



Agri Drum

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

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ASE held the 2011 First Biannual meeting

The 2011 first biannual meeting of Agri Service Ethiopia (ASE) was held from August 22 to 23, 2011 at the main office. The meeting which started with a welcoming address by Ato Getachew Worku, Executive Director of ASE, was followed by the introduction of staff members who have newly joined the organization.



Chaired by Ato Getachew, the meeting then saw progress made on decisions made at the last 2010 annual meeting carried out from 03/03/2011 to 04/03/2011. This was then followed by briefings on the general conditions in the program areas where feedbacks, best practices and challenges were presented by the program offices.

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Guests Visited Ambassel Program Office

Mr Denis Thieulin, Head of Cooperation of the European Union Delegation to Ethiopia, made a visit to Ambassel ASE Program Office on Saturday August 6, 2011. Mr Thieulin was briefed at the program office on

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ASE's Executive Director Visited Tehulederie & Ambassel Program Offices

Ato Getachew Worku, Executive Director of ASE visited ASE's Tehulederie and Ambassel Program Offices from September 1 – 7, 2011.

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Project agreement signed between ASE & SLUF

A project agreement is made between Agri Service Ethiopia and Sustainable Land Use Forum (SLUF) on the implementation of the Swedish Support to the Cooperation with

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Training Offered to Prison Inmates

A total of 57 (3F) prison inmates were awarded with certificates upon successfully completing training programs on masonry and carpentry offered at Dessie prison for three

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Editor: Sebsibe Sema

Editorial Board:

**Ato Getachew Worku
Ato Amanuel Assefa**

Capacity Enhancement Program to Promote Food Security in Ambassel Wereda (Food Facility Project)

This issue of Agri Drum features Agri Service's Ambassel Program Office. The office is implementing a project entitled "Capacity Enhancement Program to Promote Food Security" (Food Facility Project). This project is being implemented in Ambassel Woreda which is found in South Wello Zone of the Amhara National Regional State.

Introduction and Background

Ambassel is known with its highly rugged mountainous terrain which constitutes about 90% of the Woreda's total topographic classification. The Woreda's capital, Wuchale, is located between Woldiya and Dessie, 461 km to the north of Addis Ababa along the main highway to Mekele. Administratively, the Woreda constitutes 23 rural and one urban Kebeles. The Woreda has a total population of 132,306 (50 % Females). About 95% of the total population lives in rural areas.

The livelihood of the Woreda rural population is almost entirely based on smallholder subsistence agriculture which is characterized by low level of agricultural productivity due to: declining soil fertility and land productivity; low level of utilization of improved agricultural technologies and inputs, coupled with erratic rainfall and frequent droughts. Limited access to essential services such as agricultural extension, market and rural credit intermediation as well as low implementation capacity of the Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP) compounded the problem. The inadequacy and ineffectiveness of development service delivery to the smallholder subsistence agriculture resulted in low and dwindling productivity/production, shortfall of food supply far behind the demand and increasing agricultural commodity prices.

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 1989



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The combination of these and other related factors leave significant proportion of the target population to increasing level of food insecurity and vulnerability. Ambassel Woreda has been one of the chronically food insecure Woredas for decades.

Ambassel program office is established in February 2010 to implement a Food Facility Project which is financially supported by the European Union (EU) and Dan Church Aid (DCA) and implemented in partnership with target communities and relevant government offices.

The project is implemented in five Kebeles of the Woreda (Chefe (05), Minchu (06), Yebar (07), Dino (08) and Mariye (09)). A total of 433,789 EURO (equivalent of ETB 7,808,219) was earmarked for project implementation.

The overall objective of the project was: to contribute to sustainable improvement of household food security in Amhara region, Ethiopia. The project had the following specific objectives:

- Increased agricultural crop productivity
- Increased effectiveness of existing governmental initiatives: the productive safety net programme (PSNP) and the local agricultural extension service delivery
- Improved market access of smallholder farmers and increased storage of agricultural produces

It was planned to implement the project within 20 months. In the following paragraphs an attempt is made to highlight the major accomplishments of the project.

Small Scale Irrigation (SSI) Development

The project planned to consolidate & expand a SSI scheme which was half

constructed by the government at a river called Chirech. The scheme covers a command area of 102.8 ha and will serve 370 Project Participants (PPs) (71 Females) & one government nursery site. The project completed the construction of the irrigation scheme including more than 2.5 km canals and intake, & road crossing structures.

Primary Canal (620.3m)



Secondary Canal 2 (976.6m)

Secondary Canal 1 (980m)



Drop Structure

Parallel with the construction work, the project was also involved in promotion of irrigation agronomic practices and management. Continuous efforts made to convince irrigation water users to shift towards producing market oriented

high value crops. Field level education and advice provided to the farmers on a regular basis by relevant professionals and vegetable seeds and orange seedlings are also supplied to them on credit and cash payment basis. A training program on Irrigation Agronomy and Management was conducted and an exchange visit was organized for the training participants to learn in irrigation agronomy and management practices from best experiences of other irrigation user farmers. Many farmers have already used the irrigation water and planted different kinds of vegetables and fruits seedlings.

The water users are also organized in four groups and efforts are underway with the Woreda Cooperative Promotion Office (WCPO) to facilitate the merger of the groups with an Irrigation Cooperative which was already established and is operating on another SSI scheme in the same Kebele.

Watershed Management Activities

One of the key interventions of the project is the implementation of watershed activities. The project planned and executed the treatment of 500 ha degraded land at Kundi Sedeka and Lalen Mukechit micro watershed sites using mixed physical & biological technologies. These activities are integrated with the SSI development intervention described above. The selected SSI Scheme is located at the foot of a mountainous area. Its command area and physical structures were, therefore, highly susceptible to flood hazards. As a result, during watershed sites selection, the sites' expected contribution to the protection of the irrigation structure & its command area was a significant factor considered.



Gabion Check Dams & Retaining Walls Constructed at Kundi Sedeka Micro Watershed Site



As part of its planned Biological interventions, the project introduced Desho Grass in the Woreda. The grass is planted for multiplication and demonstration in government nursery sites and Project Participants' farmlands. It is observed that the grass is adapting well to the new environment.



Desho Grass Multiplication at Tisa Abalima Nursery Site

The project has also attempted to popularize Vetiver Grass in the Woreda. About 70,000 splits of the grass have been planted in Kundi Sedeka micro watershed for gully treatment purposes. Many farmers in the irrigation site have also planted the grass to shield their farms from erosion.



Recently Planted Vetiver to Stabilize Physical Watershed Structures



Vetiver Planted to Protect a Farm from Erosion

The project has also supported two government nurseries in terms of provision of different equipments (Wheel barrows, budding knives, Pickaxes, watering cans, pruning scissors, carpenter hammers, alignment ropes, etc.), materials (bamboos, grasses, etc.) and various forest seeds. The two nurseries, in turn, produced forest seedlings which are planted in the project's micro watershed sites and fruits seedlings for the irrigation scheme.

To ensure the sustainability of the intervention, an arrangement was made in collaboration with the Environmental Protection and Land Administration & Protection Office of the Woreda to transfer using rights to farmers living near the micro watershed sites. The farmers will protect and maintain the structures and the plants and are entitled to benefits from the use of grasses and trees planted in the sites. Various discussion sessions held with the community and a consensus reached to close a total area of 253 ha. Significant improvement is already being observed in the area protected.

Training and Visit Programs

On top of the regular field based skill upgrading training programs delivered to farmers, the project organized various training and visit programs at Woreda level to build the capacity of farmers and Woreda and Kebele level

government employees. The following are some of the training and visits programs conducted at Woreda level:

- Two round training programs (2 days each) on Organic Farming and Land Husbandry Practices were organized and 89 farmers (36 Females) participated in the training programs.
- A four days Training of Trainers (TOT) on Community Based Watershed Planning was organized and 21 (3 Females) Woreda and Kebele level staff members were trained.
- A four days TOT on organic farming practices was organized for 24 (4 Fs) Woreda and Kebele level professionals.
- A 3 days training program on Irrigation Agronomy and Management was conducted and 24 executives (5 Females) of the irrigation users association participated in the training. An exchange visit was also organized for the training participants to learn in irrigation agronomy and management practices from best experiences of other irrigation users of another Kebele.
- An exchange visit was organised for 29 farmers and Woreda experts to a model watershed site in Kalu Woreda. This visit particularly focused to share experience on Vetiver plantation and management.
- The project organized a 5 days training program on M&E and trained 27 Planning Professionals (5 Females) selected from all sector offices of the Woreda.
- The project, in collaboration with South Wello Zone Agriculture and Rural Development Office, organized a training program on Participatory Extension System and 24 DAs and experts from WAO (4 Females) participated.



Training to Farmers – a Practical Session



Training to Government Employees

Improved Seed Multiplication and Distribution

Seed Distribution: The project's improved seeds multiplication and distribution intervention was carried out in all the five operation Kebeles of the project. In 2010 and 2011 production years the project procured and distributed 436 Q improved Wheat seed to 1059 PPs (208Fs) & 5Q haricot bean to 19 PPs (3Fs)). The seed was distributed on a credit basis to be returned in kind after harvest.

Training on Seed Multiplication: Four round training programs on seed multiplication were conducted to equip seed grower farmers in basic skills required to produce improved seeds with acceptable quality standards. The training programs were conducted in collaboration with Sirinka Agricultural Research Center (SARC). The trained farmers, in turn, cascaded the training at Kebele level. With close supervision of the project's DFs, they trained their colleagues.

Seed Certification: On average 50 farmers per intervention Kebele (a total of 259 farmers (33 Females)) were selected to participate in wheat seed multiplication scheme. The project made close follow up and special technical supports to these farmers to enable them to qualify for seed certification. After

a first field inspection visit made by Dessie Animals and Plants Quarantine Health & Quality Regulatory Laboratory (DAPQHQL) to each of the farms of the seed multiplying farmers, 98% of the farms are found to successfully meet the required standards for the production of quality improved seed.

This intervention was so fruitful in terms of producing high quality seed and attainment of high yield level. A projection made by DAPQHQL shows that average per hectare yield of the wheat seed multiplying farmers was 21.4 Qt. Despite the fact that wheat production through out the country was highly affected by yellow rust invasion in 2010 production season, project participant farmers were able to produce rust free high quality wheat seed.

DAPQHQL has also made a second field visit after harvest time to all project intervention Kebeles and collected samples to conduct purity and germination tests. Test results show that on average, the produced seeds scored 99.7% and 98.4% in the purity and germination tests, respectively (Please note that wheat seed distributed in 2011 by the Amhara Region Seed Enterprise has 97% purity and 89% germination levels). Based on the above test results, DAPQHQL certified the seed produced by project participant farmers.



Improved Wheat Seed Multiplied by Project Participant Farmers

Credit Repayment: Most of the farmers (98% from the total) who received seed credit in 2010 production season have already repaid the credit in kind. The collected seed from selected seed growers is also re-distributed to other project participants.

Accordingly with in the 2010 and 2011 production seasons the project made improved seed available for 1,504 HHs (259 Females).



In Kind Repaid Wheat Seed by Farmers (Kebele 07)

Organization of Seed Growers: The project facilitated the organization of the seed growers in to a cooperative. The established cooperative (Midre Genet Seed Multiplication and Marketing Primary Cooperative) is certified by South Wello Zone Cooperative Development Office. The cooperative has 159 founding members and 598,446 Birr registered capital.

Networking: The seed multiplication intervention of the project has benefited much from the close and dedicated cooperation extended from DAPQHQL and SARC. The project has collaborated with DAPQHQL (in the areas of seed inspection and seed certification as well as organization of a training program on store management.) and SARC (in the areas of technical support provision for seed grower farmers and organization of training programs in Seed Multiplication). This has laid the foundation for the two institutions to continue their support for the seed growers' cooperative. Attempts are being made to facilitate the creation of close linkage between these support organizations and the newly formed seed growers cooperative.

Seed and Grain Stores Construction: To encourage and support the community based seed multiplication scheme, the project planned and executed the construction of five seed stores (One per each intervention Kebele). Each seed store has 200 Quintals carrying capacity. Communities participated in the form of material provision (Stone and Woods) and material transportation (Hollow block, Cement, Sand, etc.) to their respective Kebeles.



Kebele 05 Seed Store

Furthermore one grain store is constructed at Kebele 09 (Mariye) to centrally serve all the five intervention Kebeles (05 – 09). The grain store has 1000 Quintals carrying capacity and will be owned and operated by the Seed Growers' Cooperative. The store is believed to help reduce post harvest losses and increase farmers bargaining power and market competitiveness. The store also has two additional rooms which will serve as office for the cooperative and equipped with office furniture.



Grain Store Constructed (Kebele 09)

Promoting compost preparation and use by farmers

The project envisaged to promote and expand the use of compost by farmers. Accordingly the project trained farmers with different different kinds of compost

preparation methods. With the project's technical support the trained farmers prepared quality compost and treated 66.7ha land.



Compost Prepared by Hip Method Session

Fruits and Vegetables Promotion

The project was also involved in promoting production of fruits and vegetables in the intervention Kebeles. To this end, the project distributed seeds of vegetables and seedlings of fruits to farmers on credit and cash payment basis. Follow up and technical supports provided to fruit and vegetable grower farmers. Farmers get good harvest and the intervention helped them to improve their food security status. The credit is fully repaid.



Wz. Alganesh Mekonnen, (kebele 07) heads a family of six. With the help of the project she is engaged in the production of vegetables. In 2010 production season, on top of providing more nutritious food items to her family members, she was able to earn more than 600 Birr from the sell of carrot.

Strengthening Farmer Training Centers (FTCs)

FTCs are the lowest level channel through which innovations and technologies are transferred to the grass root level farmers. The FTCs in the Woreda were not functional. The project in collaboration with the Woreda Agriculture Office, made a rapid assessment to identify the constraints and gaps which prevented the FTCs from being operational. Two successive workshops organized in which Woreda and Kebele level officials and experts participated and current status of the FTCs discussed and recommendations made for improvements.

Based on the jointly agreed recommendations, the project procured and handed over different materials and equipments to support the Woreda Extension Unit and FTCs in the intervention Kebeles. The materials include motor cycle, lap top computer, LCD projector, video and photograph cameras, drip irrigations, pedal pumps, seeds, poultry demonstration materials, improved stove moulds, fertilizers, bee colonies, bee and honey materials, black boards, stationery materials, wheel barrows, scales, different kinds of farm implements, flip chart stands, etc.



Some of the Materials Provided to the Woreda Agriculture Office

Currently, two FTCs have already started delivering regular training sessions while others began implementing demonstration activities.

Improve Implementation Capacity of PSNP:

In an attempt to improve the implementation of PSNP at the Woreda level, the project planned and accomplished the following activities:

- **Assessment of Woreda Level Status of PSNP Implementation:** A group of experts from WAO and ASE PO conducted a study to assess the status of PSNP implementation practices in the Woreda.
- **Organize PSNP review and dialogue workshop:** A review and dialogue workshop was organized on Woreda level PSNP implementation status. The findings of the above study were presented and enriched at this workshop. Based on the findings of the research, participants of the workshop made an overall assessment on the status of Woreda level implementation and made joint recommendations for future improvements.

- **Experience Sharing Visit:** A group comprising 51 (12 Fs) watershed committee members and Woreda and Kebele level agricultural professionals visited Abreha Weatsebeha watershed site in Tigray National Regional State. Group members draw lessons on best experiences in PSNP implementation and watershed management activities.



*Participants of the Experience Sharing Visit
(Abreha Weatsbeha Watershed Site)*

- **Organize awareness raising to PSNP / PW beneficiary HHs:** The project raised the awareness of 4,434 PSNP beneficiaries (1349 females) on the objective of the program, graduation, sustainability, targeting, etc.

Development of Ambassel Woreda Database

In an attempt to modernize and improve the existing data management system, the project planned to develop a computerized Woreda Data Base system. An external consultant is hired to facilitate the task and a technical committee comprising professionals from various Woreda government sector offices established to coordinate the task. Data collection completed in collaboration with Woreda sector offices and an Excel based data base developed. Two Woreda ICT professionals trained to manage the data base system and the system is ready to be operational.

Establishment of Local Joint GO-NGO Forum

The project, in collaboration with the Woreda Finance and Economic Development Office, initiated the establishment of GO-NGO Forum of Ambassel Woreda. Representatives from relevant government organizations and NGOs licensed to work in the area participated in the launching workshop of the forum. Forum members agreed to meet every quarter. Activity and financial reports of the NGOs presented and discussed at the workshop. Challenges were raised and possible solutions suggested. It was also agreed that the NGOs and partner government sector offices should work more closely towards achieving the common goal of developing the Woreda.

Value Chain Development

With the help of a consultant a Value Chain study was conducted on wheat. Some of the recommendations of the study are being implemented by the project. The project also organized three training programs related to Value Chain and trained 96 (14 Females) Woreda, Zonal and Kebele level professionals and seed grower farmers and irrigation water users.

Cross cutting issues

The project attempted to mainstream Gender and HIV/AIDS in its activities. Females are encouraged and supported in an attempt to enhance their participation in project activities and decision making processes. The project also attempted to mainstream HIV/AIDS in to its interventions. As part of this effort, the project, in collaboration with the Woreda Health Office., organized a coffee ceremony at the project's major

watershed site (Kundi Sedeka) to raise awareness on HIV/AIDS. A total of 163 individuals (47 Females) participating in the project's watershed and irrigation activities were present at the ceremony. Education program was conducted with relevant professionals and three different types of leaflets distributed to participants. Two pregnant women also received VCT service at the occasion.



Coffee Ceremony to Raise Awareness on HIV/AIDS (Kebele 05)

Project Participants

The project, through its various interventions, directly benefited a total of 9,182 HHs (30% Females). The detail is presented in the table below.

Challenges Encountered and Actions Taken

Heavy Rainfall and Flood: Exceptionally very high rainfalls in the 2010 meher season and associated heavy flood incidences had created multifaceted damages in Ambassel. Three of the project's intervention Kebeles 05 (Chefe), 08 (Dino) and 09 (Mariye) were among the list of Kebeles seriously affected by the flood. Intervention related with multiplication and distributions of improved seeds were affected as crop lands were washed away. The flood also damaged the gabion intake structure constructed at the head of the irrigation canal (The damage destroyed a structure worth of 15,200 Birr). Communication with most of the intervention Kebeles was extremely difficult after the flood severed the road which connects them to the Woreda capital. The situation made transportation of materials to the intervention Kebeles very difficult.

No	Type of Project Intervention	Project Participants		
		M	F	Total
1	Seed Multiplication and Distribution	1208	289	1497
2	Fruits & Vegetables Promotion	304	163	467
3	Small Scale Irrigation	299	71	370
4	Woreda level training programs	397	122	519
5	Watershed management	648	648	1296
6	Compost preparation	153	57	210
7	Desho Grass Demonstration	41	14	55
8	Work shops & Exchange Visits (Woreda level)	221	32	253
9	Awareness Raising on PSNP Implementation	3085	1349	4434
10	Bio Fertilizer Demonstration	68	13	81

To go around this pressing challenge:

- The project re-planned its WSM intervention in Kebele 05. Additional and stronger physical structures designed and constructed in cash for work scheme which at the same time aimed at financially benefiting community members which are affected by the flood disaster. This new intervention was financed by the project's contingency budget which was set aside for emergency cases like this.
- Rehabilitated the road leading to the irrigation site to resume transportation of construction materials.
- Materials transported across difficult topographies using human power and pack animals

Busy Schedule of Partners: Project performance was highly affected by the busy schedule of partners. Government officials and experts both at Woreda and Kebele levels as well as community members were all tied up with various current activities (Election period, Growth and Transformation (GTP) awareness raising programs, etc.) making it difficult to move forward as per the planned schedule.

Exorbitant cost of construction materials: The price of cement nearly doubled since the time of project planning. The prices of other items like iron and fuel had also been continuously rising. This forced the project to exceed its budget limits allocated for the planned major construction works (Irrigation structure, Seed stores and Grain store). This created very high variation on the budget allocated for construction activities. On top of this, scarcity of cement on the market also caused long delays in the project's

construction works. To overcome this problem a budget revision was requested and approved by the Donor partners.

Difficult Topography and lack of access roads: Difficult topography of the Woreda and poor access roads, among others, made transportation of construction materials extremely difficult, expensive and time consuming. Three of the five intervention Kebeles of the project are inaccessible by road. The project staff and other visiting partners, therefore, have no choice but to walk or use mules to travel long and difficult distances to reach these Kebeles.

Short project duration vis-à-vis long term objectives of the project: This may create difficulties as consolidation of the benefits gained as a result of project activities may require a longer time span.

CONCLUSION

Withstanding the above challenges, the project achieved remarkable results within such a short period of time. Though it is too early to discern all the impacts of the project it is possible to observe various encouraging positive outcomes including the followings:

- ▶ A small scale irrigation scheme with a command area of 102.8 ha started to be functional.
- ▶ Two micro watershed sites (500ha area) have been physically and biologically treated.
- ▶ Farmers are able to produce high quality improved wheat seed with acceptable standards. This has enormously contributed to the alleviation of the seed shortage problem prevalent in the area.

- ▶ On average it is projected that 21.4 quintal wheat was produced per hectare which is a 55% increase from the base line figure of 13.8 quintal/ha.
- ▶ The income of participants supported with vegetable seeds has improved. In 2010 production year they earned additional incomes within the range of 200 – 600 Birr.
- ▶ Almost all farmers who received various Seeds and seedlings on credit basis fully repaid their credits. This is a new phenomenon in Ambassel. This emerging culture is essential to sustainable development and should be encouraged in the future also.
- ▶ Seedling production capacity of two government nurseries is significantly improved as a result of the support provided by the project.
- ▶ A strong seed multiplication and marketing cooperative established and began operation.
- ▶ Physical facilities are in place for seed and grain storage.
- ▶ Two FTCs started operations and others are finalizing preparation.
- ▶ Woreda level data collected and uploaded in a computerized data base system.
- ▶ Crop land covered with quality compost increased by 66.7ha.
- ▶ GO-NGO Forum established at Woreda level.
- ▶ Farmers' awareness in the area of organic farming and land husbandry practices, seed multiplication and vegetable and fruit production and management has been improved.

Relevant sector offices and communities have actively engaged during project implementation. The different community structures organized by the project (including water users association, watershed committee, and seed growers group) facilitated the involvement of the community in the various decision making processes. Communities have also significantly contributed to the project success by transporting different construction materials to their respective Kebeles and by mobilizing locally available materials.

The project exerted maximum effort to ensure the sustainability of the project's benefits. On top of this, with a financial support from DCA the program office will continue to partially operate for additional four months and this will also help to further strengthen the likelihood of sustainability. A complete consolidation of the benefits gained from the project, however, requires a continuation of the project for one additional phase, which will help to address the shortcomings associated with the short-lived implementation period of the just ended project.

Workshop on Project Development and Management

A five day's training workshop on Project Cycle Management (PCM) was offered to 23 participants drawn from member organizations of The Consortium of Reproductive Health Associations (CORHA) including Agri Service Ethiopia. The workshop organized by CORHA in collaboration with the German Development Service (DED) was conducted from August 29, 2011 to September 2, 2011 at Adama Mekonnen Hotel, Adama. The training, which was designed for practitioners in project management including project managers, program coordinators, key field and HQ staff involved in designing and planning projects, managers supervising project development and implementation, was aimed at equipping the participants with enhanced designing and management tools to tailor projects more adequately to meet the needs of the beneficiaries. Participants of the workshop were finally received Certificate of Participation from CORHA at the end of the Workshop.



Participants of the training

Training Offered to ...

Continued from page 1

months from June 1 to August 30, 2011. Invited guests and Government officials from South Wello Zone and Tehulederie Wereda attended the graduation ceremony which was held on Sep. 6, 2011 at the Dessie prison. The training program which was carried out with financial support from ASE's Tehulederie program office was aimed at creating job opportunities for prison inmates who are expected to join their

communities in the near future. It was to create responsible and productive citizens who will be in a position to contribute to the development of their community upon their release. Contributions from the program office included logistic support, provision of training materials, uniforms and incentives for both trainees and trainers. On the other hand the prison administration coordinated and provided the skill trainings by assigning professionals for the training, arranged the training venues and training areas for the practical aspect of the training program. 29(1F) of the trainees were trained on masonry while the remaining 28 (2F) were trained on carpentry.



Ato Getachew Worku,
Executive Director of ASE
giving out award to a trainee



Monitoring Visit

A team of staff members from the main office carried out monitoring visit to ASE's Burji, Gelana, Amaro, Tehulederie and Ambassel program offices. The visit which was carried out in two rounds from 27/07/2011 to 01/08/2011 and from 17/08/2011 to 20/08/2011 was aimed at assessing the status and progress of program implementation in the program offices in the last six months and to

identify and document constraints, come up with appropriate measures and to note lessons to be presented on the 2011 first bi annual review meeting.



Signboard depicting the Bededo Korkie Water Project
(Tehulederie Program Office)



Bededo Catchment treatment
(Tehulederie Program Office)



The monitoring visit brought to light certain conditions that to some extent held back performance. Factors that influenced the performance of the program offices include change in the weather conditions - mainly shortage and absence of expected rains and prolonged dry season, high and ever increasing price rise on commodities

particularly on industrial produces, busy schedule and engagement of Government Offices and even communities on other commitments, and disparities seen on the implementation of some of ASE's core strategies. The influence of these and similar others on execution of planned interventions were thoroughly discussed on with staff members of the respective program offices, suggestions and recommendations believed to enhance performance and accomplish tasks within the time frame were forwarded.

ASE held the 2011

Continued From Page 1

Organizational biannual report was then presented by the Planning and Monitoring Unit (PME). The presentation, which was a compiled report on activities planned and the achievements from the Program Offices in the reporting period, was followed by a discussion session where a number of issues were raised and discussed on.

In a similar way, biannual reports from Program Support and Finance and Human Resource Departments were presented. The presentation from the main office also included a report from ASE's business wing. The purpose, current status and plan of ASE business project were mentioned on the report. A number of suggestions and recommendations on the future functioning of the business wing were given by the participants.

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Rehabilitation of Kundi Sedeka Micro watershed (Ambassel Program Office)

Profile of ASE Program Offices¹

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 Mngt & Conservation of Bio diversity	Afar	Amibara	Alidege	900	180 (30%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/CAFOD/ 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) 9370Hhs (30%FHH)	121,000 (50%F)	EU/DCA	18 Months Jan.2010 - Oct 2011	To contribute to sustainable improvement of household food security in the Wereda.	
4	Berek Training Center Establishment	Oromia	Berek	8 Oromia Special Zone Surrounding Finfine		120 Frontline Development workers		Oxfam Novib	8 Months May 2011- Dec 2011	To improve efficiency and effectiveness of frontline extension staff in the Agricultural Development sector through the provision of quality and participatory in-service training program on selected and current rural development issues.	
5	Burji Integrated Food Security Program	SNNPRS	Burji	6	61,585	14,268	47,317	Trocaire/CAFOD/ SCIAF	1 Year Oct 2010 - Sept 2011	Enhance the capacities of the communities and local government actors in improving food security of the target HHs	
6	Goncha Siro Erese Community Enhancement Sustainable Land Management in Sherrat Micro-Catchment	Amhara	Goncha Siro Eresie	3 Embahoq Qesquam (018), Embahoq Silassie (020) and Goshera Diquat (031) Embuayoch Kusquam, Goshera Dikuat	137,175 (49.9%F) 1200Hhs (980M Hhs; 220F Hhs)	11,138 (5685F)		Oxfam novib Sida through Sustainable Land Use Forum (Sida/SLUF)	8month May 2011 - Dec 2011 18 Months 01 July 2011 - 31 December 2012	To contribute to the sustainable livelihoods development of the target communities To contribute to the livelihood improvement of the target community through enhancing their capacity and rehabilitation of the land resources of Gorij watershed	

7	Building Resilient Communities to Drought Risks Emergency Response and Recovery Project at Guradamole Woreda	Oromia	Guradamole Bale zone	5 6 Yabdo Sare, Jibri, Jibo Aways, Shoorbo Raxab, Awuceche, Haborona	14,813 (7,786F)	114,813 (7,786F)	28,914 (16,811F)	EU-ECHO-Dan Church AID EU/ECHO/DCA	8 Months July, 2010 - Dec. 2011 7 Months Feb 2011 - Aug 2011	Increased resilience of communities to recurrent drought risk through coordinated efforts of mitigation of the hazard, increased community preparedness, and survivability of individuals To Protect lives and livelihoods of vulnerable families in targeted pastoralist communities through water and hygiene provision and livelihoods protection, including enhanced disaster coping capacity. 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
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 bring about sustainable changes in the livelihood of the target population as a result of improvements in their productive and technical agricultural capacities Improved drought preparedness capacities of communities and other local stakeholders in the target woreda by the end of the project period. To make a major contribution as part of a global partnership to achieve international targets for development
9	Community Capacity Enhancement Project Strengthening the coping Capacities of the drought Affected Pastoral Communities in Dassanech woreda in south Omo Zone, SNNPRS Community Capacity Development Program	SNNPRS	Dassanech	4 Delegmur, Locho ber, Terengole, Akodengole 5 Bandira, Dasha, Torongole, Delemnore Akudongole 5 Akondongole, Delemnore, Bandira, Doshe, Torongole	17,400 (8700F) 56,500 (52%F) 7824 (51%F)	10,000 (5000F) 7355 1565HHs	7,400 (3,700F) 56,500 51,559	Christian Aid Christian Aid Ethiopia	20 months Jan. 2010 - July, 2011 1 Year Jan 2011 - Dec 2011 8 Months July, 2011 - March, 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.
10	Goro Integrated Food Security Program	Oromia	Goro, Bale zone	5 Keku, Bale Gadula, Bale Annole, Bili Akiya, Ro'o Nezayt	14,800 (2547HHs)	14,800 (2547HHs)	85,000 (14,655HHs)	Dan Church Aid Ethiopia	3 Years Jan 2010 - Dec 2012	Contribute to reduce poverty and promote sustainable development in Tebuledere Woreda
11	Tebuledere Community Empowerment	Amhara	Tebuledere	8	47,964	15,000	32,964	EED	2 Years Jan 2011 - Dec. 2012	

This profile of the Program Offices is constantly updated in the Quarterly Agri Drum publications by including newly started projects and by cancelling out projects that have terminated.

Agri Service Ethiopia

ASE held the 2011

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Key issues raised on the two days meeting included:

- The need to increase understanding of the Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP) across all ASE staff and development partners,
- Reviewing ASE's Community Based Institutions (CBI) and Community Learning Forum (CoLF) strategies in light of certain problems said to have been encountered upon implementations in some program offices,
- Donor diversification,
- The Ejersa livestock market at Gelana PO which was kept idle for a long time now and the problems that hindered its proper utilization,
- The need for consistency and clarity in reporting and communications, and
- Reserve fund establishment.

The meeting was then concluded with a final remark by Ato Getachew Worku on the important issues raised during the two days meeting. All but the Burji and Amibara program offices participated on the meeting.



ASE's Executive Director

Continued From Page 1

On his visit to Tehulederie Community Empowerment Program Office, Ato Getachew saw the Bededo Catchment reclamation work. The reclamation work includes construction of hillside terrace, stone check dam constructions and plantation of indigenous tree species.

In a similar way, the Executive Director visited ASE's Ambassel Capacity Enhancement Program Office from September 3 to 4, 2011. During his stay in the program office, Ato Getachew travelled to kebele 05 (Chefe) and kebele 09 (Mariye) and visited the project's activities in the two kebeles. Project sites covered in the visit include: Small Scale Irrigation Scheme, micro watershed management intervention, Nursery site, Chefe seed store and Mariye grain store. The Executive Director was accompanied by Ato Seyoum Bekele, ASE's Director of Administration and Finance Department.





YEABSRA AGEGNEHU - LIBRARIAN- HQ
TESFAYE SIME- FOOD SECURITY PROJECT
OFFICER- GORO PO

Project agreement signed

Continued From Page 1

Civil Society organizations in the area of Environmental protection and Natural resource management.

The two organizations entered into the agreement with the common objective of contributing to improved environmental protection and natural resource management. The project entitled 'Sustainable Land Management in Sherat Micro-watershed of the Gonjy Watershed' is located in Embuayoch kebele, Goncha Siso Enessie Wereda of East Gojam Zone, Amhara Region. It has duration of 18 months, 01 July 2011 to 31, December 2012. Total cost of the project is Birr 850,000 and is covered by SLUF.

Guests Visited

Continued From Page 1

the progress of Ambassel Food Facility Project which is funded by the European Union and Dan Church Aid. Following the briefing, the guest also visited the small scale irrigation scheme and parts of the micro watershed site of the project. The visit, however, was interrupted by unexpected heavy rain which harshly hit members of the visiting team.



Putting an end to rural poverty!