

# Agri Drum

Agri Service Ethiopia aspires to see a developed Ethiopia where citizens enjoy a dignified life

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## ASE held its 20th General Assembly

The 20th General Assembly of ASE was conducted on April 5, 2011 at the main office in Addis Ababa. The meeting convened after Ato Getachew Worku, Executive Director of ASE, welcomed the participants and read the agendas for the meeting



In line with the schedule, Ato Zewdu Desta then presented his report on behalf of the Board of Management. According to him, the BoM conducted 5 meetings in the reporting period and gave guidelines on a number of issues that needed its attention including quarterly performance reports of ASE, the audit report and the 2011 plan and budget of the organization. Ato Zewdu further said that the BoM gave a number of decisions on matters related to the 3rd Strategic Plan and the new organizational structure of ASE. It has endorsed the assignment of two main office and seven Program office directors, according to Ato Zewdu. The report was endorsed after a number of questions were raised to which answers were given by the BoM members.

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## Oxfam Novib Makes Changes

Oxfam Novib decided to phase out its programs in Ethiopia, Ghana, South Africa, China and Central Asia (Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan).

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## SNSF Project Launched

Agriteam Canada in collaboration with Agri-Service Ethiopia launched the Safety Net Support Facility (SNSF)

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## Agri Service Ethiopia Dasenech Program Office

### 1. Description of the Project Area

South Omo Zone is situated in SNNP Region at South-West of Ethiopia. Jinka is the capital of the zone located at 755km southwest of Addis Ababa. The Zone is endowed with huge development opportunities (fertile soil and water, livestock, endemic wildlife and home of diverse nationalities). Inequitable infrastructure distribution, food insecurity, recurrent drought and flood are the major problems of the Zone in general and Dasenech woreda in particular.

Dasenech woreda is bounded by Hamer wereda to the north and east, Kenya to the south, and Nyangatom wereda to the west and North West. The wereda covers a total area of 234,274 ha, with elevation ranging from 275m to 400 m a.s.l. It has only one agro-ecological zone - Kolla. The mean annual rainfall of the Wereda is about 350 mm. The annual mean temperature ranges from 30°C to 40°C.

The wereda consists of 40 rural Kebele administration(KAs) and 1 urban KA with a total population of 51,160 (51.7% female). The rural population accounts 95.1%. The total number of households is 11,684 of which female headed constitutes 11%. The average family size is five persons per HH.

Ethnically, 100% of the rural households are Dasenech speaking the Dasenech Language ('Af Dasenech'). There are 8 tribes Shir, Enkoria, Narich, Elele, Orro, Randel, Koro, and Hriele each having its own land territory and slight cultural differences. Intermarriage is possible among the tribes. Most of the people are following their own traditional religion.

Agri Service Ethiopia  
Re-registered as Ethiopian Resident Charity in 2009  
is engaged in improving the livelihood  
of the poor and marginalized rural people  
since its establishment in 1969



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Fig.1 Traditional houses of Dhasanech



Socially there are elders that influence the whole community. There are also localized, tribe-specific, age mate groups (called 'Kabana') influencing their members by checking violation of norms (either through advise or punishment), managing conflict, etc. But still individualistic thoughts and acts seem to prevail in the Dasenech community.

The Dasenech mostly live in small dome-shaped houses with about 2m diameter of circular base and 1.5m height. It is usually made of wood and covered by branches of shrubs, iron sheet or animal skin and hides.



The land use pattern of the area is 4170ha (1.8%) is cultivated, 58,363ha (24.9%) devoted for grazing and 44,222ha (18.9%) covered with bush. It has also about 116,727ha potential cropland. Only 10,792ha of land is not conducive for agricultural activities. Out of the total 40 rural kebeles of the woreda, 29 of them are favourable for agricultural production. The Omo River is the lifeblood of the society. The river networked the wereda and created small deltas where the community takes the herds particularly during the dry period.



Livestock production is the main means of livelihood in the area. The most common livestock types are cattle, goats, sheep, donkey and poultry, with total populations of 219,380, 206,185, 105,405, 14,394 and 5,231, respectively. The area also has a good potential for fishery. The community is entirely pastoralist except cultivating some annual crops following retreat of Omo River when the river overflows its course in August and September. There are two rainy seasons: the main rainy season ranging from March through mid April and the short rainy season from September through October. The major crops grown in the area include sorghum, maize, and haricot bean.

Dasenech is running two projects. One is the Food Facility Project supported by EU and the other is Disaster Risk Reduction Project supported by ECHO through Christian Aid.

## 2. Key Activities of the Program

The Dasenech Community Productive Capacity Enhancement Project being implemented in the area since January 2010 has three key components:

- **Agriculture intensification and diversification:** Small scale irrigation development on 20 hectare of land, Construction of 2 sand dams and 2 shallow wells, rehabilitation of 2 hand-dug wells, material support to 400HHs on fishery related activities, training of 8 community animal health workers, rangeland development and management on 120 hectare of land.
- **Increased household income diversification:** Skills training and provision of startup tools and working capital, establishment and support of eight primary marketing cooperative (4 on fishery and 4 on livestock).



- **Increased productive and technical agricultural capacities:** Training of 40 local government staff, support 2 computers and 2 printers for line departments, two rounds of logistic support for livestock campaign and capacity building training for project staff.

## 3. Expected Output:

### **Result I: Agriculture intensification and diversification:**

Improved livestock productivity for 40,000 animals through better access to water and veterinary services and through improved rangeland management; Greater take up of fishery opportunities: 400 HHs (50% F) to benefit from increased income from selling or eating fish as livelihood diversification option. 40 People (50%F) are supported and capacitated in horticultural crop production.

### **Result II: Increased household income diversification:**

Support and training provided to develop alternative income generating activities including live animal trading, fishery and artisans; Primary level marketing cooperatives stabilized price of food and agricultural products and enhance the bargaining power of producers.

### **Result III: Increased productive and technical agricultural capacities:**

Capacity of local government staff in program planning and implementation increased; disaster risk reduction capacity increased to plan for natural disaster and mitigate their impact; Community productive and technical capacity enhanced through tailor made training.

#### 4. Achievements so far

Feasibility study, land survey and irrigation design study made for 2 small scale irrigation schemes (each with 10 ha). Materials for construction of SSI canals and 4 diesel pumps purchased, construction of one canal is completed; and nursery site establishment land preparation underway. Site clearing of the 2nd SSI area is also started. Horticultural and cash crop seeds (260 kg) are also purchased/ collected.



Fig 2. Small scale irrigation canal in Delegmore kebele

Eight Community Animal Health Workers (CAHWs) are trained and equipped to serve communities of the woreda. Construction of 4 cattle crashes is completed. Logistic support is made for two rounds of livestock vaccination campaign by the woreda and vaccination service given to 10,400 heads of livestock.

Forty five hectares of degraded rangeland is enclosed for rehabilitation and selective bush clearing made. A 3 days training was delivered to 37 (29M, 8F) rangeland management committee members. Bylaw is also discussed on and endorsed by each committee.

Rehabilitation of 2 hand dug wells was also made that has enabled access to potable water.

Value Chain Development study on fish marketing and fish stock assessment on Omo River and Lake Rudolf (Turkana) are made. Training was given to 4 groups of 119 fishermen on fishing, fish processing & net making. The same groups of fishermen were also trained on cooperative formation.

Four basic cooperatives of fishermen are formally established and supported. The cooperatives collected registration & share fee from members and deposited into their accounts at Omo Microfinance Institution. They were given legally certified. The cooperatives were supplied with 24 sets of fishing nets, 4 fishing boats, 1000m nylon rope, hooks, & 60 pieces of medium sized stainless steel knives.



Handover of fishing tools by the kebele administrator

Receiving certificate of legal entity from representative of woreda administration and Cooperatives Office



Masonry/carpentry skills' training was delivered to 17 pastoralists (all male) and basic sets of working tools provided. Twenty women were trained on fish net making, and were supplied with working tools & twine. They have so far produced 75 meters of tilapia nets and are waiting for to be linked to fishermen cooperatives.



### 5. Beneficiaries

Target groups are 2,000 HHs from 4 Kebeles in Dasenech woreda. There are a total of 17,400 beneficiaries out of which 10,000 are direct beneficiaries.

### 6. Challenges

The major challenges faced in the area are interethnic conflict, security threats, recurrent drought, and poor infrastructure which in one way or another affect project implementation.

### SNSF Project .....

*Continued From Page 1*

Project to provide professional, technical and other related services to the implementing agencies that are engaged with the delivery of Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP) in Ethiopia. According to Mr. Paul Derksen, Project Director of SNSF, the services that will be provided through the SNSF project include compulsory and demand driven training programs that will focus on strengthening capacity of the Government of Ethiopia to deliver the PSNP and will directly contribute to the achievements of a number of expected results that have been established by the donors in collaboration with the Government of Ethiopia. Improved food security for male and female members of target population and increased effectiveness of federal, regional and



Masonry skills training: trainees on a practical session (left)



The house under construction.

Kebele development committees were also established at grassroots levels. These are expected to form the future CBI's.

district institutions to deliver PSNP are among the expected outcomes of the project which involves the implementation of PSNP Human Resource (HR) Development, PSNP System and Functions and PSNP Management and Coordination as its integrated components. SNSF will establish offices in four regions - Tigray, Amhara, Oromia and SNNPR and each office will be lead by an Ethiopian Regional Facilitation Team Leader. The head office for the SNSF is located in Addis Ababa.

ASE's role in the SNSF includes identification and recruitment of knowledgeable professional personnel. ASE also assists with the provision of clear information about the role of the SNSF and its potential for positive impact in the overall delivery of PSNP. Furthermore, ASE will provide specific inputs in to the delivery of planned activities, integrated SNSF communication strategy and in the implementation process for strong working relationship among Federal, Regional, Woreda and Kebele levels. Identifying risks and risk mitigation strategies and Policy level insights and assistance to impact project planning at ministerial and higher level decision-making bodies are also among the specific inputs that will be provided by ASE. The SNSF expects to capitalize on the strong working relationship that exists between PSNP implementing agencies and ASE as a foundation for further collaboration within the project.

The SNSF project has been designed by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) that entered in to a

contractual agreement for the provision of the services with Agriteam Canada Consulting Ltd., a Calgary, Alberta based private company that provides management and technical expertise in a wide range of areas. The maximum financial value of the services to be provided is C\$ 14,700,000. The project will be completed on December 31, 2014.

### **ASE held its 20th ...**

*From Page 1*

Following the BoM report, Ato Getachew Worku then presented the 2010 performance report. In his report, Ato Getachew pointed out the major achievements on the core functions and planned activities of the organization in 2010. The report has also shown tangible outcomes that are supported by figures. According to Ato Getachew, ASE had 12 programs in Amhara, Oromia, SNNPRS, Afar Regional states with a total budget of Birr 32.3 million allotted for the period. He also mentioned the European Union and Christian Aid, Dan



Church Aid, Trocaire CAFOD, Echo, Novib, EED and UNDP as partners who have supported the programs. The report was followed by a question and answer session before it was endorsed by the GA.

The general assembly then heard audit report from an external auditing firm. The assembly thoroughly discussed on the presentation and endorsed the audit report with some amendments. Action plan and budget of ASE for 2011 has also been presented to the GA by Ato Getachew Worku for approval. The assembly discussed on the presented plan and budget, gave important comments and suggestions, and finally endorsed the document.



The General Assembly, which is the highest organ in the organizational set up of ASE, meets once in a year to oversee and direct healthy and normal functioning of the organization. Member of the GA are individuals, representatives of NGOs and Associations who are made members of the organization.

### Emergency Response and Recovery Project Launched at Guradamole Woreda

Agri Service Ethiopia launched an Emergency Response and Recovery Project in Guradamole Woreda beginning from March 2011 with fund support from EU/ECHO through Dan Church Aid. The Emergency Response and Recovery Project, that has a primary objective of saving life will last for seven months and has three major components namely Household Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene, Protection of Food Security and Livestock Assets, and Enhancing Drought Coping Capacity of the target Community.

Water rationing is the major action of the project and more than 12,000 people are getting adequate water to their domestic consumption. Three trucks were mobilized to the area and necessary water storage and distribution facilities were installed. Jerry cans, water treatment chemicals,





and the like were made available to the community to facilitate the distribution of water. Cash for work is also identified as one of the interventions to create access to food and shore-up targeted drought affected households' food security. More than 2500 households benefit from the project.



The project will also supply animal feed to maintain core local breeds and to support the lactating animals. The Woreda line sector office will be supported in the promotion of livestock health services in general and in the vaccination campaigns in Particular . Agri Service Ethiopia deployed necessary field staff and more than 4.4 million birr has been allocated for the execution of the project.

Guradamule woreda, which is located in Bale Zone of Oromia Regional State, is categorized as one of the food insecure woredas by the government. It is prone to different natural calamities, particularly drought. Recurrent drought is affecting the livelihoods of both the pastoral as well as agro pastoral household communities. Asset depletion due to loss of livestock and crop, natural resource degradation, and inadequate

water supply for human and livestock are some of the major variables causing food insecurity in the area.

Most of the kebeles in the woreda are not easily accessible; infrastructures are poorly addressed and social services are far behind the demand of the community. The drought shock are more complex for those people living in the low land kebeles and further more tsetse fly infestation (causing Trypanosomiasis) exacerbates the problem resulting in high number of morbidity and mortality of livestock.

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### **ASE signed Partnership Agreement with ERTA**

Agri Service Ethiopia signed partnership agreement with the Ethiopian Radio and Television Agency (ERTA) to transmit a series of 26 radio programs to the public through the national service of Radio Ethiopia. The programs, which will focus on contemporary issues and the development interventions of ASE, will be transmitted once in a week for 26 weeks and will have duration of 15 minutes each. According to the agreement reached, the programs will be transmitted from 7:10 am to 7:25 am on Thursdays.

Profile of ASE Program Offices

S.N	Name of Program	Region	Wereda	Intervention Kebeles	Target Populations			Donor Partner	Duration	Program Objective	Remark
					Total	Direct	Indirect				
1	Restoration of Range-Land Mgt & Conservation of Bio diversity	Afar	Amibara	1 Alidege	900	180 (20%F)	720	UNDP-GEF SGP	2 Years June 2010 - May 2012	To contribute to the efforts of the community, the government and the international community to curb the negative effects of climate change and strengthen the conservation of biological diversity at the target Kebele.	
2	Improving Market access of small holder farmers	SNNPRS	Amaro Special Wereda	14 Shero, Kereda, Zokesa, Gamule, Kelle, Kibo, Golbe, Dano, Jijolla,, Kore, Suluko, Shafule, Jello, Dorbade	9840 (26%F)	9840Hs (26%F)	140,000 (51%F)	Trocaire/CAOD/ SCIAF	1 Year Jan.2011 to December 2011	Improve market access and competitiveness of small holder farmers for priority products : Coffee, Bulla, and selected crop varieties (like haricot bean)	
3	Capacity Enhancement Project to Promote Food Security (Food Facility Project)	Amhara	Ambassel	5 Chefe, Minchu, Yebar, Din o, Mariye		37,480 (50%F) 9370Hs (30%FHH)	121,000 (50%F)	EU/DCA	18 Months Jan.2010 - July 2011	To contribute to sustainable improvement of household food security in the Wereda.	
4	Capacity Development	Oromia	Berek	8 Bura Jate Mongo, Werbi, Tenkole, Bura, Alleitu, Bura Maru, Tultu Korpicha, Chefe Kulo, Yeka Seden, girar Berek, Dire Sokoru	113,086 (54.833F)	23,275 (11553F)	89,811 (43,300F)	EED & NoVIB	2 years May 2009 - Apr. 2011	To contribute to the poverty alleviation of the target population towards improved and sustained livelihood in the wereda	
5	Burji Integrated Food Security Program	SNNPRS	Burji	6	61,585	14,268	47,317	Trocaire/CAOD/ SCIAF	1 Year	Enhance the capacities of the communities and local government actors in improving food security of the target HHs	
6	Consolidation of Community Empowerment	Amhara	Eneble	7	32,941	32,941	109,288	Oxfam novib & EED	2 years May 2009 - Apr. 2011	To contribute towards improved and sustained livelihood of the target population with particular emphasis on the resource poor and vulnerable groups	

7	Building Resilient Communities to Drought Risks	Oromia	Guradamole Bale zone	5	14,813 (7,786F)	114,813 (7,786F)	28,914 (16,811F)	EU-ECHO-Dan Church AID	18 Months July, 2010 - Dec. 2011	Increased resilience of communities to recurrent drought risk through coordinated efforts of mitigation of the hazard, increased community preparedness, and survivability of individuals
8	Building Resilient Communities to Drought Risks	Oromia	Gelana	7 Tore, Kersa, Berity, Shamole Shida, Shamole Oda, Metery, Bore	31,231	31,231 (15,615F)	.	DCA-ECHO	18 months July 2010 - Dec. 2011	To contribute to the improvement of humanitarian situation and increase the coping capacities of population vulnerable to recurrent drought hazards & their effects through the provision of multi sectoral assistance
9	Community Capacity Enhancement Project	SNNPRS	Dassenach	4 Delegmur, Lochober, Terengole, Akodengole	17,400 (8700F)	10,000 (5000F)	7,400 (3,700F)	Christian Aid	20 months Jan. 2010 - July, 2011	To bring about sustainable changes in the livelihood of the target population as a result of improvements in their productive and technical agricultural capacities
10	Goro Integrated Food Security Program	Oromia	Goro, Bale zone	5 Keku, Bale Gadula, Bale Annole, Billi Akiya, Ro'o Negaya	14,800 (2547HHs)	14,800 (2547HHs)	85,000 (14,655HHs)	Dan Church Aid Ethiopia	3 Years 2010 - 2012	Contributing to improvement of the livelihood security status of the target population with a specific objective of improving household food security of target community by reducing food gap period from 5 to 3 months by the end of 2012.
11	Tehuledere Community Empowerment	Amhara	Tehuledere	8	47,964	15,000	32,964	EED	2 Years Jan. 2011 - Dec. 2012	Contribute to reduce poverty and promote sustainable development in Tehuledere Wereda

### Oxfam Novib ...

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The decision also includes certain strategic choices on the type and size of program it will be supporting in the future. In her letter of January 31, 2011, Farah Karimi, Executive Director of Oxfam Novib informed the decisions of the organization to its partners in the aforementioned countries. According to the Executive Director, Oxfam Novib is faced with a significant cut in the annual funding it receives from the Dutch government and this reduction in grant funding has forced it to make some decisions including the phasing out of its activities in these countries.

Oxfam Novib has been a long time partner to ASE. According to Ato Getachew Worku, Executive Director of ASE, Oxfam Novib has been supporting ASE for the last twenty years. The excellent relationship between the two organizations was based on mutual understanding and commonly reached decisions. Oxfam Novib had been very supportive in all aspects including finance, ideas and knowledge. The recent decision that arrived very late with some programs already starting has, however, caused much inconveniency in the works of ASE according to Ato Getachew Worku. Oxfam Novib has been supporting Berek and Enebse/Goncha programs.

Oxfam Novib is the Dutch affiliate of the international Oxfam organization. It is an association dedicated to establishing a fair world with no poverty in it. The organization is based in The Hague and has been working with partners in 70 countries prior to its recent decisions to reduce the number to 34 in line with its new strategic plan for the coming five years, 2011-2015.

### Emergency Response and Recovery ...

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Agri Service Ethiopia has launched a Disaster Risk Reduction project entitled: "Building Resilient Communities to rough Risks in Guradamule Woreda" since July 2010 with financial support from EU/ECHO through Dan Church Aid to avert this situation. However, due to the absence of rain during the 'Hagaya' season, life threatening drought has occurred currently. Almost all of the ponds, which are the main sources of water in the locality, have dried out. Both human and livestock remain at risk. Moreover, the agro pastoralists lost more than 87% of their product because of the drought. The overall situation has therefore forced ASE to launch the Emergency Response and Recovery Project.



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