



**PRESS RELEASE**

**India and Ethiopia to further enhance Science & Technology Cooperation**

**Addis Ababa, 7 December 2017:** Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Minister of Science & Technology and Earth Sciences met Ethiopian Minister of Science and Technology Dr. Getahun Mekuria in Addis Ababa on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2017. During the meeting, two Ministers reviewed various elements of science and technology cooperation between the two sides. Both Ministers agreed to further strengthen bilateral S&T cooperation through support for capacity building and technological upscaling of Ethiopian institutions.

2. Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan agreed to strengthen four Centres of Excellence (COEs) being set up at the Addis Ababa Science and Technology University (AASTU) and Adama Science and Technology University (ASTU) through a partnership model with leading Indian academic and R&D institutions. The Indian side will provide capacity building and training for Ethiopian researchers in Indian institutions as well as for sending Indian scientists to Ethiopian Centres of Excellence for laboratory infrastructure and research strategy, including pedagogy development and training support. The Centres of Excellence identified under this programme cover areas of biotechnology and food bio-processing, sustainable energy, water resources and irrigation engineering and geospatial information systems.

3. Ethiopia has recently launched the Betre Science Initiative (Science without borders) as a human resource capacity development programme to foster science and technology adaptation and innovation. India has been identified as a partner of choice and recently 673 students were sent to five engineering institutions in India to pursue various undergraduate, postgraduate and PhD courses. The possibilities of further cooperation to ensure the success of the Betre Science Initiative was discussed between the two Ministers and Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan assured all necessary support to ensure the success of this initiative. The potential of relevant innovations/patents of CSIR in health, agriculture and energy sectors for Ethiopia were also discussed.

4. Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan also met Ethiopian State Minister of Industries Dr. Alemu Sima. The twinning programmes between Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), India and Metals Industry Development Institute (MIDI) and Leather Industry Development Institute (LIDI) for technology upgradation and capacity building in the metal and leather sectors were discussed. The two Ministers expressed happiness with the success of the CSIR-LIDI twinning programme, which has been operational since 2011. The programme has witnessed technical training of



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150 Ethiopian technicians/scientists at CSIR-CLRI and visit of about 100 CSIR-CLRI scientists to Ethiopia. They also expressed hope that the recently signed agreement on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2017 on the twinning arrangement between CSIR and MIDI would yield similar benefits. The possibility of further twinning arrangements between CSIR and Chemical and Construction Input Industry Development Institute (CCIDI) was also discussed. In this regard, recognizing the benefits of such twinning arrangements, it was agreed that India would continue to extend its support towards capacity development of research facilities in the Ethiopian industrial sector.

5. India and Ethiopia have a long history of partnership in the S&T sector. An Agreement on Cooperation in Science and Technology was signed between the two sides on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2007 and provides for capacity building cooperation in identified areas through faculty visits, technology transfer, joint R&D projects and visiting fellowships. In addition, as part of its capacity building cooperation including in science and technology areas, Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC programme) has been launched in Ethiopia since 1969 and has been very successful. 2338 Ethiopian nationals have benefited under this programme. India offers CV Raman scholarships for African researchers in order to provide opportunities to conduct collaborative research in various science and technology areas in the best Indian institutions. So far, 36 researchers from Ethiopia have benefited from this fellowship since 2011 and nine fellowships have been awarded for the year 2018-19.

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**7<sup>th</sup> December 2017**