

Biodiversity Challenge Funds Projects Darwin Initiative, Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund, and Darwin Plus

Half Year Report

It is expected that this report will be a **maximum of 2-3 pages** in length.

If there is any confidential information within the report that you do not wish to be shared on our website, please ensure you clearly highlight this.

Submission Deadline: 31st October 2024

Please note all projects that were active before 1 October 2024 are required to complete a Half Year Report.

Submit to: BCF-Reports@niras.com including your project ref in the subject line.

Project reference	DARCC046
Project title	Building Government Capability to Train Farmers about Pollination in Ethiopia
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Ethiopia
Lead Organisation	Bees for Development
Partner(s)	Bees for Development Ethiopia, Pesticide Action Nexus Ethiopia, Bahir Dar University
Project leader	Janet Lowore
Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)	HYR1
Project website/blog/social media	Building Government Capability to Train Farmers about Pollination in Ethiopia

Project started 1 April 2024.

Familiarization meeting

Familiarization meeting was conducted in Bahir Dar (location 1) with stakeholders [23M,10F] at project start. The meeting was helpful to create shared momentum, build trust and lay the foundations for successful collaboration. During the meeting participants reflected that the project is ground-breaking for the agriculture sector. They acknowledged that they knew about pollination services in the abstract, but did not appreciate the full import. "We did not recognize how pollination, pollinators, and the ecosystems are functioning. This occasion has opened our eyes to think about ecosystem services". Overall, the event was helpful to anticipate the project result, and to create a sense of ownership among stakeholders on the implementation of the project.

A second familiarization workshop was held in Arba Minch with 21 stakeholders (15M,6F).

Demonstration technique to show consequence of insect deprivation

We are developing a demonstration technique to show the impact of insect deprivation on fruit development. We identified a range of 'candidate crops' and selected three to test the demonstration. We developed a demonstration protocol (how to conduct the demonstration, frequency of monitoring, what parameters should be collected as data) and we are now testing three crops. The Development Agents are also testing the demo technique. Candidate crops which are highly dependent on insect pollinators have been selected - avocado, apple and niger. The demonstrations have been set up in farmers' fields – to afford opportunity for

learning, as well as testing the technique to see if it can be easily replicated and used more widely.

Pollination Training Toolkit (PTT) document development

PTT document development is underway. A draft PTT document has been developed by all parties, including experts from project partner organizations (BFD, BFDE, Bahir Dar University and PAN-Ethiopia). The core part of the document is a set of seven training tools. These seven tools have been introduced to our stakeholders. Orientation training for a small group of DAs and experts was conducted in September – showing them how to use the tools and giving them the confidence to test the tools with farmers. The purpose of the pre-test is to gain feedback from Development Agents and farmers about the simplicity, ease of use and learning achieved. The pre-test training using the toolkit has already started in 4 kebeles with 20 farmers (5 farmers in each kebele). Also during the orientation training all staff and Development Agents received training on adult education techniques.

Overall, the project is going well as per our assumptions.

2. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments/lessons learnt that the project has encountered over the last 6 months. Explain what impact these could have on the project and whether the changes will affect the budget and timetable of project activities.

There is no notable problems. One feedback point that we have received from stakeholders is a request that the Pollination Training Toolkit is created in Amharic as well as in English. We have accepted this feedback. This change do not affect the budget and the timetable of the project.

3. Have any of these issues been discussed with NIRAS and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?

Discussed with NIRAS:

No

Formal Change Request submitted:

N/A

Received confirmation of change acceptance:

N/A

Change Request reference if known: *If you submitted a financial Change Request, you can find the reference in the email from NIRAS confirming the outcome*

4a. Please confirm your actual spend in this financial year to date (i.e. from 1 April 2024 – 30 September 2024)

Actual spend:

4b. Do you currently expect to have any significant (e.g. more than £5,000) underspend in your budget for this financial year (ending 31 March 2025)?

No

4c. If you expect and underspend, then you should consider your project budget needs carefully. Please remember that any funds agreed for this financial year are only available to the project in this financial year.

If you anticipate a significant underspend because of justifiable changes within the project, please submit a re-budget Change Request as soon as possible. There is no guarantee that Defra will agree a re-budget so please ensure you have enough time to make appropriate changes to your project if necessary. **Please DO NOT send these in the same email as your report.**

NB: if you expect an underspend, do not claim anything more than you expect to spend this financial year.

5. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to BCF management, monitoring, or financial procedures?

No

6. Please use this section to respond to any feedback provided when your project was confirmed, or from your most recent annual report. If your project was subject to an Overseas Security and Justice Assistance assessment please use this space to comment on any changes to international human rights risks, and to address any additional mitigations outlined in your offer letters. Please provide the comment and then your response. If you have already provided a response, please confirm when.

No

Checklist for submission

For New Projects (i.e. starting after 1st April 2024)	
Have you responded to any additional feedback (other than caveats) received in the letter you received to say your application was successful which requested response at HYR (including safeguarding points)? You should respond in section 6, annexes other requested materials as appropriate.	No additional feedback was included in the letter
If not already submitted, have you attached your risk register ?	
For Existing Projects (i.e. started before 1st April 2024)	
Have you responded to feedback from your latest Annual Report Review ? You should respond in section 6, annexes other requested materials as appropriate.	
For All Projects	
Include your project reference in the subject line of submission email.	
Submit to BCFs-Report@niras.com .	
Have you clearly highlighted any confidential information within the report that you do not wish to be shared on our website?	
Have you reported against the most up to date information for your project ?	
Please ensure claim forms and other communications for your project are not included with this report.	