



European Union



ECC-SADCO

Quarterly UPDATE

Food Facility - Enhancing agricultural productive capacities of resource poor farmers in Enemore and Mirab-Badewacho districts

Background

Started in January 2010 with the global aim to provide a rapid response to soaring food prices, this food facility project, co-funded by the European Union and Caritas International Belgium and implemented by the Ethiopian Catholic Church – Social and Development Commission through its diocesan offices in Emdibir and Sodo, has made as its general objective 'to improve the food security situation for households in above mentioned districts of SNNPR, Ethiopia'. More specifically it will 'improve physical and economic access to food for about 6,900 resource poor households in 15 PA's. Since its inception, all partners and stakeholders have contributed to the continuous progress allowing beneficiaries in the project area to benefit from the projects' action already. The action is based on three expected results and its respective activities:

1	Increased annual crop productivity and production of 3,861 households;
	- development of small scale irrigation schemes; - promotion of small scale seed multiplication farms and seed banks; - rehabilitating and protecting farm lands from gully erosion and water logging;
2	Improved livestock productivity and income of 6,560 households;
	- Provision of local goats (asset transfer); - Promotion of improved animal breeds; - Enhancing availability of animal feed and water; - Improving access to veterinary services;
3	Strengthened and improved quality of extension services;
	- Farmer Training Centre construction; - Training of development agents and farmers; - Information, education and communication;

With an investment of Euro 1,111,456.08, a total population of 6,900 households, who can be categorised as 'very poor' and 'poor', based on their limited landholding range and livestock assets, is directly targeted while community-wide interventions will also reach the 'middle' and 'better off' incomes, a total of 10,028 households or 50,140 individuals.

At the end of the project period (October 2011), the proportion of households being food insecure as well as its level will have been reduced by increased average cash income (from on-farm income generating activities) as well as increased value of their assets.



Achievements - October to December 2010

Crop productivity & production The activities on seed multiplication resulted in improved harvests of improved potato seeds, teff and wheat. Farmers returned 120% of the seeds as agreed which will be used for the next rounds. Although the construction of seed banks and DLS are underway, temporary storage was required. 133 beneficiaries participated at the training for seed bank management. Then, the irrigation activities are in progress, the first contractor is selected while the micro credit for rope & washer pump is in designing stage. Finally, beneficiaries (115) linked to check dam - and/or drainage canal construction were trained on construction and maintenance techniques.



Pict. 1: Improved teff harvest Nov.10



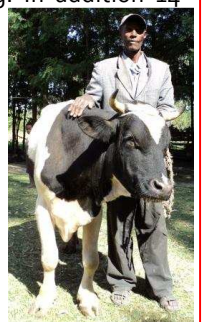
Pict. 2: Practical NRM training

Livestock 1471 goats and 520 sheep were distributed to 996 beneficiaries. 183 beneficiaries received training. In addition 14 bulls of improved breed entered the project area. 34 cows received service while from the



Pict 3: Asset transfer Dec. 10

he-goats, 61 females received the service (1 off spring borne).



Pict 4: improved bull

Best practice High in-kind repayment rate of improved cereal- and root crop seeds allowed second round farmers to prepare their lands.

The seed bank committees appeared to be functional and passed the first test successfully.

Plan for the next quarter – January up to March 2011

- Training of development agents & model farmers;
- On site construction of irrigation works, DLS, seed banks, animal health posts, FTC, check dams & drainage canals, hand dug wells;
- 2nd Round root crops & cereals, plantation of pulses and taro;

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