

### **Egypt to execute malaria vector control project in Ethiopia**

ADDIS ABABA (Xinhua) -- An Egyptian Research and Development Group, namely Innovative Research Development (InRaD), on Friday announced that it would be starting implementation of malaria vector control project here in Ethiopia.

The Group said it has finalized preparations to implement the project for the first time in two malaria prone areas of the country. The project is said to be implemented by cooperation of Ethiopia and Egypt with the fund secured from the Italian government.

Briefing journalists on the program of the group at Sheraton Hotel in Addis Ababa, Walid Ali, representative of InRaD, said the project is a trilateral cooperation by Egypt, Ethiopia, and Italy.

Walid said Egypt and Italy signed a Memorandum of Understanding one month ago in Italy where the Italian government expressed interest in funding the project which is going to be implemented here in Ethiopia.

"We are responsible for communicable diseases such as malaria, TB, and other diseases; we have started our activities four years ago in Uganda where we had a program called Malaria Vector Control Program," said he.

According to Walid, InRaD will undertake its projects without harming the environment as it uses natural extract to abort the reproductive process of anopheles mosquito which transmit malaria vector.

"Our technique is environmentally friendly as we use the sun light to contain the development of the stages through which anopheles mosquito goes to reach adulthood; we carry out the project without adding any chemical to the swampy areas where mosquitoes reproduce," said he.

"This project is by the name of Southern areas of Ethiopia by the trilateral cooperation between Egypt, Ethiopia, and Italy; it is a project to be implemented by the cooperation of Egypt and Ethiopia with the fund from the Italian government," he said.

He also said that the project started to be implemented in Sidama and Wolaita areas of Ethiopia in the Southern Peoples Regional State of the country.

"We have finalized the last procedures of the implementation and we are going to implement the project during the dry season after the end of this rainy season now that is in September here in the country. We are now having the permission from the Ethiopian side

to bring all the equipment from Egypt before the implementation of the project," he added.

Walid further said the group has had positive response and strong support from the Ministry of Health of Ethiopia.

"The most important thing is that this is a complete national project; from the Egyptian side we have the representative, the Director General and two other persons but the Ethiopian side they will have some 500 people and they will be responsible for the implementation of such project; so it is a national project in cooperation between Ethiopia and Egypt; so we the project is marvelous and we hope that we will reduce the incidence of malaria in these areas by 82 to 90 per cent."

According to him, the total cost of the project depends on the areas the group is going to work in.

As malaria is the first fatal disease in Africa the group gives priority to reduction of the incidence of the disease.