

**NutriHAF Africa project organized a final round table policy discussion in Addis Ababa on 7<sup>th</sup> of December 2018 and presented its seven Policy briefs, which are now available for download**

The aim of the round table event was to: (1) enable the relevant decision-makers and stakeholders to better understand the interactions among environment, agriculture and nutrition; (2) discuss policy instruments for promoting multi-storey cropping system in order to reshape food systems and create enabling food environments in support of healthy diets; and (3) stimulate policy options to create conducive institutional environment required to sustain and scale up NutriHAF project best practices at other locations with similar agro-ecological conditions.

Accordingly, heads of all relevant ministries and bureaus from the federal, regional and local level participated in the round table event. The agenda included: (1) agriculture and nutrition linkages; (2) NutriHAF project background; (3) environment, agriculture and nutrition status in the project areas; (4) results of crop demonstration and trials; (5) the Ethiopian agriculture and extension advisory services; and (6) pathways towards the integration of nutrition into the agricultural system of Ethiopia.

Following the welcoming address, the director of the Ethiopian Climate Change and Coffee Forest Forum (ECCCF), Dr. Girma Balcha, held a keynote speech on agriculture and nutrition linkages. He emphasized the need to build on local knowledge as the main mechanism of managing and developing knowledge in any project aiming to achieve higher levels of development and social cohesion. To this end, the role of NutriHAF Africa project was emphasized as exemplary in involving all relevant stakeholders in crop identification, site selection, land preparation, planting, crop protection, harvesting, cooking demonstrations and trial evaluations. The project was also praised for introducing multi-storey cropping system into Ethiopia where population growth is leading to increased demand for farm land thereby diminishing land under forest coverage. After that, NutriHAF Policy briefs were presented by each of the Ethiopian post doc researchers (Dr. Admassu Tesso, Dr. Akalu Tesso, Dr. Beneberu Assefa, and Dr. Edossa Etissa) and discussed by the participants. The audience was overwhelmingly appreciating the relevance of the Policy briefs and its recommendations. For a wider circulation, the participants agreed to disseminate the Policy briefs within their offices.

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