



Agri Drum

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

Quarterly: April - June

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ASE Executive Director visited Goro and Guradamole Program Offices

Ato Getachew Worku, Executive Director of ASE, made a four days field visit to ASE's Goro and Guradamole Program area offices in Bale Zone of Oromia Region from May 6, 2011 to May 9, 2011.

During his visit to Goro Integrated Food Security Program Office, Ato Getachew was briefed on the planned development interventions and achievements of the program office and also carried out discussions with the staff members. He then visited the



development centre at Bale Gadula kebele where spice value chain development project is implemented along with the other planned activities. The Executive Director also visited roof water harvesting structure at Balle Almkerem primary school in Bale Anole kebele built to serve the school community with a population of about 300 students.



ASE staff contributed over 103,000 Birr for the construction of the Millennium Renaissance Dam

ASE's main office and regional program office staff decided to give over 103, 000 Birr for the construction of the Millennium Renaissance Dam to be built on the Blue Nile. The employees agreed

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FACT Centre to be established at Sendafa

Agri- Service Ethiopia is on the move to establish a Training Centre- Facilitation and Communication Training (FaCT) Centre at Sendafa with the main objective of improving efficiency and effectiveness of frontline

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Editor: Sebsibe Sema

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**Ato Getachew Worku
Ato Amanuel Assefa**

**Agri Service Ethiopia
Tehuledere Consolidation of Community
Empowerment Program**

BACKGROUND

Tehuledere is one of the food insecure Woredas of the Amhara Regional State. It covers a total area of 45,800 hectares and is classified into three agro-ecologies: 15% lowland, 72% midland and 13% highland. The topography of the area constitutes 40% undulated, 26.4% hilly, 13.3% plain and 8% fresh water. The land use pattern shows 47% cultivated land, 31.2% forest and bush land, 2.2% fresh water and 1.4% natural pasture.

The Woreda has 23 lower administrative units (kebeles) out of which 19 are rural kebeles and four are rural and urban towns. The Woreda capital, Haik, is located 430 kms from Addis Ababa and 30 kms from Dessie, the zonal capital. Population of the Woreda is estimated at 152,100. 88% of the population live in the rural part and 22% are town dwellers. There are a total of 25,255 households and 18% of these are women headed households.

The major source of livelihood to over 90% of the target population is agriculture (crop farming) followed by occasional labor, livestock production, petty trade and craftsmanship. The main food crops are Teff, sorghum and maize. Haricot bean is also the dominant crop grown. Citrus, chat, Coffee, sweet potato, Irish potato and onion are cash crops grown in the area. Productivity of main crops is generally low and widely varies over the seasons. Pest and disease, moisture stress;

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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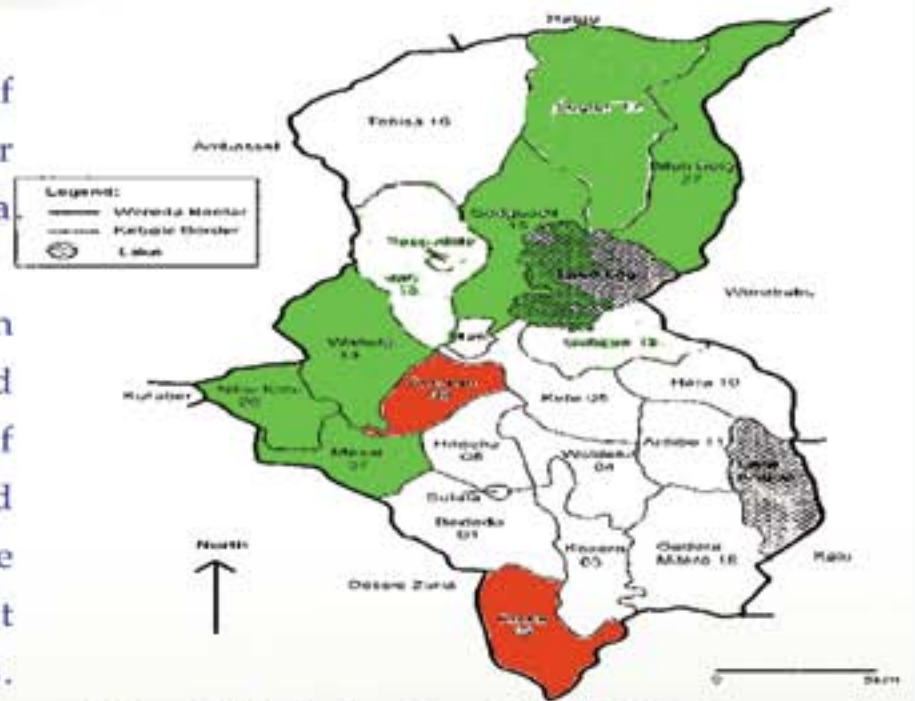
poor soil fertility and low up take of improved technologies are the major problems of crop production in the area.

There are some informal institutions in the area that have both social and economic objectives. 'Kirre' is one of these institutions basically established for funeral and mourning purposes. The members also raise money to support those who organize wedding parties. 'Abagar' is another institution with five elected members who manage hidden local conflicts. 'Debo' is also an informal institution with purely economic functions. It is mainly organized to collectively manage labor-intensive farm activities such as tillage, sowing, weeding and harvesting. Debo is also organized to serve in the construction of houses.

ASE together with its long time development partner, EED, extended its commitment for the last three years (2008-2010) to address livelihood problems. The program targeted poor and disadvantaged community groups and local government institutions through organizational development and capacity enhancement.

Target area

The program targeted eight rural kebeles (indicated on the map). These kebeles were by far the most disadvantaged from inadequate, in some cases, to lack of access to basic development services.



Map of Tehuledere Woreda and ASE intervention areas colored / Kebeles 02,09, 07, 026,014,015, 017,027 (green).

Low level of awareness on various social and economic issues, dependency on external aid and Harm Full Traditional Practices (HTPs) were among the challenges in the area. The occurrence of recurrent drought also affects food security and livelihood of the community.

Despite the above challenges, however, indigenous knowledge embodied in the system is a very important asset on which a number of cost effective and ecologically sound innovations can be promoted. The experience of farmers on farmyard manure, the tradition of genetic conservation practices, the experience of farmers on several ethno veterinary and IPM practices and the Jarri compound for establishment of a training centre were seen as opportunities.

Major components

- Local Capacity Building
- Community Learning and Education
- Livelihood Promotion
- Natural Resource Management
- Partnering
- Management and Coordination

Local Capacity Development

Community Based Institution (CBI)

The CBI has a democratic and gender sensitive structure that assumes responsibilities for carrying out development activities with the support of the program office. Eight CBIs have been established and are functioning at Kebele level since 2006. They have been working with the poor and marginalized community members.

Yenegat Tsehay Self Help Community Based Institution was established as an apex institution at Wereda level and was legally registered by the Wollo Zone Justice Office, in April, 2008. It has been working on institutional sustainability, organizational growth, and partnership building with the private sector, NGOs, bilateral organizations, social/traditional institutions and other civil societies. It has about 2400 members out of which 40% are female.

Yenigat Tsehay self help CBI, is now re-registered as Ethiopian Resident Association as per the new proclamation No 621/2009 and is re-named as Yenigat Tsehay Self Help Development

Association. Prior to registration the institution was audited by chartered accountant and has gained clearance from relevant organizations and fulfilled all requirements that enable it to be registered.



organizational Sestructure



The chair person in his Office

As a support to the CBI, the PO constructed and furnished offices for each of the eight CBIs at kebele level. It has also provided them with other materials including a motor cycle.

The development activities undertaken by the association include the followings:

- It signed an agreement with Oxfam Canada and managed a program entitled "Women empowerment and gender equality". The program contributed to reduce violence on women and the incidence of Harm Full Traditional Practice (HTP). It enabled both men and women in the community to exercise a complementary role in leadership and decision making.
- Promoted women empowerment on leadership, conducted gender audit with in CBI, organized workshop on gender mainstreaming and promotion of human, legal and reproductive rights of women.

- Supported poor families and women headed HHs by providing sheep, goats and two month old chicken for income generating.
- Facilitated Access to the education of girls by providing educational material support to schools.
- Through Community Innovation Development Fund (CIDF), the association constructed and is managing poultry production houses and is distributing three month chicken to the community.



Capacity support for local government partners

The Program office has provided capacity development support to the government counterparts both technically and financially. Strategy development, clarity on Livelihood Based Literacy (LBL) intervention, facilitating GO/NGO

consultative meetings, facilitating establishment of development forums and provision of set of books and office support material were among others.

As an outcome of the capacity development intervention, therefore, the local leadership capacity is developed, resource management capacity improved and the CBI administered staff and project fund properly. The Woreda CBI participates in NGO-GO partnership meeting at district level through which it expresses its voice. The communities are exercising decision making power to their own destiny.

Community learning and Education

Social learning

Community Learning Forum (CoLF)" in Tehuledere is used as a participatory mutual learning process that encompasses a package: social learning, skills and entrepreneurship development, participatory innovation development and livelihood based literacy. In Tehuledere the social part of CoLF program focused mainly on "Warsa and Wurse", Female genital mutilation, extravagance, HIV prevention and environmental rehabilitation.

Each CoLF session is held for 4 hours a week and has been implemented for some years now. A CoLF group has 25 to 30 members and there are 3 CoLF groups established at each target Kebele.



CoLF Graduates

Participatory learning and action research

Innovation: Innovative farmers in the targeted kebeles were identified and recognized for their creativity. Their innovation contributed to food security.

A platform innovative farmers was organized at Woreda level and an innovation fair was carried out to scale out best practices. Tehuledere program office supported the identification, documentation, enhancement, promotion and sharing of local innovations in the target area.

Action research on sorghum Stalk borer, initiated in the previous program of the PO, was successfully accomplished and the findings were shared to Wereda Agricultural Office and relevant extension organizations. Likewise, the PO has been facilitating action researches to increase soil fertility on farm trials on selected crop varieties.



Farmers' demonstration of sorghum stalk borer prevention



An Innovative farmer with iron made Farming tools he produced



Innovative woman controlling pest



Overcoming shortage of oxen through innovation.

Livelihood promotion

A total of 119 qt of improved seeds that include Chick pea, Teff, Fababean, wheat, Haricot bean and sorghum were purchased and distributed to 798(173F) community members with the aim of enhancing production and productivity of poor households and to avail additional seed to poor farmers in shortage of seed caused by recurrent drought. Similarly, a total of 414 kg of spices and oil seeds were distributed to improve the livelihood of the poor through production of high value crops.

In addition, business oriented skill trainings were organized to 102 (44 Females) CoLF members out of which 51 (13 females) were trained on improved vegetable and 51 (31 females) on poultry production. Following the training, more than 1215 banana (Giant Cavendish) suckers, 2240 Orange (Washington naval) seedlings and 9000 Cassava cuttings, raised at Jari demonstration farm were distributed to 500 (143 F) Participants.

Traditional irrigation scheme, with a command area of 105 hectares and that benefit 220 poor households was upgraded at the low land and high land area of the project to improve water use efficiency.



Small scale Irrigation for vegetable and fruit production

A total of 120 farmers were given training on irrigation water management and improved agronomic practices. The irrigation scheme has reduced conflict among water users. Income of users increased by 30% and farmers' knowledge in production of high value crops has also improved.

Production and promotion of Cassava, a drought resistant root crop, was introduced for climate change adaptation in the area. This drought resistant variety has contributed to ensure HH food security at moisture stress area of the program office.



Cassava plantation at Jari Farm

The followings were achieved as a result of the livelihood promotion activities:

- The productivity of wheat increased from 12 qt to 15 qt/ha.
- The productivity of soya bean increased by 20% from the previous productivity rate that is 8 -10qt/ha.
- Forage development and veterinary services increased the production

and productivity of livestock by 45% as compared to the previous period. Livestock mortality rate reduced from 30%-12% in the program area.

Natural Resource Management

The lake Logo, which provides an employment and income opportunities for landless rural dwellers and urban youth, with a potential to attract tourists has been increasingly threatened by silt accumulation due to environmental degradation, pollution and over fishing. If the trend continues, the lake will end up with irreversible socioeconomic and environmental crises. Agri Service Ethiopia Tehuledere program office has therefore exerted efforts through technical and advocacy works to reverse the situation.

The PO carried out advocacy and awareness creation on sediment control, waste management and fishery management to people living in 11 kebeles of Tehulederie, Kalu and Werebabo Weredas. The government has now allotted budget for climate change as linked to Lake Logo and Lake Ardibo as one positive outcome of the advocacy work.

The natural resource management activity of the program office also includes the establishment of 2 nurseries which were handed over to Yenegat Tsehay CBI.



Social Services

Education

Five Alternative Basic Child Education centers were established and 16(6F) facilitators were trained by Tehuledere PO in collaboration with Wereda education office. The program Office renewed 4 primary schools and 5 alternative basic child education centers and were all handed over to the government. Children enrolment rate has improved and the dropout rate reduced from 19% to 4%. Education coverage increased from 80% to 95% in the target areas.



Maintained and furnished Primary School at Kundi got, 09 kebele

Rural water supply

The Program office has also made a significant contribution towards solving problems of drinking water in the program area. It has constructed 10 water schemes

out of which the Bededo-Korkie water supply project is the biggest.



Spring developed at Seglen kebele(017)

In kebele 02, the water source was unprotected and the inhabitants were exposed to water borne diseases. Water fetching is the responsibility of women and children who had to travel four to seven kilometers to collect water. The situation was tiresome and demanded much of the productive times of women.

The Bededo Korkie water supply project

The Bededo Korkie water supply project is a response to both community and government felt needs at the time and even in the years to come. It was to address the critical lack of rural water supply in Bededo - Korkie kebeles in Tehuledere wereda.

In 2006 when the program started, the water supply coverage in the wereda was generally low particularly in the eight program intervention kebeles where the coverage was limited to 21%. The two kebeles have been experiencing a severe shortage of access to potable water supply. As a result, the two communities suffered most from both economic and social problems ranging from loss of the productive time and energy of women and girls to experiencing rape, kidnapping and disruption of education.

The Bededo Korkie water supply project was constructed with a joint effort and was primarily initiated by Agri-Service Ethiopia. It has all necessary structures that include 2 reservoirs(200m³; 79m³), 2 collection chambers, 2 Generators , transformer houses, Power house, storage chamber, distribution points, washing basins, Electric line installation works and a 12 Kms long Pipe line. Two centrifugal type surface pumps with the capacity of 171 meter and 376 meter head were also installed.

The total cost of the project was Birr 4,650,000. ASE's contribution to the project amounts to 53% of the budget and all the technical support. Individuals, namely Ato Said Yasin and Mr. Christoph and his family, donated 25% and 9% of the budget respectively. The remaining 9% of the budget was contributed by the government.



Korkie Community members had to travel 7km to fetch water





Community members discuss to solve problem of drinking water

Community participation



One of the reservoirs with 200 cubic meter capacity



As a result of the rural water supply interventions, access to safe potable water coverage of the area improved from 21% to 54% and water born and water associated diseases were also reduced. Rural women, especially living in the rugged terrain of Tehuledere woreda have now more time to spare for other domestic activities when sufficient quantities of potable water are made available within a short distance.

Challenges

- ▶ Rapidly growing costs (industrial materials) have restrained performances of Construction works.
- ▶ The frequent government staff turnover
- ▶ Dependency Syndrome
- ▶ Climate Change
- ▶ Limited GO/NGO partnership due to busy schedule of GO partners.

Lesson learnt

- ▶ Working with community based and farmer centered institution bring about sustainable development.
- ▶ Networking and documentation is the best solution for institutionalization and scaling out best practices.
- ▶ Public-private-NGO partnership can make a difference, Eg:-Bededo-Korkie water development project.

ASE staff contributed over 103,000 Birr *Continued From page 1*

to make their contributions on meetings held at the head office and the respective regional program offices.

On a meeting by the Head Office staff held on May 25, 2011, the participants raised and discussed the significant importance of the dam on the overall development of the country. Participants of the meeting also promised to continue with their support in different ways until the mega dam is finally realized. The meeting was chaired by Ato Getachew Worku, Executive Director of ASE.

ASE Executive Director visited....

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Before concluding his visit to the program office, Ato Getachew held a feedback session with the staff members where he praised their efforts and encouraged them to further strengthen their work towards attaining the intended objectives of the program office.



The Executive Director then proceeded to the Disaster Risk Reduction Project known as "Building Resilient Communities to Drought Risks" at Guradamole. In his visit to the program office, Ato Getachew held a joint meeting with staff members of the office and the local administration.



On this meeting he was briefed on achievements on the planned activities of the program office and on the Emergency Response and Recovery project launched because of a recent drought caused by the absence of rain in the program area.

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Dinsho, Bale Mountains National Park



Gelada Baboon



Warthog



Mountain Nyala

FACT Centre to be....

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extension staff of government and non-government actors in the agriculture and rural development sector. The centre is meant to provide quality and participatory in-service training programme on selected and contemporary rural development issues. The establishment of the training centre is also expected to contribute towards realizing years-long aspiration of the organization's vision of becoming Centre of Excellence in Community Training and Extension Education.

ASE Executive Director

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Ato Getachew also visited a nursery site and water rationing activities of the Emergency

Response and Recovery Project. The Emergency Response and Recovery Project consist of water rationing, cash for work and training activities. Two staff members from the main office accompanied Ato Getachew on his monitoring visit to the program offices.



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 Mngt & Conservation of Bio diversity	Alfar	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/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) 9370Hs (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 Capacity Enhancement	Amhara	Goncha Siro Eresie	3 Embahoch Ququam (018), Embahoch Silassie (020) and Goshera Diquat (031)	137,175 (49.9%F)	11,138 (5685F)		Oxfam novib	8 month May 2011 - Dec 2011	To contribute to the sustainable livelihoods development of the target communities	

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7	Building Resilient Communities to Drought Risks Emergency Response and Recovery Project at Guradamole Woreda	Oromia	Guradamole Bale zone	5 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	8 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 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.
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 Strengthening the coping Capacities of the drought Affected Pastoral Communities in Dassenach woreda in south Omo Zone. SNNPRS	SNNPRS	Dassenach	4 Delegnmur, Locho ber, Terengole, Akodengole 5 Bandira, Dashal, Torongole, Delegmore Akudongole	17,400 (8700F) 56,500 (52%F)	10,000 (5000F) 7355	7,400 (3,700F) 56,500	Christian Aid	20 months Jan. 2010 - July, 2011 1 Year Jan 2011 - 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.
10	Goro Integrated Food Security Program	Oromia	Goro, Bale zone	5 Keku, Bale Gadula, Bale Annole, Bili Akiya, Ro'o Negaya	14,800 (2547HHs)	14,800 (2547HHs)	85,000 (14,655HHs)	Dan Church Aid Ethiopia	3 Years Jan 2010 - Dec 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	Tehuledaira Community Empowerment	Amhara	Tehuledaira	8	47,964	15,000	32,964	EED	2 Years Jan. 2011 - Dec. 2012	Contribute to reduce poverty and promote sustainable development in Tehuledaira Woreda

Quarterly: April - June

Putting an end to rural poverty!