



Brief Profile of Professor Yihenew G/Sellassie Mengesha



Professor Yihenew G/Sellassie Mengesha was born in a small town called Merawi which is located about thirty kilometers South of Bahir Dar. He attended his Primary and Junior Secondary School in Merawi. He then completed his high school education in Damot Comprehensive Secondary School, Finote Selam. After completing his secondary education, he joined Addis Ababa University and graduated with diploma. He then went to Ukraine and earned his MSc from Kharkov Agricultural University. He was awarded his PhD in Kasetsart University, Bangkok, Thailand.

Professor Yihenew has been teaching different courses mainly in graduate programs both in Bahir Dar University and other local universities. He has taught advanced courses on research (Research Methods in Land Resources Management and Research Methods in Soil Science) and other courses like Advanced Soil Science and Advanced Soil Chemistry for MSc and PhD students.

Professor Yihenew's professional contribution is not limited to teaching of various courses to post graduate students but has registered a staggering achievement in research as well. Due to his remarkable performance in research, he was awarded best researcher/publisher of the year 2014 in Bahir Dar University. He was also named best instructor of the College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences, Bahir Dar University in 2015. His students in term reap from his vast research experience through his supervision of their research projects. He has been a supervisor and a co-supervisor for 51 MSc students and 3 PhD graduates. He is currently supervising 3 MSc students and 3 PhD candidates at Bahir Dar University. Moreover, the professor contributes in knowledge sharing through examination of theses. He has so far examined theses of 3 PhD candidates at Haromaya University and 4 PhD candidates at Hawassa University.

Professor Yihenew has published and/or co-published a total of 49 Journal articles, 5 book chapters, 24 proceedings and 8 best fit manuals during his entire professional career. Over 35 articles have been published since his last promotion in 2011. From the total published journal articles, 9 were published in 8 journals indexed in Web of Science and 33 articles were published in journals which have impact factors/H index/Cite factor index.

Professor Yihenew's professional endeavor is highly visible in the externally funded projects he has won. He has so far developed and executed six internationally funded projects which worth a net value of Eth birr 60,880,007.20. Winning of those projects' budget has benefited the university and the country at large in three main ways. The first is capacity building. With the projects he has won, scholarships for (21 MSc students and 2 PhD candidates) have been secured. Also, Short term trainings were offered to farmers and extension workers. The projects have also opened job opportunities for a total of 11 experts. In addition to the various equipment supports gained due to the projects, the projects opened door for technology transfers to farmers, extension workers and experts. Furthermore, Professor Yihenew has immensely contributed to his country in some more projects while he was working in Amhara Regional Agricultural Research Institute (ARARI).

Professor Yihenew has served the university and his country in different administrative capacities. He served as Head of the Department of Natural Resources Management of the Faculty of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences at Bahir Dar University and Head of the Examination Center of the College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences. He also served as Chair, Journal of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences (JAES) guideline establishment committee.

Professor Yihenew has exhibited a more profound performance in administrative capacities at regional and national level. Some of the positions he has assumed are mentioned below. He has served as director of Adet Agricultural Research Center, and Director of Soil and Water Research Directorate at Amhara Regional Agricultural Research Institute. Also, he has been committed to chair the Board of Advisors, Ethiopian Society of Soil Science.

Professor Yihenew can be exemplary in terms of his community service engagement. He was an active agent in community based services. He has repeatedly been featured in mass media to awaken farmers and other stakeholders on various issues pertaining to soil management practices, climate change and rainfall pattern and on Scaling up of sustainable intensification of maize-legume cropping systems for food security in Eastern and Southern Africa.