass has future potential for atmospheric carbon sequestration and bio-fuel.

These multiple uses of the vetiver grass very much justify the scaling out/up of the vetiver system (VS) applications as one of the best sustainable land management (SLM) practices for combating land degradation and income generations for community development in Ethiopia.

Based on the experiences we shared in the workshop, referring to the materials provided and based on information provided in the website of The Vetiver Network International (TVNI) and others, I am confident that workshop participants and all development actors would adopt, disseminate and scale out/up the Vetiver System applications in Ethiopia.

At this juncture, I would like to kindly appeal to all stakeholders and volunteer individuals to give their utmost support to the newly established *Vetiver Network Ethiopia* (VNE) to effectively play its role of VS applications scaling up advocacy, documentation and dissemination of information to users and the public at large.

Finally, on behalf of the Board of Directors of SLUF and the Secretariat, I would like to heartily thank Sida and TVNI very much for financing and making the workshop a reality. I thank very much all the international and national resource persons who professionally very well prepared themselves and shared their rich experiences of the VS applications from different parts of the world.

Thank you very much Mr. Daniel Danano and Mr. Girma Mengistu for the jobs well done in facilitating the workshop programme and preparing the workshop process report respectively.

Last but not least, I am very much thankful to the Technical Committee comprising Mr. Richard Grimshaw and Dr. Paul Truong of TVNI, staff of SLUF Secretariat and all others who have actively participated in organizing this workshop and made the workshop successful.

I wish you all a safe journey home!

Thank You