

**HUBOLDT-UNIVERSITAET ZU BERLIN**  
**Faculty of Agriculture and Horticulture**

**„The prospects for installing Access and  
Benefit Sharing (ABS) Framework; Problems  
and Solutions with Institutional Analysis in  
Ethiopian Coffee Forest“**

Master Thesis in the study program: Msc. International  
Agricultural Science

Submitted by: Watanabe, Shigeo

Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Konrad Hagedorn  
Dr. Stefan Jungcurt

Department of Agricultural Economics and Social Sciences  
Division of Resource Economics

Berlin, 26.07.2007

## **8. Conclusion**

Throughout this research, several significant findings are identified as the prospect of installing ABS regime on coffee Arabica genetic resource. Those are the answers of core research questions. In this chapter, those significant findings and discussions, explained until previous chapters, are summarized. Furthermore, some recommendations and prospects of installing ABS regime on coffee are explained as options for future plan.

### **8.1 Significant findings**

The findings of this research are categorized into several types. First, the basic elements of ABS proclamations are cleared, compared to other ABS frameworks or case studies. Those are Competent National Authority, PIC, MAT, compliance and monitoring system, benefit sharing mechanism, and roles and responsibilities of stakeholders. Compared to other ABS frameworks, PIC and MAT are combined as one access agreement. Hence, it could be said that Ethiopian ABS proclamation also contains those general important elements. On the other hand, current regime seems not to be developed enough to bring the successful benefit sharing. Hence, some expected obstacles are found under the hypothesis that ABS contracts on genetic resource of coffee Arabica would be made. Besides, there are other obstacles, which would be occurred due to the current complicated situation of coffee forests. Although there are numerous findings, here are briefly introduced only significant findings. The first findings, which are related to the situation of coffee forests, are:

- Property rights over coffee genetic resource are not clearly defined. This will lead the problem of identification of actors, who have right to decide MAT and receive benefit;
- The technical support system for conservation coffee forests are not well organized due to lack of capacity and cooperation among actors; and
- The resource users are not highly motivated to join the ABS regime.

The found problems of current Ethiopian ABS proclamation are:

- Benefit sharing mechanism, such as benefit receivers, the way of distribution, monitoring and evaluation, are not clear;
- Information of ABS regime is not well distributed due to lack of capacity of IBC and pride of other stakeholders;
- The process of issuing ABS agreement for conservation based research seems to be

costly and to require too much time consuming;

- There is limit of monitoring on the activities of resource user. Those are bio piracy in site and copying or transferring material in resource user country, and hiding benefit; and
- Conflict management between resource users and providers is not clearly indicated.

## **8.2 Recommendations**

As the results of finding those problems, several measurements would be considered as optional solutions. Besides, recommendations for installing ABS regime on coffee Arabica are summarised. However, introducing those measurements requires further research. In fact, the implementation of ABS regime is still not well discussed at whole levels. Hence, recommendations could be the options for future developing process of ABS regime in Ethiopia and coffee genetic resources. The first recommendations are categorized for ABS regime and for stakeholders. Those for ABS regimes are:

- Establishing independent body, which are consists of stakeholders of ABS agreement. This body could at least diffuse the information of ABS proclamation, distribute benefit transparently, implement policy smoothly, etc. The establishment would be initiated by IBC;
- Need the permission of special application with lesser time and money consuming for conservation research, especially on endangered species. However, several conditions should be required, such as that the research should be performed with the participation of Ethiopian scientific institutions; and
- There is need of manual for application and for process of ABS agreement, such as required time span and criteria of withdrawing or changing access agreements.

The recommendations for stakeholders are following:

- IBC has to develop efficient conservation technical support system. One of the option is that agriculture bureau at regional level would build the office of IBC. IBC has to transfer the rights, responsibilities, and human and financial resources;
- Additional value as “Fairly trade based on direct negotiation” can be the merit of introducing ABS regime for resource users;
- Resource user countries have to promote the recognition the necessity of ABS regime and consider the introduction of the monitoring mechanism and co-related sanction mechanism with resource providing countries; and

- Developing cooperation agencies in developed countries would give the technical support of implementing ABS regime.

The prospects of installing ABS regime on coffee Arabica and recommendations are:

- There are two possibilities of applying ABS regime. One is scientific research for conservation and producing new plant variety. The other is developing new products from coffee genetic resources. However, latter case seems to be better with voluntary introduction at first step as fairly trade with legal binding force;
- Expected benefit would be research budget, the possibilities of joint research, increasing scientific capacity, bioprospecting fees, royalties, potential of products development, etc. Developing new pant variety will be able to bring large amount of monetary benefit;
- Identification of benefit receiver seems to be difficult. However, the way of distributing monetary benefit has to be decided with the wide view of community development and conservation of coffee forests. Hence, establishing alternative contractors, such as CFCUs, is one of the options; and
- Conservation forests with distributed scientific knowledge and skills should be performed by IBC with the cooperation of agriculture bureau of regional administration and other institutions.

At last, it would be pleased, if this research could be beneficial for the further development of coffee conservation and sustainable use of its genetic resources in Ethiopian Afromontane rainforest.

## **Summary**

One of the economically important plants, coffea Arabica, is used as main income resource for several developing countries. This coffea Arabica originally comes from Afromontane rainforests in Ethiopia and have characteristics of draught tolerance, disease resistance, and less caffeine content. Although coffee forest areas have been decreasing, there is no critical measurement at present. On the other hand, the ABS proclamation is newly adopted in Ethiopia. The ABS regime is based on the direct negotiation for contracts on resource use and on sharing benefit between resource users and providers. Hence, it may be possible to bring more monetary and non-monetary benefit to those coffee forests and its community. Those benefit will the motivation for

the conservation and sustainable use of coffee forest resources. Therefore, this research focuses on the prospects of installing this regime on coffee Arabica in Ethiopia, especially at Ethiopian national level.

The basic research questions are the identification of required additional elements for ABS regime, identifying the obstacles for making contracts, and measuring the needs for medium for contracts. As a first step, the basic theories of ABS framework, and theories of cause of obstacles are introduced based on IAD framework. Those theories are property rights, contract and uncertainties. For the answers of first research question, Ethiopian ABS proclamation is compared with three other frameworks, such as Bonn Guideline, ITPGRFA and OAU's model law. Besides, ABS contract on Teff plant is introduced for the comparison. The data for analyzing research questions were collected from thirteen stakeholders by direct interview in Ethiopia. The analysis was performed as qualitative analysis.

As significant findings, it was cleared that current Ethiopian ABS regime contains several problems. Those are uncertainties, due to legal system, unclear benefit sharing mechanism, limitation of monitoring system etc. Furthermore, implementing ABS regime does not seem to work smoothly, due to lack of cooperation between different stakeholders and of understanding. On the other hand, the property right over coffee resource is not clearly defined. Besides, the current technical support system of conservation forests seems not to be well organized.

As conclusions, it seems to be two possibilities for adopting ABS regime for coffee Arabica: one is for producing new coffee plant variety, the other is for developing new products. However, the identification of benefit receiver and establishing benefit distribution mechanisms still require further discussion. It seems to be also important to establish independent body, composed of different stakeholders for ABS information diffusion, coordination of implementation, and monitoring benefit distribution. Lastly, there are several recommendations for ABS regime and stakeholders, and several options for installing ABS regime on coffee genetic resource.