

# The Ethiopian Herald

Wednesday

Aug 12<sup>th</sup> / 09

## USAID initiative launches health programme

BY BELETU BULBULA

ADDISABABA – The five-year United States Agency for International Development (USAID) initiative Agribusiness and Trade Expansion Programme (ATEP) has launched a health programme. The initiative is working to improve the productivity and sales of farmers, processors, traders and exporters.

Opening a half-day introductory workshop here yesterday, Health Ministry Health Promotion and Diseases Prevention Directorate Health Officer Tsegaye Bedane said that without the active participation of other partners, the government will not achieve the desired improvements in the health sector.

ATEP operates in Tigray, Amhara, SNNP and Oromia states to strengthen four sectors in Ethiopia: horticulture, coffee, hides, skin and leather, as well as oilseed and pulses for the last three year, he added.

According to Tsegaye, the newly launched health programme would enable the country achieve the desired objective in the prevention of HIV/AIDS and sustain the economy.

USAID-ATEP Health Sector Manager Asalif Demisie on his part

said the major objective of ATEP health component is to improve HIV/AIDS prevention, care and support services in the domains of USAID-ATEP lead clients. Asalif further indicated that 1.2 million USD has been allotted to the programme that would be implemented through 12 local NGOs.

According to the Manager, the two-year programme focuses on HIV/AIDS prevention, care and support to workers of project clients and their family members in 45 woredas in the four states.

The programme would directly benefit 50,000 people organized into 107 associations, he said, adding it would also help elders and ADIS orphans improve their daily income.