



# Agri Drum

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

Quarterly: October - December

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### ASE bids farewell to Mertulemariam

Agri Service Ethiopia (ASE) attended a farewell program organized in honor of its 11 years remarkable achievements at Mertulemariam Worreda. The program was organized with the initiation and lead by Alem Berhan Community Based Institution (ABCBI), a local institution which was organized and established as an exit strategy by ASE.



ASE intervened in the woreda from 2001 to 2011 and carried out its three phased projects in food security, community empowerment and consolidation and capacity development programs.

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### ASE on the air

ASE sponsored radio program produced in partnership with national service of Radio Ethiopia are now on-air. The weekly programs, which focus on the development interventions of ASE are being transmitted every Tuesday for 15 minutes from 9:30 to 9:45 PM starting from December 20, 2011.

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### Exit Workshop held at Berek

A one day exit workshop was conducted on the rural development intervention of the Berek program office on December 24, 2011.

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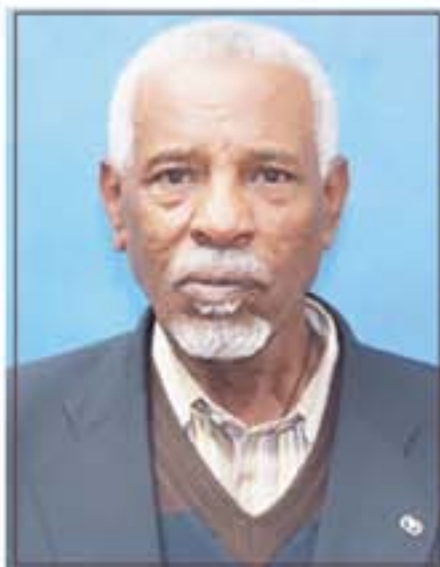
**Editor: Sebsibe Sema**

**Editorial Board:**

**Ato Getachew Worku**  
**Ato Amanuel Assefa**



## CONGRATULATIONS



The management and staff of Agri Service Ethiopia congratulate Ato Mamo Kebede Shenkut on his winning of the 2011 Kaj-Erik Nordström Award, an international award for Adult Education.

According to the communiqué released by Västra Nylands folkhögskola..... from Karis, Finland, Ato Mamo Kebede Shenkut was presented with this award in recognition

of his remarkable initiatives for the development of Adult Education, for promoting access to education, and for creating a network of people and local organizations that continue to offer basic skills to adults.

The statement further reiterated that Ato Mamo fostered a desire to learn among the general public, and particularly among the most vulnerable social categories namely people living in rural areas and women by promoting structures that offered non-formal adult education opportunities close to the people. His dedication to the cause of non-formal adult education, the courses he developed and thought on management of education centers, his role in the development of teaching and information materials to be used widely across Ethiopia, were among his significant contributions mentioned in the communiqué.

The award was formally presented to Ato Mamo at a ceremony held at Västra Nylands folkhögskola, Karis, Finland, on 9 February 2012. The award includes a prize of 2000EUR.

The Kaj-Erik Nordström Award is established in memory of the late principal of Västra Nylands folkhögskola, Kaj-Erik Nordström (1942-2004), a proponent of lifelong learning. The award is presented from 2011 onwards on yearly bases for individuals who have made particularly deserving contribution to adult education and popular enlightenment.

Ato Mamo is an active member of ASE's General Assembly. He has served ASE as Board Member and as a strong Board Chair Person and made significant contributions to the institutional development of the organization. We join his admirers in offering him our heartiest congratulations and wish him all the best in his future life.

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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Exit Workshop held at Berek ....



Ato Husein Ahmed

Ato Hussein Ahmed, a project participant, also made a speech representing the beneficiary farmers of the wereda. He told his experience and achievements from the newly introduced cactus plant and fish farming in the area. He expressed his pleasure and satisfaction for working with ASE, which he says is an organization with impressive implementation strategies that closely works with farmers.



There was also a presentation on the experience of ASE on community managed cattle breed improvement through the introduction of exotic breed (bull service) by a consultant, the consultant who assessed the impact.



A video show

A twenty seven minutes video produced on the ten years development activities of the program office was also screened to the workshop participants as visual evidence to the development efforts and achievements of the program office.



Ato Getachew Worku giving the documents to the GO representative

Documents produced on ASE's ten years development interventions in Berek-Allelu wereda were finally submitted to the representative of the Wereda administration by Ato Getachew Worku, Executive Director of ASE, as a means of sharing ASE's experience in the program area.



Ato Amanuel Assefa

Ato Amanuel Assefa, Director of ASE's Program Support Department used the opportunity to announce the launching of ASE's Berek Training Centre. Activities and renovation works so far done to change the program office to an ideal training centre were explained by Ato Amanuel Assefa. He has also pointed out some of the trainings that will be entertained in the centre to grass roots development practitioners.

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*Exit Workshop held .....*



*Ato Demerew Wosenyeleh*



*A Photo Exhibition*



Over 150 invited guests from Oromia Finfinne special zone and Oromia North Shoa Zone government offices, Woreda sector officials, representatives from NGOs working in Bereh and Aleltu woredas and the private sector, research institutions, ASE HQ and program office staff, Abdi Boru CBI board members, former staff members of the program office, elders and other invited guests appeared on the closing workshop carried out at ASE's Berek Program office.

The workshop started with a one-minute silence in memory of the late Haile Kefeni, Director of the office of ...the program office. This was followed by a presentation by Ato Demerew Wosenyeleh, coordinator of ASE's Berek Training Centre, on the major development experience of the program office in the integrated food security and capacity development programs over the last ten years, from 2001 to April 2011. The report indicated the major achievements of the program office in the areas of agriculture and natural resource management, social services, income generating activities, institution building and government capacity building interventions.

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A Field- Day ..

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It is specifically to assist the community to restore the rangelands through clearing undesirable plants, improving the water facility and reseeded of indigenous and improved Pasture species. It is also to conduct a climate change audit across the Amibara wereda and assist the wereda administration to develop a long term plan to mitigate climate change effects using its own resources and all opportunities coming in the future.



Surface water harvesting structure (pond) and maize crop at Alidege kebele

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## ASE bids farewell ....

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Agricultural production and productivity, social services (rural water supply, education, health and gender), NRM and local level capacity development (both community and government counterparts) were the main focus areas of ASE, according to a report presented by Alem Berhan Community Based Institution(ABCBI).



On the occasion, the Woreda administration and ABCBI presented awards to ASE in recognition of the success registered. "Thanks to ASE, we are enjoying changes in our livelihood" testified a representative from project participants of the intervention kebeles (KAs) of ASE, during the farewell program.



Expressing gratitude to the organizers of the farewell program, Ato Getachew Worku, Executive Director of ASE, said there would not have been a success story to be told had it not been for the enthusiasm and support of the woreda administration and the community. He said the biggest success of ASE is to give birth to a successor like the Alem Berhan Community Based Institution. "This is what my organization, my staff and I are proud of" Ato Getachew added.



858 people representing government administration, ABCBI board members, ABCBI kebele branch offices, religious leaders, community elders, ASE program offices attended the program.



### Capacity Development Project Launched in Gambella

The Itang Community Capacity Development Program was launched in the Itang Wereda of Gambella Regional State. The official launching of the program was announced at a dinner attended by 40 participants. Funded by Action Aid Ethiopia (AAE), the program entered its initial phase strategic plan in October 2011 with the objective of building capacity for Sustainable livelihood.

The Itang Community Capacity Development Program consists of food security, education, primary health care, woman support, local capacity development and monitoring and evaluation projects as its major components.

The funding organization, AAE, engages in various development programs in Ethiopia. The organization works with communities, governmental and non-governmental organizations with the motto: End Poverty Together.



### Newly opened Program Offices

ASE has recently opened two new program offices at Dibate Wereda of Benshangul Gumuz Region, and at Dirre and Dillo Weredas of Borena Zone, Oromia region.

The Dibate Community Capacity Development Program is a 2 years program that involves 12,512 people as direct participants in 6 kebeles of Dibate Wereda . The program is supported by EED and is designed to contribute to reducing poverty and ensuring sustainable development in the wereda.

The program in Dirre and Dillo weredas is known as 'Rebuilding Initiative for Sustainable Livelihood in Borena' and is funded by Dan Church Aid (DCA). The objective of the program is to contribute to the improvement of livelihoods in the Dirre and Dillo weredas of Borena Zone. The program is also a two years program that has a population of 40,000 people as direct participants.

### A Field- Day at Amibara/

A field -day organized by the Extension unit of Werer Agricultural Research Centre was held on October 25, 2011 with the aim of introducing new research findings and technologies to farmers, pastoralists, and government officials.

The field day included visits to farmers' plots in Meiso Wereda of Oromia region where successful practices on crop rotation were demonstrated. Sesame harvest, which was not

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Newly opened Program Offices

S.N.	Name of Program	Region	Wereda	Intervention Kebeles	Target Populations			Donor Partner	Duration	Program Objective	Remark
					Total	Direct	Indirect				
1	Community Capacity Development Program	Gambella	Izang Special Wereda	7 Pill, Adwong, Aju, Berehaneselam, Pulkoad, Watchgach, and Puldung	41,505	13,439 (43.4% Female)	28,146	Action Aid Ethiopia (AAE)	2 Years September 2011 - August 2013	To contribute in the process of poverty reduction by mobilizing and empowering the most poor and excluded communities of Izang Special Wereda	
2	Rebuilding Initiative for Sustainable Livelihood in Borena	Oromia	Dirre and Dillo	9 Medhucho, Gololcha, Harelo, Dirjara, Mensoda - in Dirre wereda, Gony, Kencharo, Kadim, Chireta - in Dillo wereda	94,700	40,000	54,700	Dan Church Aid (DCA)	2 Years November, 2011 - September 30, 2013	To contribute to the improvement of livelihoods in the Dirre and Dillo Districts of Borena	
3	Dibata Community Capacity Development Program	Benshangul Gumuz	Dibata	6 Sirban, Goncha, Berber, Bechati, Mondormo, Sasmandon	56,290	12,512 (49.6% Female) 2,275 HHs	56,290	EED	2 Years December 2011 - November 2013	To contribute to reducing poverty and ensuring sustainable development in Dibata Wereda, Merikel Zone of Benshangul Gumuz Regional State	



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*A Field- Day ..*

a common practice before, was also another experience from the visit. In Hose kebele visitors have witnessed successful harvest of sesame and ground nut where farmers worked hard to maintain the fertility of the soil.

Another event of the field day was the ongoing project on Restoration of Rangeland and Conservation of Biodiversity at Alidege kebele in Amibara wereda of Afar. This project, which is funded by UNDP Global Environment Facility Small Grants Program, is implemented by Agri Service Ethiopia with Werer Agricultural Research Centre, Amibara Wereda Pastoral, Agriculture and Rural Development Office and the Alidege kebele Community, as principal collaborators. The project is intended to curb the negative effects of climate change and strengthen the conservation of biological diversity.

Pastoralists of the wereda are losing grazing lands by the invasion of *Prosopis juliflora*, a species which was introduced to Afar in 1970 by the Ministry of Agriculture for conservation and shade purposes. The project is therefore designed to change this situation positively and to enable the pastoralists to maintain sustainable livelihood.



*Prosopis juliflora*

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*A Field-Day at Amibara ....*

*Continued From Page 5*

Vast areas of cleared land, surface water harvesting structure (pond), and grass growth on cleared land, were among encouraging achievements visited by the guests. Maize grown with surface water collected in the pond is a clear indication to the potential of the place if properly managed.

Ato Woldegebriel Tesfamariam, Director of the Werer Research Centre, says though the achievements are not as anticipated and as initially planned, what has already been accomplished is encouraging. Ato Woldegebriel mentions the time it took to sign the agreement and getting spare parts as some of the problems faced in the implementation of the project. He further says with land utilization law in place, the area could have been better protected, properly managed and handled and this could have also created a better condition for the centre to carry out research works.



Ato Woldegebriel T/Mariam

Reflecting on the collaboration among partners, Ato Woldegebriel says had it not been for the funding of the project by UNDP and ASE's role in bringing together the pastoralist with the research centre,

and had it not been for the research centre's technical and professional input, we wouldn't have achieved the outcome witnessed.

Invited guests were from Ethiopian Agricultural Research Institute, Amibara Woreda Pastoral, Agriculture and Rural Development Office, Meiso Wereda Agriculture and Rural Development Office and Kebele administration officials.

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*Exit Workshop held at Berek ....*



Ato Ketema Motuma

Manager of Abdi Boru Community Based Institution, Ato Ketema Motuma, was another speaker on the workshop. In his presentation he highlighted the contributions of ASE in the development of the wereda recalling the efforts of ASE in the realization of Abdi Boru from inception to establishment and legal registration as an organized representative of the community pursuing with the development initiatives of ASE.

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Exit Worksho held at Berek...

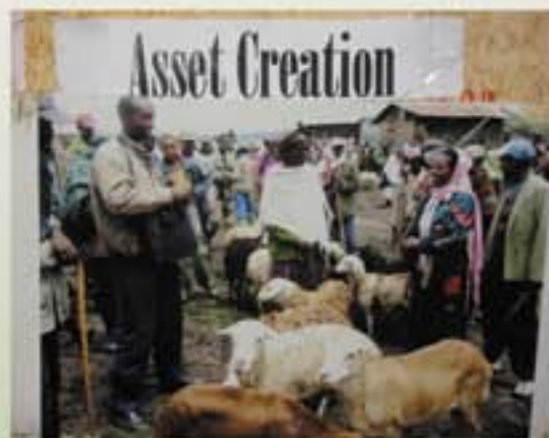


Award of Certificates



Ato Asfaw Tulu in a traditional Oromo costume presented to him

Finally, certificates of appreciation prepared by Abdi Boru CBI, ASE's Berek PO and the local government were given to ASE and staff members of the program office by representatives of the organizations in recognition of their contribution to the development of the wereda .



Some pictures from the Exhibition



## TOT on Adult Training Offered

A Training of Trainers (TOT) on adult training was conducted from October 1 to 8, 2011 at ASE's Sendafa (Bereh) Training Centre. Sponsored by Oxfam America Horn of Africa Regional Office (OA-HARO) and Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), the training was organized to fulfill the capacity gap of Development Agents, based on identified shortcomings in their extension work.

The training was offered on adult training areas of conceptual clarity, planning, methodological approach, communication and facilitation skills and monitoring and evaluation. The week long training was offered by four ASE professionals to a total of 15 Ministry of Agriculture subject matter specialists from nine regional states and the Dire Dawa administration. The training was conducted in a participatory method with discussions held and orientations given to the trainees. Field visits were also part of the TOT adult training.

The opening and closing ceremonies of the workshop were organized by The MoA and OA-HARO at Nazareth-Melkasa Research Centre.

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*ASE on on the air ...*

The program series will continue to be on air for 26 weeks.

The radio program that has a nationwide coverage is aimed at sharing ASE's experience to development partners and to reflect the works of the organization to the general public. Recordings for the production of the series were carried out at the head office and ASE's Berek Enebse, Ambassel, Tehulederie, Goro, and Amaro program Offices.

**Putting an end to rural poverty!**

*Welcome  
to ASE*



**FEYISA ASSEFA \_ PROGRAM DIRECTOR; GORO PO**

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**MESSAY AYELE \_ FINANCE & ADMIN OFFICER; ITANG PO**