

JIMMA UNIVERSITY (JU): THE PROPOSED COLLABORATION

Achieving Millennium Development Goals through Environmental Sustainability, Water Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND ECOLOGY PROJECT TEAM

Fact sheet

Project leader:	Fantahun Wassie, Lecturer, Head of School of Environmental Health (Faculty of Public).
Faculties involved:	School of Environmental Health (SEH, Faculty of Public Health), Department of Natural Resource Management (DNRM, College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences) and Departments of Biology (DB, Faculty of Education), Chemistry (DC, Faculty of Education) and geography (DG, Faculty of Education).
Project capacity:	A multidisciplinary team composed of 17 senior staff who are graduated with second degree (MSc) and 10 first degree holder research assistants.
Core needs/problems:	Lack high level trained staff (PhD) who can sustain the MSc program in Environmental Science and Technology which was launched in January 2006. Availability of a well equipped laboratory is required to undertake quality research.

Specific objectives of the project

1. Providing safe and adequate water supply, and improving sanitation facilities.
2. Improving the solid and liquid waste management of Jimma town, and the coffee processing plants to prevent the pollution of surface and ground water sources.
3. Rehabilitation and restoration of biodiversity of Boye Pond, a nature reserve.
4. Establishing a solid waste management system in the new towns that are emerging due to decentralization and make use of solid waste as a fertilizer.
5. Establishing mechanisms to regenerate the ecology of plant and animal species around the Gilgel Gibe river catchment areas in order to increase the lifetime of the Hydroelectric dam.
6. Improving the forest ecology, management system and land use pattern around the catchment areas of the Gilgel Gibe.
7. Improving the housing design with minimisation of indoor air pollution.
8. Assessing the extent of exposure of people and the fate of pesticides and their metabolite products as a result of indoor residual spraying in the prevention and control of malaria programmes and agricultural applications.

An opportunity to collaborate

General notions:

This project puts forward opportunities for the interested Flemish academics to experience environmental health and ecological problems in developing countries. Flemish expertise will be involved in most of the research activities since they will be promoters of the PhD students and their expertise is also required in all aspects of the research activities. Moreover, Flemish MSc and PhD students can participate in the area of the research activities of the project.

Expertise required:

Specialisation:	Environmental health and ecology; ecotoxicology and environmental impact assessment; forest and landscape ecology; environmental ecology and natural resource management.
Critical capacities:	Previous international exposures with scientific and developmental issues, and able to work with local communities.
Nature of collaboration:	Remote support assisted with frequent email contact, occasional visit and offering courses to MSc students of Environmental Science and Technology, and short term training to the academic staff to improve the analytical skills in different research activities.