Agro-Forestry & Environmental Management Study Visit to Ethiopia

August-September 2016

Ministry of Environment & Rural Development (Somaliland)
Ethiopian Environment & Forest Research Institute
PENHA
Ethio-Feed Plc

SUMMARY REPORT
Prepared by:
Beruk Yemane (Ethio-Feed Plc/PENHA)
&
John Livingstone (PENHA)
1. **Background to the Training Visit**

Somaliland’s Ministry of Environment & Rural Development (MoERD) is undertaking a number of initiatives, with support from the Somaliland Development Fund (SDF) aimed at building its capacity and effectiveness. This training visit, or study tour, for MoERD technical officers (see annex 1 for names of training visit participants) in the areas of forestry, natural resources and livestock was arranged with the aims of experience sharing and establishing linkages with Ethiopian counterparts.

The two-week training was structured to make the participants fully aware of, and to help them learn from, Ethiopian experience and practice in the above mentioned areas. The exposure visit was designed in such a way as to expose and acquaint participants with a cross section of public and private forests, woody and non-woody forest products and livestock and animal feed production areas.

The visit covered public forest plantations and wood production sites, bio-diversity conservation, forest products manufacturing and utilization, innovative animal feed production, forage and forest seeds production and natural resource conservations sites.

**Planning and Coordination**

The training visit was organized and primarily hosted by the Ethiopian Forest and Environment Research Institute and coordinated by Ethio-Feed PLC.

Beruk Yemane of Ethio-Feed Plc and Dr. Tafesse Mesfin of PENHA, in collaboration with Dr. Agena Anjulo of EEFRI, designed a two-week structured training course, with visits to selected governmental institutions and private organizations.

Amsale Shibeshi, PENHA’s Hargeisa-based Regional Coordinator, oversaw the process from Somaliland, liaising with MoERD staff. There were delays in securing the necessary permissions for the visit in time, and other technical and logistical issues, which necessitated some changes to the original schedule. Nevertheless, the training visit was organized and took place from August 24 to September 05, 2016.
2. **Overall Objectives**
The overall objectives of the training visit were:
- to enhance participants’ knowledge through experience sharing on best practices and learning on the basis of Ethiopian experience, and
- to create enabling conditions and entry points for establishing contacts with relevant government and private institutions for future engagement and partnerships.

2.1 **Specific Objectives**
There were a number of specific objectives:
- to introduce participants to different public and private institutions and expose them to the programmes and key activities in which they are engaged in the above sectors.
- to introduce the representatives from Somaliland to good practices and learning on community forestry, natural resource and bio-diversity conservation and development as well as forage and animal feed production.
- to share the Ethiopian experience in saw milling industry including wood production, harvesting, logging and timber production as well as gum and resin production as well as innovate animal feed and forage and forest seeds production.
- to share learning and experience on the relevant institutional structures and legal frameworks, and the role of forestry in the public and private sectors of the two countries.
- to enable participants to plan, design and implement interventions in community forestry, natural resources and bio-diversity conservation and development, as well as in forage and animal feed production, in Somaliland.
- to establish contacts between the respective governmental and private institutions for future engagement and partnerships in the above sectors.
3. Institutions Visited, Lessons Learned and Experience Shared

3.1 Ethiopian Environment and Forest Research Institute (EEFRI)

The participants were welcomed by Dr. Wubalem Tadesse, Director General and Dr. Agena Anjulo, Deputy Director General of the Institute. Both welcomed the participants and gave a brief overview on the Institute, including the structural set up and the different research programmes and activities that the institute is undertaking. EEFRI (website, eefri.org) is under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. Possible collaborative work between the institute and the MoERD was highlighted. At the end of the briefing, a publication on “Forest Products Utilization Research: Highlight on Major Achievements and Contribution”, produced by the Wood Technology Research Centre of the Ethiopian Environment and Forest Research Institute, was distributed to all training participants.

Some of the key collaborative research undertakings include the signing of research protocols and the identification and selection of forest species that are more relevant for conservation and utilization purposes. In addition, institutional capacity support in the form of short and medium training for researchers and technical staffs was highlighted.
For further information the following officials can be contacted:

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   + +251-116-464606 (office)
e-mail: wubalemfw@yahoo.com

Dr. Agena Anjulo (PhD)
Deputy General Director
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tel: +251 116464885 (office)
e-mail: agencho@gmail.com
e-mail: agenaanj@yahoo.com

3.2 Ethiopian Institute of Bio-Diversity
Participants were welcomed and briefed by Dr. Gemedo Dale, General Director of the Institute. He explained that since its establishment in 1976 and over its 40 years of experience, the Institute has made significant progress in the conservation of crop plants, forest and rangeland plant species, as well as in animal and microbial bio-diversity. The Institute is conserving the different elements of biodiversity using in-situ and ex-situ conservation practices. After the briefing, participants were welcomed by Ato Gelessa, Director of the Crop and Horticulture Plants Directorate. They visited the seed collection (i.e. base and active collection) and processing, germination testing and cold room, storage (short and long term) and distribution units. The institute is willing to collaborate in training and organizational set up of a similar bio-diversity institute in Somaliland.
For further information and follow-up, the following official can be contacted:
Dr. Gemedo Dalle
General Director
tel: +251-911-887041 (mobile)
  +251-16511734 (office)
e-mail: gemedo@ibc.gov.et

3.3 Wood Technology Research Centre (EEFRI)
The participants were welcomed and briefed by Dr. Yonas Yohannes, Research Director of the Research Center. Dr. Yonas took the participants around the different sections including the wood mill, where the different sized logs are retrimmed and cut in different sizes for making furniture.

Participants were shown different machines that are used for wood cutting, testing the strength of wood, making household furniture and tools, and for different purposes. One of the wood product research projects focusing on the utilization of Prosopis was visited. There was a discussion on the multi-purpose utilization of Prosopis, for different household uses such as tables, chairs, doors and window handles and sticks, as well as the use of saw dust and cement mix for the production of solid material for making bricks and other products.

It was also clearly indicated that the institute is willing to collaborate in areas of training and providing technical and advisory support in wood utilization research including Prosopis.
For further information and follow-up, the following official can be contacted:

Dr. Yonas Yohannes Shikur (PhD)
Director, Wood Technology Research Centre
tel: +251- 911- 638127 (mobile)
   + 251- 114-423687 (office)
e-mail: yonyoh4@gmail.com

3.4  Wondo Genet College of Forestry and Natural Resources
Participants were welcomed by Ato Ulav Asfaw, Forest Work Team Coordinator. He led participants to the nursery site, where different forest seedlings are grown, and to the arboretum, where different indigenous tree trees have been grown and kept for over 25 years. In the arboretum, the collections are used for practical training and as a seed/genetic source. The other section visited was the sawmill, which utilizes mature stands of trees for income generation through the market. Reference material was also distributed to the participants.

It was emphasized that the college can provide short and long-term training in different forest and natural resource disciplines.

For further information and follow-up, the following staff can be contacted:

Dr. Girma Mengesha Debesu
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Ulav Asfaw
Forest Work Team Coordinator
tel: +251-911-92-43-88 (mobile)

3.5  Munessa Oromia Forest and Wildlife Enterprise (OFWE), Munessa Division
At Arsi-Negelle, Munessa Division, Kebede Demissie, head of the sawmill, welcomed the participants and briefed them about the enterprise and the sawmill activities.

He stated that the enterprise has 9 different sites, at which similar work is undertaken. The Arsi-Negelle site has installed modern machines that can trim and cut logs at 4 metres, standard length. These are then cut to 2 meters and 3 meters long, with 2.5 cm and 5 cm width respectively. At present, the enterprise has daily production capacity of 15 m^3^ logs per day.

The learning and experience shared form this enterprise included the use of modern machinery for peeling the bark from the sapwood and the appropriate mode of operation to maximize production.
For further information the following staff can be contacted:
Kebede Demisse
Head of the Arsi-Negelle sawmill division at OFWE
tel: + 251- 0941-846806 (mobile)

3.6 Ethio-Feed PLC

**Motivational statement of Ethio-Feed PLC and the day by Beruk Yemane**

INNOVATIVE MINDS DON’T DO SO MANY THINGS, RATHER THEY DO THINGS DIFFERENTLY.

The participants spent two days with Ethio-Feed PLC. The team was warmly welcomed by Beruk Yemane, Ethio-Feed PLC founder and General Manager and by staff members.

On the first day, the team was given a detailed power point presentation on the establishment of the company, its structure and its shareholders, as well as on technical and production aspects. These included:

- the different **feed recipes and inputs**,  
- the **equipment** used (imported and locally manufactured),  
- the different types of **innovative animal feed products** for dairy, fattening, poultry (layers and broilers) and equines, including camels and donkeys,  
- **drought recovery supplementary feed** for core breeding animals (i.e. milking cows, camels and goats), pregnant animals and breeding males.

In addition, the production of different types of innovative feed products that can be formulated using locally available agro-industrial by-products was emphasized and discussed. One aspect here is the **potential to utilize Prosopis pods**.

The next day, a visit of the production site was conducted and detailed explanation was given on the different types of feed ingredients (ranging from 18-20 in each product) and on how feed is formulated for dairy, fattening, poultry, equines and drought affected breeding animals. In addition, a demonstration was carried out on the production of a total mixed ration (TMR), multi-nutrient blocks and different sizes of mineral blocks.

Among the main lessons learned is the potential for the establishment of long-term partnerships using a new “franchisee” business model in Somaliland for the production of quality and affordable animal feed products, that utilize a combination of locally available agro-industrial by-products and high quality commercial feed ingredients.
For further information and follow-up the following staff can be contacted:

Beruk Yemane
Founder and General Manager
tel: + 251-911-194745 (mobile)
e-mail; berukyemane@yahoo.com

3.7 Mulu Dairy Farm
Subsequent to the Ethio-Feed PLC visit, the team was welcomed by the owner of the dairy farm Mulu Selessa, who guided the group around his dairy farm. He explained how the dairy farm and the business operate. The dairy farm is located on the outskirts, about 5 kms from center of Adam town. He bought the parent dairy cows from a government farm and later used artificial insemination to expand his dairy herd. Currently, he has 20 dairy cows that produce 12-15 liters per day on average. There are 10 heifers and 7 calves. On average, he gets 150 liters of milk per day and sells at a price of 20 Ethiopian Birr per liter. He gives the animals feed bought from Ethio-Feed PLC and considers the feed to be of high quality and affordable compared to other commercial feed products. According to Mulu, the owner of the farm, he has a plan to use high quality semen for the production of high grade dairy animals for his farm and for the market. He also has plans to start a beef and sheep fattening scheme, using animal feed from Ethio-Feed PLC.
The visit showed how the growth of peri-urban dairy farming in Ethiopia is generating increased demand for animal feed. The main learning from this visit is that a dairy farm as a private enterprise can be profitable, if properly managed using quality feed and providing veterinary care.

For further information and contact the following staff can be contacted:
Mulu Selessa
Owner and General Manager
tel: +251-916-582735

3.8 Eden Field Agri-Seed Enterprise (Forest and Forage Seeds)
The team was welcomed by Getahun Haile, owner and manager of the enterprise. The enterprise as a private company was established in 2008. At present it collects, cleans, standardizes and markets quality forest and forage seed specie. It collects the seeds from contract farmers and also has its own seed production sites in Meki and Atatye. It collects the seeds, dries and cleans them, and carries out germination/viability tests, before packing and labeling them for distribution to market. The different forage and forest seeds are adaptable to different ecological settings. The seeds, in order to qualify for marketing, should score 85% or more in a viability test.

The company is among the first private enterprises operating at national scale to gain a certificate of recognition from the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources. It has received technical support from ILRI (the International Livestock Research Institute). In addition to producing and marketing seeds, the enterprise provides capacity support in the form of training and advice.

Dr. Tafessse, Beruk Yemane and the team at Eden Field
For further information and follow-up the following staff can be contacted:

Getahun Haile
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Gebru Bonger
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e-mail: gebrubonger@yahoo.com

Tumcha Belguda
Forest Research Manager
Tel: +251-911-722030

3.9 Ethiopian National Museum

The museum guide, Lijalem Getaneh, led the group to the different sections of the museum and gave a briefing on the different exhibits. The museum has four sections comprising i) animal remains from the olden times; ii) human civilization and discovery; iii) artifacts and iv) different types of cultural clothes and military outfits from the distant past. The museum has different collections, with some items dated back to 3,500 A.D. Major collections comprise different artifacts, covering pre-historic civilization and early humanoids such as Ardipitikus Kabada, Ardipitikus Ramadidus and Lucy and the like. The group saw displays of pre-historic and ancient weaponry, household utensils and clothing from different regions. In addition, the group visited sections of the museum with displays on the beginnings of crop farming and livestock rearing.

A central lesson from the visit is our shared history - as it is written in one section of the museum, “And the world become African”. This implies that Africa is the source and origin of humankind and civilization, and that Ethiopia in particular is a country with a rich culture and tradition of diverse human and natural resources, from prehistoric times to the present. The country shares this rich history and culture, and this human as well as natural resource diversity, with neighboring countries.

For further information the following staff can be contacted:

Lijalem Getaneh
National Museum Guide
tel: +251-913-396183
3.10 Menagesha Suba Forest Park (OFWE concession area)

The team was welcomed by Belay Takele, eco-tourism and wildlife expert. He described the park, its facilities and aims. The park is located in Menagesha woreda, at 2,400 to over 3,000 meters of altitude, occupying 9,000 hectares of land.

The park has three departments, namely: tourism, industry and conservation. The main objective of the park is the conservation of indigenous forests. Belay mentioned that the forest is the oldest park in Africa, dating back to the 15th century.

The first Juniper procera plantation was planted 540 years ago by Emperor Zera Yacob. In addition, Emperor Menilik the Second and Emperor Haile Selassie both laid down laws for the protection and management of the forest's major trees species in the park, including Tikur Inchet (*Prunus africana*), Abesha tsid (*Juniperus procera*), Kosso (*Hygenia Abyssinia*), Zigba (*Podocarpus/afrocarpus falcatus*) and eucalyptus *spp*. In addition to the different tree species, there are 32 mammalian and 186 bird species residing within the park area. The oldest sawmill, which is currently out of use, is also found in the park. The park is open to visitors with guesthouses and camping sites available at a moderate service charge.

The essential learning from the park visit is that it is possible to conserve, maintain and manage indigenous trees on a large scale, in combination with eco-tourism.

For further information the following staff can be contacted:

Belay Takele
Eco-tourism and Wildlife Expert
tel: +251-941-614303

3.11 Born Free Foundation Ethiopia

The center was established by Virginia McKenna in 2008 in the Menagesha area on 78 hectares of land. The main objective of establishing the center was to rescue and provide temporary shelter for threatened wildlife that was in captivity.

At present, the center is home to lions, cheater, eagles, servit cats, baboons, turtles, hamadrias, pates and varvet monkeys. The center collects threatened and affected wild life from different parts of Ethiopia. Some of these animals even originate from Somaliland. The cheaters, originally from Somaliland, could be cited as an example.
The wild animals kept in the center are provided with shelter, food and veterinary care as required. The intention is that after the animals recuperate, they will be freed and returned to their natural habitat, where they belong. The center gets its funding from abroad, mainly from Europe and in particular from Great Britain. The center has qualified personnel who take care of the wild animals, and no funding shortage has been experienced so far, as different fundraising mechanisms are in place.

The learning from the center is it can provide capacity support in the establishment and management of similar rescue canters, as well as training and advice. The center would like to engage in collaborative work in wild animal rescue in Somaliland. There is scope to integrate wildlife management into ecological protection and eco-tourism, with positive economic results.

For further information and follow-up the following staff can be contacted:

Bereket Girma  
Center Manager  
Tel: +251-911-607810

Million Genta  
Education officer  
tel:+251-943-822406
3.12 **Natural Gum Processing and Marketing Enterprise**

This is a state owned enterprise established 40 years ago, with the primary objective of collecting, processing and marketing gum and resins for the export (60%) and domestic (40%) markets. The two major collection zones in the country are:

- The North and northwestern parts of the country, where 80% of the total revenue is derived and
- The South and southeastern parts of the country where collection is done in pastoralist areas.

There are 9 collection centers and 1 processing center in Adama town. The gums that are collected and marketed are classified in 7 categories as:
- Gum Olibanum (Tigray Type)
- Gum Olibanum (Ogaden type)
- Black Incense (Borena type)
- Gum Myrrh
- Gum Oppoponex
- Acacia Spp.
- Gum Arabica

Value addition for gums and resins, in terms of harvesting, processing and marketing, is well established, fulfilling the standards for export markets. The enterprise generates annual revenue of $10-12 million.

A member of the senior management staff, Girmay Fitiwi, has been to Somaliland to conduct a baseline study. He has identified key areas for interventions and submitted a report to Somaliland’s Ministry of Agriculture. As per his briefing, key areas for support and collaborative work include:

- Training in tapping of different Boswellia and acacia species.
- Harvesting for gum and resins
- Post harvesting and quality control for community members engaged in the business.

For further information and follow-up, the following staff can be contacted:

**Tekle Haimanot Nigatu**  
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**Kiros Wolde Aregay**  
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kirosagm@gmail.com

**Girmay Fitiwi**  
Forest Conservation and Development Manager  
tel: +251- 911-251002  
e-mail: fitwigirmay@gmail.com
3.13  Debre Birhan Wood Processing Enterprise

The company was established in 2013 as a joint venture enterprise between the Amhara Forestry Enterprise (51% of the shares) and a Chinese investor (49% of the shares) at a total investment cost of ETB 83 million. The company has a 20-year agreement with the Amhara Forestry Enterprise for the supply of eucalyptus wood from its 8,000 hectares of eucalyptus forest. Under this agreement, the company utilizes about 200 hectares of eucalyptus wood every year for the production of plywood. The company uses modern machinery such as assembler/sorter and roller cutter that can cut in big logs in small and large sizes of 2 mm diameter. Using an electric drier and assembler the enterprise can produce 1,000 pieces of small and large sized logs in a day. A section that has warm and cooler driers can produce an average of 350 -400 pieces of finished ply wood within 10-20 minutes using the cold and warm pressing per day respectively. The company has a boiler that can produce energy for the whole company, having high consumption during the rainy period of June-September and less consumption for the dry period of October to May. At present the company employs 170 permanent and 360 casual laborers.

When operational at full scale, the company has the capacity to produce 1,000 pieces of plywood per day. The products are sold in the local market, but the company is actively preparing to export quality ply wood products to neighboring countries in the near future. In 2006/07, the company had gross revenue of ETB 70 million.

The main lesson for participants from this visit was that it is possible to develop commercial forestry, with a focus on eucalyptus trees that can be utilized for the production of different products such as cheap wood and plywood, in which community members can also benefit from planting and utilizing the eucalyptus forest.

For further information and contact the following staff can be contacted:
Bayu Dejene
Deputy Manager
tel: +251-0911- 402299
4. Participants’ Evaluation: Agreed Points on Expectations and Results

4.1 MEETING ETHIOPIAN COUNTERPARTS & SHARING KNOWLEDGE/EXPERIENCE
The visit created a useful opportunity for training participants and Ethiopian counterparts to meet, get to know each other and share knowledge and experience. In addition, exchange of addresses in the areas of common interest between the Somaliland and Ethiopian counterparts for future contact and partnership engagement has taken place.

4.2 EXPOSURE TO BEST PRACTICE FOR A RANGE OF NATURAL RESOURCES INTERVENTIONS
Participants were exposed to a variety of best practice approaches and lessons for the planning, implementation and management of different natural resources interventions, covering forest biodiversity, conservation and utilization of woodlots, livestock feed, forage and forest seed production and wildlife protection.

4.3 AWARENESS OF MECHANISMS FOR PUBLIC/COMMUNITY FOREST CONSERVATION
Participants became more aware of the mechanisms for and importance of public/community forest conservation and development programmes, and the involvement and benefits accruing to all stakeholders.

4.4 ENGAGEMENT WITH GOVERNMENTAL & PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS
Participants now have a better understanding of overall bio-diversity and ecosystem management, whereby different land use patterns and uses are planned and implemented in the different Ethiopian agro-ecological areas. The visit also enabled them to identify relevant governmental and private institutions in Ethiopia, establishing contacts for future engagement and possible partnerships.

4.5 A CORE GROUP OF MoERD STAFF TO TAKE FORWARD NEW INITIATIVES
Participants found the training visit to be an “energizer” for the MoERD’s technical officers. They can form a nucleus, or core unit, to take on active and proactive roles and responsibility for the development of the natural resources initiatives, with a focus on bio-diversity and forest management.

4.6 COLLABORATION ON ANIMAL FEEDS FOR LIVESTOCK MARKETS & DROUGHT RESILIENCE
Participants identified the potential for partnership work in capacity support and in the production of quality and affordable animal feed using locally available agro-industrial bi-products to improve the livestock trade in Somaliland, with its huge exports of shoats, camels and cattle to the Middle East, and more importantly for helping core breeding stock to survive recurrent drought and quickly recover to improve body condition and start production in Somaliland.

4.7 COLLABORATION ON FOREST & FORAGE SEED PRODUCTION
Participants identified the potential for partnership work in training and in the provision of suitable forest and forage seeds that have significant survival rates and productivity in different Somaliland ecosystems. In addition, possibility for joint assessment for future partnership engagement in forest and forage seed production and marketing can be addressed.
4.8 **KEY AREAS FOR PARTNERSHIP/ENGAGEMENT IDENTIFIED**

Participants, in collaboration with the training visit coordinators/facilitators, have identified key areas of potential partnership and engagement. They also identified and came to agreement on a set of next-step action points for the short and medium terms implementation and follow up.

5. **Way Forward for Action**

The team after raising issues relevant to the different institutions they had visited and on the explanations and presentations given, had a discussion on whether the visit was relevant to their work and had met their expectation. All the participants clearly stated that their expectations had been met. Based on the discussion of outcomes, the participants have agreed the following action points, with responsible persons and delivery dates identified.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Action points</th>
<th>Responsible</th>
<th>Delivery date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Prepare and submit summary of the training visit report</td>
<td>Beruk Yemane</td>
<td>September 11, 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Organize a briefing session by the team for MoERD, SDF, FAO &amp; PENHA officials on the training visit, outcomes and way forward.</td>
<td>Hibo Ibrahim Hashi</td>
<td>September 24, 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Identify key short term implementation plan with: i) Ethio-Feed PLC and ii) Eden fields Agri-seed enterprise and long-term goals implementation plan with: i) Wondo Genet Forestry College, ii) Forest and Environment Research Institute iii) Ethiopian Bio-Diversity Institute iv) Born Free Wildlife Recue Center Covering areas of possible partnership initiative/work, establishment of official linkages and implementation</td>
<td>Hibo Ibrahim Hashi</td>
<td>September 24, 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Communicate decisions made on agreed points to all relevant government and private institutions in Somaliland and Ethiopia.</td>
<td>Hibo Ibrahim Hashi</td>
<td>September 28, 2016</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Annex 1. Training Visit Participants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Telephone No.</th>
<th>e-mail</th>
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<tbody>
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### Annex 2. Training Visit Coordinators/Facilitators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Telephone No.</th>
<th>e-mail</th>
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<tbody>
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</tbody>
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