



Implemented by



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Dear readers,

We are delighted to share with you the latest edition of our newsletter for 2022.

This newsletter provides highlights from all four areas of the project's intervention from October to December 2022.

Do you want to know more about the project? Please click or scan the below QR code.

We hope you have a good read!





Output one - Improved worker support



The S.I.C. project conducted a four-day Training of Trainers (ToT) for 30 participants from Debre Birhan and Kombolcha industrial parks (IP) on Occupational, Safety and Health (OSH) Management Systems in accordance with the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 45001: 2018. 26 participants successfully completed the course and received a certificate. A pre- and post-training evaluation of OSH knowledge management showed a competency increase of participants by 69%. The training concluded with the development of a six-month workplan for the OSH committee in both IPs.

In consultation with several stakeholders, S.I.C. drafted comprehensive Grievance Call Centre Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) that aim at providing a standardised guideline for filing and handling grievances by workers. The SOP is aimed for the call centre staff in Bole Lemi and Hawassa IP. It is currently being validated under the leadership of the Ethiopian Investment Commission (EIC) with inputs from relevant partners. The validation workshop is expected for January 2023 and will be followed by a training for the call centre staff.



S.I.C. facilitated the participation of one EIC expert in a business mission to India. The mission's objective was to revive the communication with potential inves-

tors, increase investor knowledge of Ethiopian IPs, and strengthen links with institutions to approach future investors. EIC promoted various IPs, such as Bole Lemi, Kilinto and other integrated agro-processing IPs to potential new investors. Following the event, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed with the Haryana State and the India Trade Promotion Organization to institutionalise cooperation on promoting Ethiopian IPs to Indian investors. As a result of the visit, Zuvis company expressed a strong interest in investing in Kilinto IP.

S.I.C. supported MoI to develop gender mainstreaming guidelines for the manufacturing sector. The guidelines have the objective to improve gender accountability, to remove structural barriers, and to provide guidance on measuring, monitoring, and evaluating gender equality performance in the manufacturing sector. Following two big consultation workshops the guidelines have been drafted in Amharic and will now be translated into English.



Output two - Improved IP management and environmental sustainability



S.I.C. took over the follow-on of a pilot project for sustainable and environmental-friendly sewage sludge drying for industrial areas in Ethiopia. The pilot employed a solar-based sludge drying technology in the wastewater treatment facility of Bole Lemi IP. The sludge drying technology equipment was delivered to Bole Lemi IP and the construction and installation of the technology was finalized. This technology will also lessen the leaching of unwanted chemicals into the soil where the sludge is accumulated. The project complemented the construction with capacity building measures on efficient sludge drying technologies and OSH at waste-water treatment plants by providing training to 25 participants from Hawassa, Adama and Bole Lemi IPs.



Output four - Improved sustainability frameworks



S.I.C. organized two rounds of awareness-creation workshops for environmental and compliance officers at companies, university lecturers, environmental lawyers, and representatives from various governmental and non-governmental organizations. In total, 98 participants were informed about the new and existing environmental policies and laws, including the sludge standard, management tools, and guidelines. The project will now focus its support on ensuring compliance with the sludge standard.

In cooperation with MIDI, S.I.C. continued its capacity-building interventions to improve raw material utilization and reduce waste in companies. After the development of a training manual and SOPs on raw material utilization and trainings provided to nine factories, S.I.C. organized a follow-up workshop for the companies. The workshop aimed at assessing and validating the findings from the first training round. As a result, raw material utilization in the targeted companies has improved by up to 10%. This allows factories to save costs between ETB 2.9 million and ETB 10.64 million on average annually depending on the production stage.





Strengthened linkages between locally-based businesses and industrial parks

The eighth edition of the African Sourcing and Fashion Week (ASFW) took place in Addis Ababa between 4th and 7th of November 2022. Renowned as Africa's largest meeting platform for fashion, sustainability, and innovation, ASFW attracted different exhibitors from Africa, Asia and Europe. S.I.C. joined forces with the Ethiopian Ministry of Industry (MoI) and the EIC to support 11 Ethiopia-based companies to catalyse and sustain stronger business linkages between local companies and international buyers. The project organised a focused panel discussion addressing the current trends and developments in domestic and international investment regulations that impact suppliers along the supply chain in producing countries. In addition, the project organised a high-level breakfast meeting under the Chattem House Rule. This was very welcomed by the participants, both from the private and public sector, who were able to have a frank discussion where the next steps were clearly identified.



The post-event survey result shows that event was successful and the number of exhibitors have improved. The survey revealed that 70% (or 7 out of 10) of the supported companies have linked with potential buyers and affirmed that the event was successful. At the end of the event, 23 initial connections had been created.

Check out the video documenting the overall event with this [link](#).

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