

**Short GEONETCast training course in Addis Ababa, at the Disaster Risk Management & Food Security Sector Early Warning & Response Directorate. 19-21 April 2011. Jointly organized by the World Food Programme (WFP).**

A MoU was signed among four parties (DRMFSS, NMA, WFP-CO and ITC of the University of Twente in the Netherlands) and the main collaboration areas focus on:

- Establishing and installation of the pilot GEONETCast infrastructure and applications
- Applied research to strengthen the early warning systems, preparedness and mitigation to drought, flood and other weather related hazards;
- Strengthening of agro meteorological services; and contribution to the development of the Livelihoods Early Assessment and Protection (LEAP) software in Ethiopia.

As per the MoU, the current GEONETCast Infrastructure setup and training was organized by VAM of WFP-CO and conducted by ITC for 29 experts drawn from Federal and Regional DRMFSS and NMA. The 3 days (April 19-21/2011) training cost was covered by WFP-CO and DRMFSS collaborated in providing training hall and transportation facilities for trainees during on site demonstration. Out of the 29 government participants, fourteen of them came from national Meteorological Agency sub-offices of Gambella, Jijiga, Bahir Dar, Kombolcha, Tigray, Jimma, Bale Robe, Awassa, Semera, Benishangul Gumuz, and Nazerthe.

The 3 days intensive training and demonstration was aimed at imparting from introduction to GEONETCast to detail system layout and manipulation of data using the ILWIS GEONETCast Toolbox. Two trainers from ITC took part in the 3 days training and demonstration program and the training was organized in a manner whereby participants could have theoretical understanding as well as hands on practice experience. On DVD participants received the software, exercise data, presentations and other relevant background information.

During the GEONETCast ground reception station installation and demonstration, all participants got a chance to see the C-band antenna erection and its orientation towards Atlantic Bird-3 as well as the GEONETCast software installation, configuration and satellite - other product data storage and retrieval.

Picture showing participants outside of the DRMFSS training centre



Picture showing the temporary class and practical room, using 15 laptops for practical training purposes



Picture showing the temporary C-band antenna setup at the National Meteorological Agency



Picture showing the participants surrounding the ground reception station during installation of a DVB card

