

## Institute provides for workshop leather company owners & production managers

The Leather Industry Development Institute (LIDI) provided National workshop on 12 December 2013 to some leather company owners & production managers on the title “**Technological Options for Better Environmental Sustainability of Ethiopian Tanning Industry**” at Ghion hotel.

The workshop focused on effective utilization of resources and cleaner production in leather industries which is presenting proven technological options to the Ethiopian tanning industry, sharing experience, among others.

On the occasion the Industry state minister, Tadesse Haile, on his opening speech “It is a



high time for the leather industry to opt for proven technologies to meet the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) norms and to gain greater sustainability. I strongly feel that this workshop is well timed and would



greatly benefit the Ethiopian leather sector.”

The environmental safety requirements put forth by the EPA needs to be compiled by the industry. He also added that “I appeal to all the Ethiopian tanners to take the fullest advantage of this workshop to attain better environmental sustainability,” the State Minister said.

Leather Industry Development Institute (LIDI) Director General Wondu Legesse, on his part said, “Production of finished leathers and enhancement of the production volume would obviously lead us to more significant environmental impact. And therefore, it would be the responsibility of all stakeholders to ensure appropriate mechanisms for environmental protection”.

According to the Director General, environmental preparedness of Ethiopian Tanning Industry is highly essential for sustainable growth. LIDI has been taking all possible measures to support Ethiopian leather and leather products industries. The competence and capability of LIDI is getting enhanced through the ongoing program of twinning, he added.

Wondu also explained that as the leather industry uses high amount of water and chemicals, it risks fauna health and flora unless due attention is given to technologies of waste disposal systems. So, it necessitates availing waste disposal systems along with factories installations.



The workshop was held by LIDI in collaboration with CLRI & UNDP. During the workshop the representatives EPA, ELIA & CLRI presented their papers on the titles;

- **Tanners' Perspective: Environmental requirements - Tanners' Perspective**, by ato Abdisa Adugna Secretary of Ethiopian Leather Industry Association ,
- **Environmental Requirements**, by Ato Mehari Wondmagegne from minister of Environment & Forest.

**From CLRI papers presented by Leather Technology expertise as follow:-**

- **In-process options and cleaner technologies for Ethiopian tanning Industry** by Dr.NK Chandrababu,
- **“Environmental status of Ethiopian tanning Industry “** by Dr.SV Srinivasan,
- **End treatment options for Ethiopian tanning industry** Dr.E Ravaindranath,
- **Solid waste disposal and management Options** by Dr.K Sri Bala Kameswari,
- **Environmental Management System for Tanneries-ISO 14001:2004 Guidelines** by Mr Jawahar Anand,Expert Twinning.

At the workshop, participants said that, since waste treatment demands high amount of cost, skilled manpower, it need great support from the government. We need government's support to discharge our social responsibilities. As factories have financial problems in developing their environmental system facilities, they need strong support from the government.”



Ethiopian Leather Industries Association (ELIA) Secretary General, Abdissa Adugna, said that, while some companies have failed and some others have minimized their activities. Few tanners have established primary treatment plants while some of them are under a process of establishing primary influent treatment plants; they are in developing their environmental system facilities.

Most of all need more time to set up these facilities to fulfill the requirements. Still tanneries are controlled by environmental authorities for complying with requirements for avoiding pollution of surface water and air. Although few tanneries have already developed their primary effluent treatment plants, one has to admit that there is still a technological gap.

The workshop was closed by Ato Wondu Legesse, Director General of Leather Industry Development Institute disclosing that, the workshop would enable the participants to contribute their part to fulfill and ensure appropriate mechanisms for environmental protection in their respective organization.