SOS SAHEL ETHIOPIA

Annual Accomplishment Report for 2009

Submitted to Charities and Societies Agency (CSA)

February 2010

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Full Form</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AFD</td>
<td>Action for Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>ARDO</td>
<td>Agriculture and Rural Development Office</td>
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<td>BBNC</td>
<td>Bale Beauty Nature Club</td>
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<td>BDS</td>
<td>Business Development Service</td>
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<td>BERSMP</td>
<td>Bale EcoRegion Sustainable Management Programme</td>
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<td>BFE</td>
<td>Bale Forest Enterprise</td>
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<td>Bale Mountains National Park</td>
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<td>BoTI t</td>
<td>Bureau of Trade and Industry</td>
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<td>CAP</td>
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<td>Collection Processing &amp; Learning</td>
</tr>
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</tr>
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<tr>
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<td>Drought cycle management working group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DF</td>
<td>Development Facilitators (SOS/AFD)</td>
</tr>
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<tr>
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<td>Ethiopian Agricultural Research Institution</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>FGD</td>
<td>Focus Group Discussion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FHH</td>
<td>Female Headed Household</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FLIWM</td>
<td>Farmer Led Integrated Watershed Management</td>
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<td>FMA</td>
<td>Forest Management Agreement</td>
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<td>FS</td>
<td>Food Security</td>
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<td>FSDPPC</td>
<td>Food Security Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Commission</td>
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<tr>
<td>FUGs</td>
<td>Forestry Users Group</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
FZS  Frankfurt Zoological Society  
GFM  Government Forest Management  
GIS  Geographic Information System  
GIS  Geographical Information Systems  
GO  Governmental Organization  
GOLD  Government Line departments  
GOT  sub division of Kebele structure  
GPS  Geographical Positioning Systems  
GPS  Global Positioning System  
GPS  Global Positioning System  
GTZ  German Technical Corporation  
HPR  Household Poultry Rising  
IDE  International Development Enterprise  
IIEED  International Institute for Environment and Development  
INRM  Indigenous Natural Resource Management  
INRMB  Indigenous Natural Resource Management Body  
IPM  Integrated Pest Management  
JFM  Joint Forest Management  
KM  Kilometers  
KTBH  Kenya Top Bar Hive  
LMC  Livestock Marketing Cooperatives  
M &E  Monitoring & Evaluation  
MFI  Micro Finance Institute  
MITs  Micro Irrigation Technologies  
MMB  Melkama Mareko Berbere  
MoARD  Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development  
MOU  Memorandum of Understanding  
MTR  Mid Term Review  
NGO  Non-Governmental Organization  
NGO  Non Governmental Organization  
NR  Natural Resource  
NR  Natural Resources  
NR&EP  Natural Resource and Environmental Protection  
NRM  Natural Resources Management  
OBARD  Oromia Bureau of Agriculture and Rural Development  
OCPC  Oromia Cooperative Promotion Commission  
OFWE  Oromia Forests and Wildlife Enterprise  
OFWEA  Oromia forest and wildlife enterprise agency  
OMFISC  Omo Micro Finance Institute Share Company  
OPADC  Oromia Pastoral Area Development Commission  
OWRB  Oromia Water Resource Bureau  
PA  Pastoralist Association  
PADO  Pastoral Area Development Office  
PDD  Project Design Document  
PDO  Pastoralist Development Office  
PDOs  Pastoral Development Organization  
PES  Payment for Environmental Services  
PFM  Participatory Forest Management
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PFRA</td>
<td>Participatory Forest Resource Assessment</td>
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<td>PFSPP</td>
<td>Pastoralist Food Security Partnership Project</td>
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<td>PGF</td>
<td>Pastoral Governance forum</td>
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<td>PM&amp;E</td>
<td>Participatory Monitoring &amp; Evaluation</td>
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<td>PNRM</td>
<td>Participatory Natural Resource Management</td>
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<td>Participatory Rural Appraisal</td>
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<td>Productive Safety Net Program</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Rural Agricultural Finance</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Saving and Credit Cooperatives</td>
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<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Smallholder Livelihood Improvement Project</td>
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<tr>
<td>SME</td>
<td>Small &amp; Medium Enterprise</td>
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<td>South Nation Nationality Peoples Republic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Tourism in Ethiopia for Sustainable Future Alternatives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Term of Reference</td>
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<tr>
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<td>UMB</td>
<td>Urea Molasses Block</td>
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<td>United Nations Development Programme</td>
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<td>Value Chain Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>WARDO</td>
<td>Woreda Agriculture and Rural Development</td>
</tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Wildlife Development Fund</td>
</tr>
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<td>WUC</td>
<td>Water Users Cooperative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ZSC</td>
<td>Zonal Streign Committee</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Table of Content

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acronyms</td>
<td>i</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table Of Content</td>
<td>iv</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Executive Summary</td>
<td>v</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I. Sos Sahel Ethiopia At A Glance</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1. Background</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2. Vision</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.3. Mission</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.4. Core Values</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.5. Sos Sahel Ethiopia’s Development Approach</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.6. Program Focus:</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.7. Sos Sahel Ethiopia Intervention Areas</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.8. About Sos Sahel Ethiopia Country Office</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II. Major Accomplishments of SOS Sahel Ethiopia in 2009</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1. Community Based Natural Resource Management Projects</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1.1. Bale Eco-Region Sustainable Management Programme (BERSMP)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1.2. Enhancing Pastoralist Environmental Rights and Livelihood in Borena and Guji Zones</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1.3. Ensuring Secured Access and Sustainable Use of Land and Environmental Resources in Lake Hawassa Catchment Project</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2. Smallholder And Pastoral Food Security Projects</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2.1. Pastoralist Food Security Partnership Project (PFSPP)</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2.2. Drought Risk Reduction (DRR II)</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2.3. Enhancing Social Protection Mechanism For The Vulnerable (ESPMV) In South Wollo</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3. Small Holder and Pastoralist Natural Products Market Development Projects</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3.1. Ensuring Small Holder Producers in Ethiopia Achieve Sustainable and Fair Access to Pepper and Bee Product Markets</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3.2. Smallholder Livelihood Improvement Project (SLIP)</td>
<td>103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3.3. Value Chain Empowerment Through Women Led Initiatives in Pastoral Communities of Borena</td>
<td>136</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part III. Other Non-Programmatic Achievements of SOS Sahel Ethiopia in The Fiscal Year 2009</td>
<td>141</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part IV. The Status Of Financial Utilization and Major Fundidgn Partners</td>
<td>141</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annex 2. Audit Report</td>
<td>143</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Executive Summary

1. Introduction

SOS-Sahel Ethiopia was operational in three major regions of Ethiopia in fiscal year 2009. The projects/programs mainly focused in three major pillars and also addressed some other cross-cutting areas. These are:

- Community Based Resource Management projects
- Small holder and Pastoral Food Security projects
- Small holder and Pastoral Natural Products Market Development projects
- Other crosscutting pillars such as projects focusing on action research and shared learning, humanitarian Assistance, building the capacity of government institutions and strengthening Community Based Organizations

The three pronged approach (action research, innovative intervention and policy communication was an integral part of project/program implementation in the year 2009. All in all the approaches, achievements, challenges and key lessons of the respective projects will briefly presented below;

2. Overview of projects

The organization has been implementing nine projects over the period which come under three major pillars. These are

2.1. Community Based Resource Management Projects
2.1.1. Bale Eco-Region Sustainable Natural Resources Management Program (BERSMP)

The project followed three stage approaches in promoting Participatory natural Resource management and Sustainable Livelihoods

- The Investigation stage ; this largely includes understanding resource users and uses and organising community groups
- The Negotiation stage deals with planning - Management plans and agreements, agreeing - Roles, Responsibilities, Rules, Revenues,
- The Implementation Stage, Doing - Joint actions and operations, Reviewing - monitoring and adjustments

Major Achievements of the Program in the year 2009 include;

Output 1- Eco-Region Planning completed - balancing Environmental Stability / Social Development /Economic Development. In order to achieve the output the following key activities were undertaken. These are

- EcoRegion Plan Development - Planning Workshops – Priority Components / Key Attributes / Threats
- Priority Components Planning Atlas
- Planning Partnerships - BERSMP / FZS - Zonal planning all partners
- 3D Landscape Modeling – Dinsho Woreda Model

Output 2 - Government and Community Capacity Building

- Gov. Coordination - RAC / ZSC / WCC meetings
- International exchange -Tanzania / Kenya /Ghana / Thailand
- Training Delivered - Certification & ICS / Bamboo / Business Management & Mentoring / PFM / Tree Seed collection
• Social Services support (Reproductive Health / Family law)
• Gov programme Dip-BSc / BSc-MSc
  ✓ Young Professional Female Interns
  ✓ Farmer to Farmer exchange visits
  ✓ Community to Community extension
  ✓ Special issues work – Land Tenure / Forest Enterprises

**Output.3. Sustainable NRM – Joint natural resource management**
• PFM Investigation
• Mapping / Stakeholder Analysis/ CBO set up
• PFM Negotiation
• Forest Management Agreement / FM Plan
• PFM Implementation
• Forest Management Actions

**Output 4. Diversification of livelihoods from natural resources developed and improved**
• Natural Products CPL Centre
• Essential oils production
• EcoTourism / Community based Tourism
• Sports Fishing River Management
• Forest Coffee and Honey promotion and marketing
• Indigenous trees promotion
• *Walburgia / Hypericum* plant products
• Bamboo furniture production
• Appropriate Technology (bricketts and mud blocks)

**Output 5. Development of sustainable financing mechanisms for the Bale Eco-Region and Gov./Comm.**
• Bale REDD (reduced deforestation) Carbon Project
• Method - JFM management
• Area - 500,000ha of forest
• Value - $300,000,000 over 20yrs
• Unique Forestry / Terra Carbon / Climate Focus
• Environmental Protection Agency as National Designated Authority

**Output 6. Legal, policy and regulatory frameworks for Eco-Region planning, CBNRM and Protected Areas informed**
• Policy groups – RAC / Conference groups
• Horn of Africa Environmental Group
• Parliamentary Field Visit – NR Standing Committee
• Policy Briefs –Bale / BERSMP-BFE Approach / Livestock
• Federal Forest policy and legislation development
• National PFM working Group
• MoARD GEF Ethiopia Protected Areas & Sustainable Land Management

**Impacts**
Some of the impacts of the project on the lives and livelihoods of the community are
• understanding of cross linkages of development sectors
• Many new skills developed / change in approach
• New Forest Man. Arrangements - JFM - PFM to GFM/. Shaya River Management
• Many new natural products developed and linked to fair and sustainable markets
• Influenced the New Forest Policy (inc. PFM)
• Bale REDD leading the way in Ethiopia

Challenges
• Introducing bottom up planning
• Participant selection / Training follow up
• Law Enforcement –settlement in priority forest areas
• Boundary Conflicts / Forest Fire Management
• Lack of Business skills and knowledge
• Very new area of work – many unknown and unanswered questions
• Limited opportunities to engage in real policy debate

2.1. Enhancing Pastoral Environmental and Livelihoods Rights in Borena and Guji Zones

The project was designed with three major objectives. These are
• Straightening indigenous NR management system and linking with modern resource management
• Diversifying the livelihood of the community through organizing and commercializing on NTFPs
• Implementing Innovate field interventions

The project as about 21,968 HHs directly benefiting from the project while the indirect beneficiaries are about 55,000 people.

Major achievements of the project are
• Reviewed and developed PNRM plan & Agreement
• Enhanced the capacity of local PNRM stakeholders
• Diversified Pastoralist livelihood (organize pastoralist into commercial entity

Lesson learnt and Challenges

It was learned that developing quality product need capacity building and Close follow up and monitoring. On the other hand conflicts, droughts, surging price of some activities beyond the initial budget estimation remained as a challenge on the implementtion of the project.

2.2. Smallholder and Pastoral Food Security Projects

2.2.1. Pastoralist Food Security Partnership Project (PFSPP)

The project is a joint effort with AFD. The project is at its final year and will be path out as of February 2010.

Achievements in terms of respective outputs are outlined below

Result 1- Optimal uses of Natural Resources developed
• Developed and promoted participatory system for Community Natural Resource Mapping
14 PAs’ NR maps drawn in the sand by the community and social groups
- Translated 14 PAs’ Participatory Natural Resource Mapping drawn in the sand by the community and social groups into GIS maps
- Formulated and promoted participatory system for Community Action plans, 14 PAs’ plans formulated by entire community and social groups documented and translated into “Afaan-Oromo”
- CAP presenters have been trained on power tools (5 Capitals): Natural capital, Human capital, physical capital, financial capital & social capital
  4 CAPs’ presentations and Dialogue workshops were conducted to search for support from other development actors (GO & NGOs).
- Diversified livelihoods of target Pastoral communities through Aloe soap making, Scent wood, Gum and Incense, myrrh etc
- Scent wood processing practice plant species important for Gum and Incense product have been identified
- Organized target communities into commercial entities on NTFPs (Aloe soap -2, Scent wood-2, Gum and Incense/myrrh-3) were supported

Result 2- Indigenous NR management and Institutions were strengthened
- The Gada traditional institutions and Indigenous Natural Resource Management Body played a crucial role in guiding the project and has been re-energized in the resource management processes.
- Controlled communal Kallo and entire rangeland deterioration.

Result 3- Enhanced Pastoral women education
- Eight (8) shining pastoral girls screened and joined Furra College for community development course study.
- Gender is mainstreamed in different project activities

Key lessons learned by implementing the project are
- Partnership works better when there is shared understanding on the roles and responsibilities of different partners involved
- Building upon indigenous skill and knowledge of the pastoral community and integration of same with modern one accelerates the implementation of project
- Peace and stability has crucial implication for execution of projects.
- Involvement of women in PCM all implemented activities has positive impact on improvement of pastoral community livelihood and ensure women empowerment processes

Major Challenges faced during the project implementation are
- Inadequate business experiences of the community and
- negative impact and effect of the past images of cooperatives
- Inadequate capacity at government line departments to provide technical backing

2.1.3. Ensuring Secured Access and Sustainable Use of Land and Environmental Resources in Lake Hawassa Catchment project

Ensuring secured access and sustainable use of land and environmental resources in Awassa lake catchments project secured its fund from Norwegian Peoples Aid (NPA). The project is the scaling up and mainstreaming of the FLIWM approach that has been implemented by SOS Sahel in both SNNPR and Amara regions and widely institutionalized by the government SLM system.
The project is only the initial startup phase. Accordingly, the accomplishments so far in the limited period are:

1. A detailed action plan has been developed in consultation with regional, zonal local partners and the target communities.
2. Baseline survey was conducted so that the enable to compare the intended impact of the project.
3. Action research was undertaken by commissioned consulting company that identified the level of Hawassa lake pollution and developed possible mitigation mechanism.
4. Developed use right procedure and facilitated the certification of the hill side of the area and so that the area in collaboration with the local EPLU offices to better manage and use the waste land in a sustainable way.
5. Organized stakeholder workshop to familiarized the concepts of FLIWM and share experience on similar previous and ongoing intervention with in the region and beyond.

Lesson and Challenges

The project was as seen as a good practice and innovative in that enables landless youth to get land within in the short period of time. However the form change side, some component of the project needed more budget while there was under estimation of budget in some activities at the beginning of the project implementation but later solved after budget revision.

2.2.2. Drought Risk Reduction II

The project followed Community Risk Assessment approach which results in Development Plan and Contingency plan which the success of DRR depends on.

Major Achievements

Result 1 - Improved access to Water created - Water stress is reduced by creating access to water. This has ensured reasonable supply of water for both human consumption and livestock such harsh climate and marginal areas.

Result 2 – Local Capacity for planning and sustainable NRM created - Pastoral community and local partner organization n are trained develop the necessary skills and know on how plan and sustainable management of their rangelands and entire natural resources which are basis of their livelihoods.

Key lessons and Major challenges

The key lesson drawn by implementing the project is in harsh and marginal areas careful scenario be developed with regard community contribution in labour and locally available materials more flexible, longer funding commitment, multi sectoral development approach is important to build resilient community. The establishment of contingency fund at community level with appropriate training is important. The approach, which is a major shift from the past system of intervention, demands better experience in the field which is currently in short. Short duration of the project, lack of sufficient staff and frequent staff turnover within counterpart government department’s stand as challenges for the project.
2.2.3. Enhancing Sustainable Livelihoods for the Vulnerable in South Wollo

Project strategies and approaches: the PSNP strategies and approach followed was instrumental in putting communities, community based institutions and local government take the lead in its implementation and own and sustain the achievements and results attained enhancing the institutional capacity of local government partners in PSNP implementation.

Achievements/Impacts

Output 1 - The intervention has improved access to food (through direct resource transfer) for the 5165 most vulnerable people, through

- Planning and co-ordination meetings with government and communities.
- Refreshment training on community based targeting and resource transfer
- Beneficiary targeting/ retargeting or verification of existing list of beneficiaries
- Procurement of food grain and supplementary food
- Distribution of the food commodities to beneficiaries

Improving PSNP planning and implementation capacity of the local government and community institutions (Output 2)

- Planning and co-ordination meetings with government and communities.
- On-job training, technical, and institutional support to woreda offices and the zone
- Documentation and dissemination of experiences and lessons learnt
- Continuous Change monitoring and impact assessment

Introduced effective mechanisms and technologies for improved management of the local natural resources - The Farmer Led Integrated Watershed Management (FLIWM) (output 3).

- Developed community action plans and provide technical backstopping support in the implementation process
- Procurement and supply of farm tools, seeds and planting materials
- Mainstreaming and institutionalised FLIWM into the government extension system

Documented and disseminated project experiences (approaches, achievements, and impacts as well as lessons learnt (Output 4)

Lessons and Challenges

It was learned that proper demonstration, training and capacity support will result in quality of work. It was seen also the PSNP implementing government are supportive and flexible to innovative interventions. Some the challenges of the project include food grains and supplementary food in year 1 due to absence of suppliers particularly of wheat due to price hikes and unnecessary pressure on the project to increase the number of beneficiaries as a result of the prevailing famine and increase in number of needy households.

2.3. Small holder and Pastoral Natural Products market Development Projects

2.3.1. Ensuring Small Holder Producers in Ethiopia Achieve Sustainable and Fair Access to Pepper and Bee Product Markets.

The project has its origin from the scaling up of the good practice of apiculture Trade Promotion project. The Comic Relief Commissioned Acton Research identified the production, processing and marketing opportunities and challenges on both pepper and honey sub sectors has also contributed to the development of the project.
The Achievements/ Outputs/Impacts of the project are

Output 1 - Productivity of small-scale producers improved by addressing technical, technological and financial constraints
- Manuals Designed and produced
- Training provided on the technical manuals
- Studies have been conducted
- Improved pepper seeds distributed
- Different beekeeping equipments (honey containers, processing equipment, and packaging materials) were supplied to the 4 coops.
- Initial assessment of bees forage potentials was conducted
- Access to credit created
- Cross-visit organized

Output 2 - Income returns of the beneficiaries has increased
- 3 primary coops were established with total membership of 1393 farmers
- Training proved to coops members
- 3 honey collection and processing centers were established

Output 3 - Sustainable market linkages established/strengthened with local, national and international levels
- Technical and financial supports have been provided to Zembaba beekeeping union In order to strengthen the beekeeping cooperatives in the region,
- Marketing strategies for pepper and honey were produced Based on the business assessment conducted,
- Bill boards, banners are produced to create consumer awareness campaigns are conducted in different forums locally and internationally

Output 4 - Action research conducted for evidence based policy communication
- Log frame was developed and baseline survey conducted
- Training
- Feasibility study and business assessment/planning conducted
- On-job training, GO-NGO forums were used to broaden the understanding of value chain development and its impact on livelihood improvement
- Representing the project and beneficiaries in different platforms

The project has brought attitudinal change, economic benefits, and social/institutional benefits technological benefits and environmental benefits.

Key lessons learned by implementing the project are
- Making market system work for the poor needs addressing institutional and legal barriers
- Privately owned nurseries are more profitable and sustainable

Some of the challenges of the project are;
- More time needed to strengthen Zembaba union
- Lingering weak entrepreneurship mentality
- Inflation which resulted in budget deficit
- Shortage of packaging materials supply
2.3. 2. Smallholder Livelihood Improvement Project (SLIP)

SLIP is supported by Irish Aid and now on its fourth year of implementation. The approach followed by the project are:

- Integrated Value chain development (BDS, Financial, Extension, enabling environment)
- Integrated Agribusinesses Development
- Innovative and Affordable Water Control Strategy
- Integration of Economic, Social and Environmental Concerns.
- Smallholder Market Development Platform

The Achievements and Impacts of the project are

The project has attained economic, social /institutional attitudinal/psychological and other Benefits over the year. More specifically the benefits are as indicted below:

Economic Benefits
- 1706 members of water user’s cooperatives has earned an average additional income of range 230 -365 Euro.
- 852 Women (most of them) involved in sheep fattening has earned an additional income range 300 Birr of 1100 Birr progressive capital investment.
- 769 Poor women substantial improved their livelihood status through engaging in poultry rearing
- Productivity per hive has increased from 8 to 20 kg due to adoption of transitional beehives and improved beekeeping practices
- The price received per kilo has increased from 10 to 32 Birr per kg due to value addition and product diversification. This has resulted in an income increase of 600 Birr per farmer.

Social /Institutional benefits
- Farmers organized into commercial entity has enhanced their capacity to negotiate fair price.
- Increased legitimacy to access extension, business development services and input supply.
- access to credit
- Farmers business organization penetrated new market outlets

Attitudinal/psychological benefits
- Production is become more market oriented than before.
- farming, product development and marketing skills of farmers improved
- Women confidence and opportunity to make income related decisions within the family improved.

Improved Production Capacity
- Innovative and progressive approach that has been engaged in the development of improved skills and technologies have included:
  - Vertical Integration of the Pepper Product
  - Participatory M&E system in place

Other Benefits
- The horizontal diffusion of improved agricultural practices and technologies
- Institutionalization of the good practice to the GO system - scaling-up irrigation schemes in the project areas
- Regional platform for policy dialogue on trade barriers created and being functional.
Key Lessons of the project include;

- With little technical, financial and technological it is possible to transform the poor to entrepreneurs
- Strengthening Public-Private-Civil Society could accelerate the of work improving rural livelihoods, food security and overall well-being
- Organizing smallholder farmers into commercial entity is the key entry in promoting commercial agriculture
- Investment R&D helps to respond to changing farmers needs
- By increasing productivity, product quality and addressing marketing challenges there is high chance to enhance livelihoods.

Major Challenges

- Absence of compulsory product standardization
- Weak market linkages
- Only few consumers pay for quality
- Limited access to rural finance
- Severe shortage and surging price of agricultural input and appropriate technologies

2.3.3. Value Chain Empowerment through Women Led Initiatives in Pastoral Communities of Borena

The project adopted three pronged SOS Sahel development approaches: Innovative interventions, Action Research and Policy communication

Achievements and impacts so far;

- Baseline data generated on the situation of the group members
- Three women groups formed and got legal certificate
- One new collection and processing center constructed and two other sites are being rehabilitated
- Training provided to the leaders on natural product development, business management, accounting and bookkeeping, and for members of the producer groups on quality, standards, processing, labeling and handling of the natural products

Lessons learned by implementing the project include;

- Starting NTFP work with experience sharing visit gives high chance to learn from both success and failures of others
- With little coaching, it is possible to bring onboard the community group in natural product development

Challenges encountered while implementing the project are

- Surging prices of construction materials
- The government constructed warehouses rehabilitation required huge budget.
- Absence of clean water for aloe soap production

2.4. Other Non-Programmatic Achievements of SOS Sahel Ethiopia in Fiscal year 2009

- Finalized SOS Sahel Gender Policy -Developed with technical support from Oxfam Canada. The policy Guide engendering of structures, systems, projects etc. in the organization.
• Revision and endorsement of the long awaiting Staff charter which is assumed will be instrumental to attract experienced and competent individuals from outside and retain staff with the right caliber,

• Initiated and successfully secured grants for three new projects that will be implemented in three of the SOS Sahel Ethiopia Operational areas. These projects are
  o Rural Agriculture RAPID that will implemented in collaborations with IDE
  o Building Resilient Pastorial Communities (BRPC) - that will be implemented jointly with AFD
  o PFM and Sustainable Livelihoods that will be implemented will jointly with FARM Africa

2.5. The Status of Financial Utilization and Major Funding Partners

In the fiscal year 2009 to execute the nine projects indicated elsewhere the total budget of birr 34,781,948.05 has been effectively utilized. The detail of the financial report is presented in annex 1.

The completed and ongoing projects implemented over the fiscal year 2009 are funded by The Royal Netherlands Embassy, Embassy of Ireland, Norwegian Embassy, European Union (EU), Christina Aid, NPA, Comic Relief, Trocaire/Cafod, ECHO, Cordaid and Oxfam Canada.
I. SOS Sahel Ethiopia at a Glance

1.1. Background

SOS-Sahel Ethiopia has 19 years of experience of working with rural and pastoral communities and the local, regional and federal government bodies in tackling poverty in Ethiopia. Formerly as part of SOS Sahel UK, it was transformed as an independent national NGO and registered by the Ethiopian Ministry of Justice in 2005 (No.1986). Very recently it has been reregistered as Ethiopian Residents Charity with charity no 0320 complying with the new Charities and Societies legislation (621/2009). SOS Sahel Ethiopia believes that effective environmental management and utilization can reduce vulnerability and poverty among farmers and pastoralists.

1.2. Vision

SOS Sahel Ethiopia envisions a world without poverty.

1.3. Mission

SOS Sahel Ethiopia is dedicated to improving the living standards of smallholder farmers and marginalized pastoralists through better management of their environment and improved access to fair and sustainable agricultural and natural products market.

1.4. Core values

SOS Sahel Ethiopia’s work is based on the following core values:
- Community participation in project implementation
- Learning from local communities, from past experience and partners,
- Forging partnership with government departments, networking and building solidarity with other likeminded actors for poverty reduction,
- Working for women empowerment.

1.5. SOS Sahel Ethiopia’s Development Approach

SOS Sahel Ethiopia follows a three-pronged development approach: These are
- Innovative interventions in the field with the participation of all relevant actors.
- Action research to inform program improvement and shared learning.
- Networking and shared learning both within and outside Ethiopia.

1.6. Program Focus:

The program of SOS Sahel Ethiopia focuses in three pillars and other crosscutting issues. These are:

1.6.1. Community Based Resource Management

SOS Sahel Ethiopia works to reverse environmental degradation and ensure environmental sustainability by facilitating local driven and community actions for participatory, equitable and inclusive management and use of natural resources.

1.6.2. Small holder and Pastoral Food Security

SOS Sahel Ethiopia works to reduce chronic food insecurity by building the asset base and
improving livelihoods of the most vulnerable farmers and pastoralists.

1.6.3. Small holder and Pastoral Natural Products Market Development
SOS Sahel Ethiopia supports individual farmers/pastoralists and farmer organizations/pastoralist organizations to improve production, value addition and access fair and sustainable markets to sale of agricultural commodities and natural products.

1.6.4. Other crosscutting pillars
i. Action Research and Shared learning
Based on action research finding and best practices from its innovative interventions, SOS Sahel Ethiopia brings evidences to improve planning, share lessons and scaling up by its own and through government structures.

ii. Humanitarian Assistance
SOS Sahel Ethiopia provides emergency assistance when such is needed. However, in most of its project SOS Sahel incorporates contingency/scenario planning approach so that unpredicted emergency and humanitarian crisis may not constrain the implementation of development interventions.

iii. Building the capacity of government institutions
The agency builds organizational capacity of partner government institutions so that they may deliver effective services, and address the development and poverty challenges of their local constituencies.

iv. Strengthening Community Based Organizations
SOS Sahel Ethiopia empowers smallholder farmers and pastoralist institutions so that they may claim and obtain services and actively engage in self-reliant local development.

1.7. SOS Sahel Ethiopia Intervention Areas
SOS Sahel Ethiopia works in SNNPR; Oromia and Amhara regions (please see fig. 1 below).

Fig. 1.1: SOS Sahel Ethiopia Intervention Areas
1.8. About SOS Sahel Ethiopia Country Office

The country office is carrying out the following important day to day and regular operational and strategic functions. These are:

1. **Resource Mobilization** - the organization is raising all the resources for investment from both traditional donors and other sources upon the submission of grant proposals when calls are advertised. This demand high caliber and efficiency often that the senior program staff and the management staff of the country office have been working out with high level of motivation enabled the organization to be functional to do its business.

2. **Managing field projects** – this including technical backing and financial management support. The organization is divided into two port polios which intern manages different projects. The program division is providing strong technical backing through monitoring, mid term review and of the projects or programs and the finance division is also providing all the necessary support that helps to ensure the compliance to the donor and government financial management requirements.

3. **Donor and government contract obligations** - the country office is also charged with the responsibility of entering into contractual obligation with donors and governments for execution, implementation, MTR and evaluation of the projects. At the same time the program staffs are familiarizing the final evaluation and the audit of the financial utilization of the donation.

4. **Partnership Building and Networking** – the county office is strategically positioned as a hub to create smooth partnership with government departments at federal level and in some case with the regional government. At the same time it is also playing a catalytic role of linking the organization with likeminded actors, funding agencies, research, academia to share its experience, good practices and learn from others experience.

5. **Working out guidelines and manuals of the organization** - working out the guidelines; such as personnel, financial, M&E manuals that help to guides the strategic and operational direction of the organization. Hiring and firing staff for the country office as well as for the projects.

6. **Taking the responsibility of fulfilling the statutory requirements** - the senior staff are also tasked with the responsibility of fulfilling the statutory requirements, registration and re-registration with Charities and Societies Agency,

7. **Providing technical assistance to the board and general assembly** - the board of the organization is meeting every quarter the MoU of the organization to receive the progress, address the challenges and give the overall all strategic and operational direction to the senior management of the organization. On the other hand the General assembly meets at the end of fiscal year to approve, the accomplishment report, audit report and plan for the next year and to discuss on the broader legal and institutional matters of the organization.
II. Major Accomplishments of SOS Sahel Ethiopia in 2009

2.1. Community Based Natural Resource Management Projects

2.1.1. Bale Eco-Region Sustainable Management Programme (BERSMP)

1. Programme Development Context and Background

The Bale Mountains area of Ethiopia is characterized by priority forest areas, mountains and valleys, grasslands and agricultural land. The Bale Mountains National Park, at the centre of the EcoRegion, represents the largest area of Afro-alpine habitat on the African continent. This area forms the watershed of the Bale Massif, which is critical for the livelihoods and well being of hundreds of thousands of people in the highlands of southeast Ethiopia, and an estimated 12 million people in the lowlands of southeast Ethiopia, northern Kenya and Somalia. The Harenna Forest, covering the southern part of the mountains, is the second largest stand of moist tropical forest in Ethiopia. The forests together with the Afro-alpine plateau are host to a globally unique and diverse fauna and flora, including a significant number of rare and endemic species.

The Bale Mountains is relatively environmentally intact. However, negative pressures on natural resources in the Bale Mountains are rapidly growing. Unsustainable natural resource exploitation and degradation throughout the area is increasingly threatening the sustainability of the environment, food security and sustainable livelihoods. Bale’s rural communities are seeking to meet their livelihood needs by expanding exploitation of local natural resources. Current resource exploitation is opportunistic and unregulated. Agricultural land is expanding rapidly, grazing areas are heavily degraded necessitating the search for new pasture, forest areas are being cut and cleared, and water systems disrupted. There are no land use management plans. Land use rights and ownership is confused, and there is no control of resource use. Unplanned and unrestricted settlement is a significant and mounting problem. Existing settlements are growing, and new settlements are appearing in previously unsettled and environmentally sensitive areas. The Oromia Government has commenced the implementation of a programme intervention for the area that focuses on expanded conservation and development initiatives, bringing local communities into a central role in sustainable natural resource management, and building sustainable natural resource based livelihoods. The idea is to involve local communities in the sustainable management of the area as natural resource management partners to the newly formed Oromia Forest and Wildlife Enterprise, Bale & Arsi branch Forest Enterprises, supported by government services, across the whole Bale Massif. The FARM-Africa – SOS Sahel Ethiopia Bale EcoRegion Sustainable Management Programme (BERSMP) is set up to support both local government and communities to achieve this goal.

The BERSMP is an operational partnership between;

The **Government of Ethiopia** – The Oromiya State Regional Government, the Oromia Forest and Wildlife Enterprise, Bale & Arsi branch Forest Enterprises, and the Oromiya Bureau of Finance and Economic Development; and

**Non Government Organisations** – FARM-Africa and SOS Sahel Ethiopia, through their joint Participatory Natural Resource Management Programme. Secondary partners include the MoARD, BoARD, EARI, the Bale Mountains National Park, EWCP, FZS, MELCA, BBNC, TESFA and a growing number of Private Sector enterprises (Ecopia /Trout Fish Farmers / Gema Lab) and
Community Based Organisations (Resource management groups / natural products business groups).

The BERSMP has been designed as a six year intervention. During the initial implementation period, the programme is predominantly working on four priority Woredas; Goba, Dollo Mena and Harrena Buluk in Bale zone, and Nensebo in West Arsi zone.

2. Programme Goal, Purpose and Outputs

2.1 Goal - The programme Goal is;

The unique biodiversity and vital ecological processes of the Bale Mountains Eco-Region(s), and the social and economic well-being of communities dependent on the Eco-Region’s natural resources, are mutually and sustainably enhanced.

2.2 Purpose - The programme Purpose is to support the government and local communities in the sustainable management of natural resources in the Bale Eco-Region(s) while contributing to sustainable livelihoods and the local and national economy.

2.3 Outputs

The six programme Outputs are;

1. Eco-Region(s) plan completed and being used.
2. Stronger Government and Community institutional capacity for sustainable NRM.
3. Functional and sustainable NRM and conservation systems in place, incorporating different environment and community needs.
5. Sustainable financing mechanisms in place for the Bale Eco-Region(s) which benefit government and communities.
6. Improved / appropriate legal and regulatory frameworks for Eco-Region(s) planning, CBNRM and protected areas.

3. BERSMP Operational Areas

The map below shows the BERSMP programme area. The programme priority Woredas are Goba, Dollo Mena, Harrena Buluk (Bale zone) and Nensebo (West Arsi zone). These Woredas are shaded in order to show their location and area coverage. Following discussions on scaling up of activities during the Donor review back in December 2007, even though the area coverage of the pilot intervention woredas is > 50% of the EcoRegion and includes much of the critical natural resources (Forests / Grassland / Water), the BERSMP team has been expanding some activities into some of the other 9 woredas.

4. Programme Progress - Activity Review

4.1 Eco-Region(s) plan completed and being used.

- Resource information gathering – secondary data analysis – information gap analysis
- Natural Resource / Human mapping and analysis
- Information gap filling
- Eco-Region(s) framework plan
- Target resource sites identified
- Plan monitoring, review and adaptation
- Specific skills training
- Zone / Region database centre established
4.1.1 Resource information gathering
The 2006 SPOT Satellite Images continue to be the basis of geo-spatial data for the programme. Further enhancement has been made to the interpretation of the satellite data and the landuse and vegetation cover analysis. Field work is used as a means of ground truthing and updating initial image interpretation.

4.1.2. Natural Resource / Human mapping and analysis
BERSMP and Oromia Forest and Wildlife Enterprise, Bale branch Forest Enterprises natural resource teams continue to conduct resource mapping in the Priority Woreda scale up Kebeles. The identified natural resources (forest, water and grasslands) were divided in to blocks and compartments in Nensebo, Dello Mena, and Harana Buluk Woredas, for the ease of management by the CBOs, and to conduct Forest Participatory Resource Assessment (PFRA) activities. The first step of the PFRA is the production of natural resource maps. Mapping has remained a key element and aim of developing a clear spatial understanding of the Bale Eco-Region.

The BERSMP, in partnership with FZS and MELCA funded the 3D modelling of Dinsho Woreda. This activity was carried out with the full participation and using the knowledge and understanding of local communities. The results, the 3D model of the Woreda and its key features and resources in extraordinarily detailed. The resultant model was presented by the community modelers to an audience of Zonal and Woreda Government and development actors. Discussion is now centred around where the 3D model should be housed and how the 3D can be used as a tool for improved land management planning. Details of the 3D modelling exercise can be found on the BERSMP website.

4.1.3 Information gap filling
BERSMP continues to support relevant research studies carried out in the Eco-Region by both International and National partners

All studies and reports carried out by the BERSMP, when completed, are made available on the BERSMP website (www.pfmp-farmsos.org).

Studies supported in this year include an MSc. Study on the effects of Land use changes on the river water flows of the Shaya River.
BERSMP is in the process of producing an Information CD of reports / studies and documentation compiled by the programme. This CD will be widely circulated and distributed to all interested Stakeholders.

4.1.4. Eco-Region Plan

4.1.4.1. Eco-region planning process progressing
Following the EcoRegion planning workshops in 2008, the Phase I and Phase II planning reports have been produced and circulated for feedback. The Planning report contains the results of the planning workshops. BERSMP and FZS continue to experiment with the development of the Bale EcoPlan. It has been agreed that the problem of many of these Plans is that they are not used properly by the targeted planners. It has been agreed that we should engage planning support from a professional planner in order to produce a document that is wholly accessible and usable to the targeted audience.
A professional Planner, Jasveen Soor, from the UK joined the programme in June 2009, at the end of this year.

A diagrammatic version of the Bale EcoRegion Planning process is shown below. Full details of the Planning workshop results are available from the Programme and will be available on the website in the near future.

Fig 2.1.1. Bale EcoRegion Planning framework.

4.1.5 Target resource sites identified – Priority Components
During the EcoRegion Planning workshops the Priority Components for planning were identified. The Priority Components have become the Targets for planning (see explanation below).

Landscapes, particularly those encompassing human elements, are inherently complex therefore, given the limited resources available, it is impossible to manage and monitor all individual components and inter-linkages. The Bale EcoRegion Planning process identifies focal conservation and development targets which are the **Priority Components** of the ecosystem. These Priority Components together characterise the biodiversity and ecosystem services that are in need of conservation or management. Priority Components for the Bale Eco-Region were identified under the three pillars of sustainable development: **ecological**, **economic** and **social**. The overall objective of the EcoRegion Plan is to improve the condition of these Priority Components and to balance the interactions between them – reducing negative conflicts and contradictions while increasing positive
complimentarity. Thus, the Priority Components will be the basis for future planning - setting goals, carrying out management actions, and measuring effectiveness.

Bale EcoRegion Priority Components are listed below

**Ecological: Environmental Management**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Components</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hydrological system</td>
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<tr>
<td>Forests</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Afroalpine and Sub-Afroalpine (Ericaceous belt)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Grassland</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Wildlife</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Natural Products (including NTFPs)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Medicinal plants / Bamboo / Fuel wood and timber / Coffee / Honey / Mineral water / Incense, gum and essential oils / Hunted species</td>
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**Economic Development**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Components</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture (crops and livestock)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tourism</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clean energy</td>
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<td>Industry</td>
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<td>Business development</td>
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<tr>
<td>Financial services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Infrastructure and services</td>
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**Social Development**

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<th>Category</th>
<th>Components</th>
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<td>Population and settlement</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Culture</td>
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<td>Health</td>
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<td>Governance</td>
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<td>Education and training</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social security</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community empowerment</td>
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### 4.1.4.2. Bale Eco-region draft final plan produced

The BERSMP is experimenting with the introduction of improved landuse and development planning. The programme aims to underpin the entire Bale area with a workable planning system for sustainable development planning and management.

To produce the plan BERSMP in partnership with Government counterpart, Oromia Forestry and wildlife Enterprise (OFWE) and other stakeholders such as Frankfurt Zoological Society (FZS), Mada Walabu University, Sinana Research centre, etc has been working to develop the final Ecoplan
for the Bale Eco-region. The plan development process was supported by different technical consultants from abroad.

Currently, the Bale Eco-region final draft plan was produced and distributed to concerned government and NGO partners. The plan was divided into four components:

a. The planning process and objectives
b. The Eco-region plan introduction document
c. The draft final plan document, and
d. Woreda action plan

BERSMP in partnership with the government counterpart offices has also presented the plan to stakeholders in Bale zone, at Bekele Molla Hotel for further comments. The workshop participants were from government partners and stakeholders, relevant NGO stakeholders and BERSMP staffs, Sinana research centre. It is also planned to present the plan to Regional Advisory Committee and the ground level woreda and community level implementers.

4.1.6 Specific skills training

GIS training delivered: BERSMP has conducted five days a basic GPS and GIS training in collaboration with Oromia state forest enterprises supervisory agency in Robe town of Bale zone. The idea of the training was to enable field workers to collect data using GPS and produce a map of the forest area by themselves without requiring special GIS experts. Topics covered in the training includes: basic knowledge of how to use Global position systems (GPS) and how to produce a map using Geographic information systems (GIS) software (ArcGis). The training constitutes both theoretical and practical sessions. The trainers were an international GIS consultant working for FAO and Oromia Forest and Wildlife GIS expert. The trainees were drawn from BERSMP staffs, 4 from Bale Forest Enterprise and 1 from Arsi forest Enterprise.

4.2. Stronger Government and Community institutional capacity for sustainable NRM.

Government capacity needs assessment
Community capacity needs assessment
Government capacity needs delivered
Community capacity needs delivered
Government – Government co-ordination and communication
Community based Organisation identification, strengthening and establishment

4.2.1 Government and Community Training Needs Assessment (TNA)

Training Need Assessment (TNA) conducted
The programme has conducted further training need assessments in 2009, as part of the annual performance / planning reviews held at the beginning/end of each year. It is viewed that as BERSMP partners increasingly understand the Bale Eco-Region approach, they will be able to more clearly identify their skill needs and to identify the key technical knowledge gaps in the implementation of the programme activities. The TNA carried out by the Woreda planning groups were:
For Community (Natural Resource Management Groups)

- CBO capacity building / Business management

For Government (WCC)

- GIS application / PRA / PFM/CBNRM concepts / Conflict management / Monitoring and Evaluation / Ecotourism / Business plan development / Bamboo management

These training topics are those that the programme aims to address in training programmes this year.

4.2.2 Government and Community capacity needs delivered

A number of key training and learning events have been carried out in the 2009.

**Woreda based Planning - Activity planning workshops were conducted for the 4 priority Woredas** - Woreda based Planning workshops were conducted in January, in Robe. The overall objective of these meetings is to improve the planning skills of Woreda government and to give Woreda government partners a key stake in setting the activities of the BERSMP.

The specific objectives of the Woreda Planning meeting were:

1. Progress Review 2008 Woreda level programme activities – plan versus achievement and analysis
2. Develop 2009 annual plan of operations and review budget
3. Scaling up of BERSMP activities to neighbouring Kebeles within the 4 Priority Woredas

During the meeting issues such as; the status, achievements, and challenges regarding the Woreda level activity implementation were identified. The group then discussed how to improve and increase implementation effectiveness in 2009.

During the meeting it was also discussed that a Mid Term Review would be carried out in the first semester of 2009. It was emphasized that there is a need for preparation at the woreda level in order to clear present activities, issues and challenges to the visiting MTR team.

**Goba Woreda Natural resource crisis Government offices consultation meeting:** Goba woreda is an area where unwise natural resources use is expanding and devastating the natural resources in general and forest in particular. Various development actors were dealing with the issue to resolve the problem. Bale Ecoregion Sustainable Management Programme (BERSMP) in Partnership with the Bale Forest Enterprise (BFE) has been working with the local community to put the Natural resource under sustainable management. However, the challenge still persisted and brought to the Goba woreda government officials attention. Virtually it seems as if any natural resource related laws and regulations were hardly being enforced. The seemingly free for all resource is exploited with the impression that if I don’t somebody else will take it.

The Goba woreda has designed a strategy to tackle the problem. The officials have arranged two meetings: the woreda level government relevant sectors and the community meetings. Towards this end, the government offices meeting was held on July 15, 2009. The participants were: major actors in the woreda both government and NGOs including key government institutions from the zone departments.
The objectives of the meeting were:

- to draw to the attention of all actors the magnitude of natural resource destruction in Goba woreda
- To reach at consensus on actions needed and measures to be taken to save the resource and forest dwellers rural communities livelihood

The major issues discussed were on the level of destruction of natural resources in the regional forest priority areas and in the Bale Mountains national parks. Regarding these issues four presentations were made on the side of BERSMP and BMNP.

The meeting participants has developed an action plan to stop illegal activities on the natural resources through awaring the local community and bring back the resources into sustainable Natural resources.

**BERSMP - Woreda level training** – the key approach to training and skills development is an approach of learning by doing. The BERSMP is designed around the core strategy of *participation*, as a learning and enabling process. On-going participatory field activities are the core opportunity for both Government and Communities to learn new skills. Professional to Professional / Community to Community exchange visits are an important training approach that has been undertaken by BERSMP.

**Field based training in Participatory Forest Resource Assessment (PFRA)** – Training was given to community Forest Management Groups prior to carrying out PFRA activities in all Woredas / forest sites. In order to introduce all programme stakeholders to the PFRA concept and practice, Woreda Development Facilitators supported by PNRM advisors facilitated introductory training sessions. These were followed by the actual practical field work, carrying out the PFRA itself. A number of Woreda level government partners were also involved in the PFRA exercises, including; government counter-part staff, forest enterprise staff, Dep. of Ag. Staff and the BERSMP Women Interns.

**Educational Programme**

A key capacity gap identified at the start of the BERSMP was that of the level of qualification of Zonal and Woreda technical staff. Woreda government offices therefore requested that BERSMP support a Further Education programme with Woreda offices. The BERSMP is now sponsoring Government selected technical staff in part-time higher education summer courses.

The BERSMP sponsors the following Natural Resource Management Education Programme;

- a Diploma to B.Sc. programme, 25 Technical staff from the 14 Woredas are upgrading from diploma to degree level attending Wondo Genet College of Forestry and Natural resources
- Women internship programme, Grade 10 to Diploma programme

Currently 26 female students drawn from Bale EcoRegion programme intervention areas are attending Diploma courses in Wondo Genet College of Forestry and Natural resources.

- MSc programme -Zonal / Forest Enterprise technical staffs have also joined appropriate colleges for their M.Sc. study (M.SC. in Farm Forestry and Production Forestry).
The OSFESA and the Programme have agreed to support selected BERSMP staff to also join summer MSc programme. Selection is made on merit of performance. This opportunity is seen as a direct means to motivate staff and to ensure that they will remain with the Programme for the entire implementation period.

**MELCA – Environmental Education**
The BERSMP continue to support MELCA through direct budget support. MELCA, a local environmental NGO, continue to run a number of capacity building activities.

MELCA continues to conduct an environmental education programme known as SEGNI (that stands for *Social Empowerment through Group and Nature Interaction*), to expose Woreda Government officers and youth groups to the environment through the stories of local elders. Participating groups are taken on camps that are hosted by the elders. The group share ideas and stories about the local environment.

BERSMP have agreed with MELCA that a detailed Impact Assessment of SEGNI will be carried out this year. The key interest in impact assessment is to see if the SEGNI programme is contributing to the wider goal and purpose of BERSMP.

**4.2.3 Government – Government co-ordination and communication**

**Regional Advisory Committee** – The OSFESA has been closely engaged with the BERSMP. The Regional Counterpart has made regular visits to the Programme site with the BERSMP Programme Manager.

One of the main focus of the work carried out has been the establishment of new Joint Forest Management systems and JFM legal agreements. BERSMP and Oromia Forest and Wildlife Enterprise, Bale branch Forest Enterprises have established the first JFM agreements to be set up by the new Oromiya Forest Enterprise institution. The new JFM systems are a reflection of the new partnership between Government and Communities. This work represents a significant advancement in participatory natural resource management in Ethiopia.

OSFESA requested the BERSMP to host a visit from the Borana / Guji Forest Enterprise and SOS Sahel Ethiopia Borana in order to demonstrate how BERSMP and the Bale Forest Enterprise are working together.

**Zonal steering Committee (ZSC)**
The Zonal Counterpart has held a number of meetings with West Arsi Zone in order to discuss BERSMP activities.

BERSMP, Oromia Forest and Wildlife Enterprise, Bale branch Forest Enterprises, BMNP and FZS, EWCP have held a number of coordination meetings in order to discuss common issues and increase cooperation and collaboration. This critical coordination between the Oromia Forest and Wildlife Enterprise (OFWE), Bale branch Forest Enterprises (supported by BERSMP) and BMNP (supported by FZS and EWCP) is looking at issues such as natural resource area categorisation and boundary demarcation (National Park boundaries / Forest Priority Area Boundaries).

**Woreda Coordination Committee (WCC)**
Woreda Coordination Committees meetings have been conducted in the four Woredas of the EcoRegion. The committees continue to plan and review BERSMP activities and implementation
status. The WCC have discussed the importance of the MTR in terms of how to present the Programme’s progress and challenges in a professional and constructive manner.

The Programme has employed Andrew Ridgwell as a Temporary Volunteer Communications Support Officer during this year. Andrew receives local rates of remuneration, similar to that of a VSO arrangement. The core of Andrew’s work is to support the Woreda offices in their capacity to record, document and monitor their field activities.

**Joint Forest Management Cooperative Establishment**

BESRMP has been working towards the development of community based sustainable natural resources management systems in the Bale and West Arsi zones. In order for the community resource managers to sign a legally binding resource management agreement with the Oromia Forest and Wildlife Enterprise, Bale & Arsi branch Enterprises, they have to be registered and legally recognized by the relevant government offices (Cooperative promotion office). In this connection, community groups in the four priority woredas of the Bale EcoRegion have been making the necessary preparations to get registered as cooperatives. In order to facilitate a speedy registration of the CBOs, BERSMP in partnership with the Bale and West Arsi Zones cooperative promotion offices organized a two-day consultation meeting in Shashamane in June 2009. Participants of the meeting were heads and experts from both West Arsi and Bale zones cooperative promotion offices, Harena Buluk, Delo Mena Goba and Nensebo woreda cooperative promotion offices, as well as the Oromia Forest and Wildlife Enterprise, Bale & Arsi branch Forest Enterprises representatives. In addition, BERSMP government counterparts and woreda facilitators of all four priority woredas took part in the meeting.

During the meeting, four presentations were made and discussed. These were:
1. BERSMP introduction,
2. Natural resource based cooperatives in Ethiopia
3. Basic requirements for CBO registration as cooperatives
4. Business potentials of forests in the Bale EcoRegion.

The core issues debated were:
- Number of cooperatives per kebele,
- Voluntary and open membership vs forest dwellers,
- Recognizing traditional use right of distance users.

Finally it was agreed that the registration of the CBOs for the sustainable management of forest in the EcoRegion should go ahead in the priority woredas.

**Social Services Support - Social Service support for Woredas**

As part of the capacity building component of the programme, BERSMP is working on supporting the government in the set up of the new Land and Environment Protection Agency. This new office will have a critical new role in the type of landscape level activities such as landscape level planning. The Programme has supported the set up of the new Office at Zonal level.
4.2.4. Community based Organisation identification, strengthening and establishment
Forest Management Groups continue to be the focus of NRM CBO development. The issue of legal status has been key in discussions of how best to guide CBO strengthening. Cooperatives and Associations remain the most recognisable institutional forms by Government and Community. Cooperative training is being carried out across all woredas.

Business development groups, linked to the livelihoods component of BERSMP have been the focus of support to community level business enterprise initiatives. CBO business enterprise groups working on forest coffee, pure honey, bamboo furniture, improved stoves, natural products trading groups have all been supported by the Business Mentoring Programme. Business mentoring has been undertaken by MatchMakers Associates, a business consultancy firm from Arusha Tanzania. The reports from this work (Coffee / Honey / Tourism / Bamboo Value Chain Analysis / S&M Business Start Up Manual / Business status review) have been submitted to BERSMP, and are under final review.

Bale Beauty Nature Club - BERSMP continues to closely work with a local nature club based in Goba, called the Bale Beauty Nature Club. This is a locally organised youth group. As part of the capacity building endeavour, the programme supported the club's establishment of an Environmental Resource Centre / Library in Goba town, and has signed a Tree Nursery seedling production outgrowers contract for the production of 100,000 indigenous seedlings.

4.3 Functional and sustainable NRM and conservation systems in place, incorporating different environment and community needs.

| Investigation – resource use and users |
| Negotiation – plans and agreements |
| Implementation – management – inc stakeholder monitoring |
| Benefit sharing |
| Conflict Management |
| Formalisation of new NRM systems |

4.3.1 Investigation – resource users and uses

Participatory resource mapping - BERSMP is working towards scaling up of programme activities into neighbouring Kebeles within the selected priority Woredas, the field teams have continued to conduct participatory natural resource mapping in all Woredas, for example, in Goba in two new Kebeles: Wajitu and Shedem, and in Harana Buluk in four new Kebeles.

The selected new Kebeles per Woreda are:

- **Delo Mena** - Deyu / Irba / Oda Dima, and / Walta’I Gudina
- **Goba** - Buko / Shedem, and / Wajitu Shabe
- **Harana Buluk** - Sodwelmel / Buluk / Garbi Galo / Souda lallaftu / Anole - woodland Kebele
- **Nensebo** - Garambamo / Mandoyu / Bulga / Qore

**Shedem Kebele participatory resource mapping conducted** - One of the JFM/PFM sites in Goba woreda is Shedem Kebele. The main natural resource that requires sustainable management is forest, which is classified into High forest, Bamboo forest and Erica arborea forest (Erica trees and heathers). The outer boundary of each forest type is delineated, compartments established and area of each forest type is calculated and made ready for resource assessment activity.
In such a way the areas of the resources map were found to be as follows:

1. **High forest 18,811.8 ha,**
2. **Bamboo forest 11,869.8 ha and**
3. **Erica forest 13,735.2 ha.**

**Pilot River management modalities Development-** As part of the natural resources, rivers in the Bale Mountains area are being degraded. The causes among others were unwise use of the resource, agricultural expansion on the river banks, Eucalyptus planting along river side, and etc. Therefore, BERSMP has also designed a strategy to implement community based sustainable River management in the Bale Eco-region.

As a pilot trial the programme has been working on the Shaya river sustainable management with the community. Discussion with the communities on the vicinity of the river was held on how to setup the River Management Groups (RMG) and manage the river for the sustainable utilization of the river resources. The communities were willing to take the responsibility of managing the river, however needs assistance in the initial setup of the business.

Currently, the Shaya river management group has completed all the necessary requirements of activities which enable the group to get legal ‘Registration Certificate of Cooperative Societies’ from Bale zone Cooperative Promotion Office. They were legally registered and ready to take over the management responsibility of the river. The group is now waiting for contract agreement signing with appropriate government institution.

**Boundary Demarcation - Participatory Geographic Information System (PGIS) -** Participatory GIS refers to the involvement of local communities in the collection of data that is then digitised and stored using GPS and GIS technologies. BERSMP has introduced this technique and is continuing to use the approach, with the aim of introducing modern landuse mapping / planning tools to local government staff and communities. The type of information that is involved in this approach includes;

- Forest boundary demarcation – Forest Blocks and Compartments / Hunting Concessions
- Participatory Forest Resource Assessment plots / grids
- River courses / coffee forest area / key natural resources
- Tourism sites / Settlements
- Mobility – livestock movement and routes

**PFM/JFM expansion in priority woredas-** BERSMP has been working in pilot kebeles in the priority woredas to implement PFM/JFM. The plan is to almost finalise activities of the programme in the first phase in the priority woredas, hence a need to scaleup the JFM/PFM implementation in the rest of the kebeles. Towards this end, in Dello Menna woreda CBO development activities were continued in three expansion kebeles (Burkitu, Irba and Walte'i gudina kebeles).

Among the activities to be carried out, bye-law/ internal regulation, which is vital for sustainable management of forest resource, has been discussed among the local community and field technical staffs. Outline/content of draft bylaw formulation has been set up and first draft bylaw
development is underway. Resources boundary delineation between the kebeles was discussed between the two kebeles elders and administrative officials

**Community Based Organization (CBO) set up** - The BERSMP continues assisting forest management groups in new sites to set up forest Cooperatives. More CBOs are in the process of developing internal rules and regulations by which the organisation will be governed.

**Participatory Forest Resource Assessment (PFRA)** – forest area assessment continues in the newly selected forest areas. Forming the base line for forest condition monitoring and the basis upon which to develop forest management activities (see previous reports for details).

**Joint Forest Management (JFM) CBOs officially registered in Nensebo woreda** -
Bale Ecoregion Sustainable Management Programme in partnership with the oromia forest and wildlife Enterprise, the Bale & West Arsi Forest Enterprises branches has been working with the community on sustainable natural Resources management and rural livelihoods. In the last 3 years the programme was working on the CBO establishment, resources mapping, stakeholder analysis, resources assessment, forest management plan preparation and developing Forest management agreements in the four priority woredas in 8 pilot kebeles. Establishment of the Community Based Organization (CBO) for sustainable resources management was very critical part for the community to be legally recognized by the government so that they can negotiate with the FEs for joint forest management.

In the earlier time, 4 forest management Cooperatives (Chiri, Kumbi, Shawe and wabero Kebeles) were officially registered to take over the responsibility of natural resources management. Currently, there were also 3 Forest management CBOs ( Tulu Lencha, Huro Baro and Shambal Kadir) officially registered by West Arsi Cooperative promotion office.

**4.3.4. Benefit Sharing**

**BERSMP and the UK based IIED (International Institute of Environment and Development) set up a forestry partnership** -
FARM-Africa – SOS Sahel Ethiopia PNRM unit have completed the national diagnostics, in order to establish a basic country profile of Ethiopia formal and informal Forest Enterprises.

The FOREST CONNECT alliance continues to offer the opportunity to access similar work in other countries, share experience, ideas and information, and meet other foresters working on similar challenging issues in promoting SFM and the promotion of SMFE’s as key benefits of communities. Visit the FOREST CONNECT site at [http://www.iied.org/NR/forestconnect](http://www.iied.org/NR/forestconnect)

**Tree seedling planting**

BERSMP is working towards community based natural forest management and community plantation forest establishment. This is linked to the improved management of forests by communities, and the possible promotion of tree planting for environmental rehabilitation, environment protection, watershed management, fuel wood energy supply, and carbon trading. The achievement of all these aims requires the supply of indigenous tree seedlings. The programme has funds for this but rather than starting its own production, has been trying to shift tree nursery production to community based tree nurseries, which seems a key challenge. The idea is to support
sustainable business based tree nurseries. New out-growers schemes have been set up and contracts signed between BERSMP and a nursery group in Dollo Mena who are growing 100,000 *Walburgia Ugandensis* seedlings and the BBNC who are growing 100,000 indigenous seedlings. The Bale Forest Enterprise also has a tree nursery support programme and BERSMP continues to support their seedling production. The aim of the enterprise nurseries is to service their own (plantation), and the community tree planting needs. BERSMP has supported the OFWE, Bale branch Forest Enterprises 2009 tree planting activities.

**4.3.5. Formalisation of new NRM systems**

**JFM Forest Management Agreement (JFM)**

The core objective of the BERSMP is putting natural resources under sustainable management. The programme believes that Sustainable natural resources management can only be achieved through community participation. Towards this end, the programme in partnership with the Oromia Forest and Wildlife Enterprise, Bale & Arsi branch Forest Enterprises is closely working with the community to ensure participation of community in the natural resources management in four priority woredas.

The JFM process has gone through three stages (investigation, negotiation and implementation). The community resources managers have been organized into CBOs to be legally recognized by government and take responsibility of managing the resources (in this case forest).

In the completion of the negotiation process, signing of Joint Forest Management Agreements took place in four pilot kebeles of two priority woredas. Chiri, & Wabero Kebeles of Delo Menna Woreda and Kumbi, Shawe kebeles of Haranna Buluk Woreda. The JFM Agreements were signed between the Bale Forest Enterprise, Woreda Administration and the Community Resources Management Cooperative in their respective woredas and kebeles from June 06 – 09, 2009.

More than 1000 community resources managers, as well as Zonal and Woreda government officials attended the signing ceremonies. For example during the JFM signing ceremony in Shawe kebele the new Zonal Administrator attended the ceremony. In his opening speech, he stressed the contribution of the forest resources to the climate regulation in general, and to the livelihoods of the local community in particular. He expressed his support for the community in the initiatives it was taking to work with government to conserve and sustainably use the forest resources. Local Community Elders also reflected on the significance of the signing over of forest back to the community to manage. They stated that it reversed the seizure of forests by Menelik and Haile Selassie Governments, and the beginning of forest destruction.

The JFM Agreement document details the following:

- Objective of the JFM Agreement
- Location, condition and area of forest
- Description of the agreeing parties
- Roles and responsibility of each agreeing party
• Benefit sharing arrangement
• Termination or Withdrawal of the Agreement

The JFM contract agreement signing ceremony has also been held on August 20th & 21st, 2009 at Huro Bero and Shambel Kedir kebeles office of Nensebo woreda in West Arsi Zone.

The number of participants was:

i. Huro Bero
   A. From the community: Male = 383, Female = 23
   B. From Government staffs = 18
   Total number of people attended the signing ceremony were 424

ii. Shambel Kedir & Tulul Lench
   A. From the community Male = 317, Female = 25
   B. From government sectors = 22
   Totally 364 attendants have participated the signing ceremony.

Bale Forest Enterprise

BERSMP continues to work in partnership with OFWE, Bale branch Forest Enterprises. Regular meetings are held between the two organisations in order to address the sustainable natural resource management issues of Bale. The two organisations increasingly share staff, skills, resources and training opportunities. The Formulation of the first JFM agreements are a good example of this close working relationship.

Goba Natural Resource Management Crisis

An example of a joint initiative between the OFWE, Bale branch Forest Enterprises and BERSMP is the highlighting of the Goba Natural Resource Management Crisis. The crisis is the over exploitation of natural resources, particularly forests, in and around Goba town and the saturation of the local market with fuel wood and bamboo. Both organisations have made this a priority issue and are intensively lobbying the Zonal and Woreda governments to coordinate and act in order to resolve the problem. Consensus concerning the problem is easy to reach, what is more complicated is how to deal with the resource exploitation issues and a fair and appropriate way. The Goba situation is seen as a test case in terms of Government capacity and ability to manage natural resource issues.
4.4 Community natural resource based livelihoods diversified.

Opportunities for NR livelihood diversification / income generation identified
Enterprise feasibility studies – Market analysis
Government / Community specific skills built
Linkages with public and private sector on NR enterprises developed
Livelihood diversification implementation – CDF / CCG
Scale up through Woreda offices

4.4.1 Opportunities for NR livelihoods diversification / income generation identified
The BERSMP and the OFWE, Bale branch Forest Enterprises continue to experiment and innovate in the field of Natural Resource Products and livelihood diversification. BERSMP has been actively seeking business development partners and particularly Private Sector partners that share the conservation and development ethics of the programme. A number of exciting potential partners have been identified and BERSMP and OFWE, Bale branch Forest Enterprises will continue to develop these linkages over time.

Ecopia (Ecological Products of Ethiopia) a new Private Sector natural products company in Addis Ababa have received *Wurburgia* and *Hypericum* plant material samples for chemical analysis. Ecopia is also interested in buying bulk Honey

Trout Farmers PLC – is a new Private sector Fish Farming Enterprise set up in Adaba Woreda in West Arsi Zone. Discussions are on-going about a number of community linked joint initiatives based around expanding fish farming

Gema Lab – is a new company set up in Addis Ababa in order to develop Essential oils businesses. BERSMP is negotiating with Gema Lab for technical support and the potential to supply eucalyptus oil.

BERSMP and OFWE, Bale branch Forest Enterprises have been exploring community based Tourism ideas in Bale. As part of this we have been in contact with the new USAID funded Ethiopia Susuatinable Tourism Alliance (ESTA), which has been set up recently in Addis Ababa.

Natural resources based Livelihood opportunities: According to the recent information obtained from the Nensebo woreda, some non timber forest products (NTFP) in some kebeles of the woreda which could be potential livelihood opportunity for the community which would be organized as PFM cooperatives.

The potential NTFP assessed were:
- Cardamom (Korerima): in Habera, Riripha and Fecha forest.
- Forest coffee (natural): in Nensebo Gorte kebele along Hodem river banks and in Fachaa forest along Gemiro river at specific site called Bedeyi.

4.4.2 Enterprise feasibility studies - Natural Products
Building on the livelihood option identification work in 2007, the following progress has been made in the set up and development of various Natural Product Enterprises.

Bale Natural Products Collection and Processing (CPL) Centre –
BERSMP in partnership with Bale Forest Enterprise has been working on the natural resources based product development and promotion. The purpose of the CPL centre establishment is to enable the development of community based sustainable livelihoods from Natural products through the promotion of small and medium sized enterprise development. The construction of a CPL centre in Goba woreda was commenced in 2008 on 1 ha plot of land. The site has been jointly developed by BERSMP and OFWE, Bale branch Forest Enterprises in terms of sharing the construction material costs. In this year the construction of a Natural Plant Materials drying barn / Bamboo workshop / Honey Processing Centre, and a Natural Products Shop completed.

Next steps involve the handing over of the site to the Bale Forest Enterprise. The Bale Forest Enterprise will take the responsibility of managing the CPL centre. It is envisaged that once businesses are up and running, it will be possible to encourage private sector engagement.

**New Natural Product Collection, Processing & Learning Centre construction underway**

The Bale Ecoregion has immense NTFP where it gives an opportunity for community natural resources manager to diversify natural resources based livelihoods. The programme has been working with community NP producer group to improve production and processing system. It was found necessary to construct coffee and honey processing centre in the remaining three priority woredas for improved marketing of the natural products. Therefore, it was decided to start the construction in Nensebo (honey), Delomenaa (honey processing) and Harana Buluk.

Currently the site plan and construction design was developed and the tender was advertised and contracted to appropriate contractors. The construction of the centres was started with a budget of ca. 650,000 ETB.

**Natural product promotion and sales exhibition**

The programme has been supporting coffee and honey farmers to improve quality and quantity of the products. Towards this end, trainings were delivered on post harvest coffee handling and coffee plant management, and coffee farmers CBO development, establishing collection centre, bee keeping practices, proper honey harvesting, honey and wax separation.

In 2008/09 BERSMP in partnership with the OFWE, Bale branch Forest Enterprises has worked with two woredas (Dolo Mena and Harena Buluk) coffee farmers to improve quality coffee for international markets. BERSMP was working with the farmers in providing technical support and organization of the farmers into groups. OFWE, Bale branch Forest Enterprises paid a 25% premium for high quality coffee cherries in order to incentivise the farmers to improve the coffee quality. This experiment was very successful and cup-tasting reports from the UK based Union Coffee Roasters Company indicated a very significant improvement in coffee quality. They expressed the coffee quality improvement from the first sample sent in 2007 was like the different between night and day. Tasters described the Bale forest coffee as having **“cinnamon-chocolate tinged aromas and flavours”**. Coffee quality improvement has been a significant of BERSMP/OFWE) Bale branch Forest Enterprises efforts.

BERSMP and OFWE, Bale branch Forest Enterprises are also working together to develop a Bale Natural Products Label; *BALEWILD*. The idea is to create a conservation-based natural products label which will enable the OFWE, Bale branch Forest Enterprises to market is products at a premium price to niche markets.
The first *BALEWILD* forest coffee and forest honey collected from the Dollo Mena and Harana forests was presented for commercial sale to an Agricultural products exhibition organized by the Ministry of Agriculture in Addis Ababa in June 2009.

The advantages and opportunities of the exhibition were:

1. Many coffee roasters in Addis were interested and OFWE, Bale branch Forest Enterprises received many orders from them
2. The Bale honey and coffee products were sold for about 12,000 ETB
3. The advertisement and promotion was made to national and international community through publishing and distributing brochures
4. Contacts were also made with Rainforest Alliance certified coffee buyers based in the UK/USA and a Belgium Fair Trade Honey buyer.

Currently, an Italian based specialist coffee buyer requested to buy some 1.5 tonnes (1500 kg) of *BALEWILD* Forest Coffee, at 10 USD per Kilo. The coffee is currently ready to be delivered to Italy, Rome for the buyer.

**Coffee Equipment purchases:** Purchase requisitions for 70 rolls of meshwire, 800 pcs of Hessian sacks, and 10 rolls of plastic sheets (to cover the coffee in the night to protect moisture absorption) was purchased and distributed to coffee producer farmers. This was to support the forest management CBOs to produce a top quality coffee for international markets. The farmers are supplying the coffee to OFWE, Bale Forest Enterprise branch which in turn supply to international coffee buyer. The international coffee buyers pays a premium price for the quality coffee to the enterprise which shares the profit to the community. Currently the coffee farmers have supplied ca 5 tonnes (5000 kg) of coffee to the FE.

**Honey collection from bee farmers**- Oromia Forestry and wildlife Enterprise, Bale branch is working on both timber and no-timber forest products. The non-timber forest products that the enterprise is currently engaged in are: wild forest coffee, forest honey and the like.

The strategy of the NTFP business is sharing responsibility and benefits along the business chain. The bee farmers are producing honey and deliver to the Enterprise that the Enterprise is processing and packaging the product. The Enterprise also work on exporting the honey to the national and international markets as per its agreement with the honey buyers.

Toward this end, Ecopia (Ecological Product of Ethiopia) has forwarded an order to the Forest enterprise. The strategy that both organizations agreed was that the BFE collect honey from the producer farmer group and deliver to Ecopia, and Ecopia will sell or use for production of different cosmetics.

The amount of the request by Ecopia was about 1 tones of honey to buy from the Bale forest Enterprise. However, due to untimely request, OFWE, Bale branch has able to deliver 355 kilos of *Bale wild* forest honey to Ecopia. The business deal was that Ecopia pays 50% of the price on delivery and the remaining 50% at the final clearance of the honey sale.
**Body shop and Beza mar visit to Bale** - With regard to the honey market linkage, the programme was seeking potential honey buyers from Ethiopia and around the world. From in-country Beza Mar and Ecopia were willing to buy honey from the Bale bee farmers and from the international ‘Body Shop’ a UK-based company is also interested to buy Bale wild forest honey.

The current achievement with the different sectors:

1. **Ecopia (Ecological Product of Ethiopia):** is a social company that orchestrates the value chain of organic food, cosmetics and herbal production, processing and marketing. The company has negotiated with the Bale Forest Enterprise to buy the honey from the bee farmers. The strategy that both organizations agreed was that the BFE collect honey from the producer farmer group and deliver to Ecopia.

2. **Body shop:** The Body Shop International plc is a global manufacturer and retailer of naturally inspired, ethically produced beauty and cosmetics products. Founded in the UK in 1976 by Dame Anita Roddick, it now has over 2,400 stores in 61 countries, with a range of over 1,200 products.

   A team of two people from the Body shop has also visited the Bale Eco-region project area in August 2009 to sources honey from Ethiopia. The team has made detail discussion with the Bale programme, Bale Forest Enterprise and the community honey producer groups on the supply of honey to the company. They have also visited the production site and the farmers’ apiary and interested to purchase at least 30 tonnes of honey every year.

   A question regarding the price of honey at local/national level and at international level was raised to the Body shop (the current price of honey in Ethiopia is similar to that of the international price). The concern was that if the prices are similar why the Enterprise or bee farmers are interested to export.

   The body shop has explained that they set prices on the following criteria:

   a. **Benefits** - this is to focus on the benefits that goes to Community Based Organization
   b. **Environment** - this is to help the producer farmers to protect the environment
   c. **Community focused** - support community trade
   d. **Organization** - the organization should be the representative of the whole community
   e. **Marginalised groups** - this includes those groups that have been marginalised in terms of geography, gender, social and economic aspects.

   The company also had a contact with the Beza mar (Ethiopian honey marketing company) to buy the Ethiopian honey. Finally the programme and the company agreed to develop a MOU that will be signed between local community producer group, local private sector (Beza Mar) and the Bale Forest Enterprise (the forest area concession holder where the honey is produced).

**Honey group follow up:** There are two honey groups and one person individually engaged in beekeeping activity in Nensebo woreda. Of these groups one group in Mandoyo (Mewa) kebele is
actively involved in the honey production activity. The group has contributed from its members, 50% of the budget plan loan from micro finance institution and 30% grant from BERSMP community development fund (CDF). Currently the group owns six/6 modern, 22 transitional and three/3 traditional beehives, all of which has bees in it. On top of these, the group has planned 80 additional transitional beehives and completed construction of 52 hives.

**BALEWILD information and promotional brochures published**

The purpose was to promote the Bale Natural Forest products through branding as “BALEWILD”. The BALEWILD forest product currently under promotion and development are wild forest coffee, wild forest honey, and wild forest essential oil. The products are from community based sustainably managed natural forests. The products came out of the Harrena forest where the community and OFWE, Bale branch Forest Enterprises are jointly managing the forest.

The communities are working on the sustainable production of the products and OFWE, Bale branch Forest Enterprises is working on value adding (processing, packaging, branding) and marketing of the natural products to national and international markets.

The following is the sample of the brochure produced by the OFWE, Bale branch Forest Enterprises & BERSMP.

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**Fig 2.1.1.2. Warburgia (Warburgia ugandensis) seedling production**

*Warburgia ugandensis* was identified as one of the potential natural product for rural community livelihood improvement in the Bale EcoRegion. The distribution of the tree/plant in the EcoRegion is confined to the lower altitude of the south eastern side of the Bale Mountains National Park (BMNP) in Delo Menna, Harana Buluk and Barbare Woredas. It is believed that the plant is endemic to this part of Ethiopia. The programme is working for the new plant’s product development for the export of dried milled material to bio-pharmaceutical companies, or for retail finished medicinal products for national and regional markets, for example for the floriculture companies in Ethiopia. As indicated earlier, Ecopia has received *Warburgia* samples for chemical analysis.
Therefore, to ensure sustainability of the wild harvest the out grower scheme was proposed by the programme. Towards this end the programme & OFWE, Bale branch Forest Enterprises has contracted jobless rural youth groups to produce the seedlings for planting out. A nursery is currently under operation by the youth group in Delo Menna woreda (one of the priority woredas of the programme). It is planned to produce 100,000 seedlings this year. And currently the group has produced 60,000 seedlings ready for out planting

4.4.3. Government / Community specific skills built
Natural product Business training for Community Groups and Government staff BERSMP is working to build the skills and capacity of rural communities for Natural Product/Resource based livelihood diversification and improvement. Towards this end, training was delivered to four priority Woredas, to all existing natural product business groups. Training focused on forest coffee, honey and bamboo businesses. The training was delivered to 32 government and 150 community business groups.

The training was first provided to government staff as aTOT and later they gave trainings to the community business groups

The training was focused on:

- Business skills development
- introduction to marketing
- Record keeping and work planning
- Projected Income statement(PIS)
- Cost and Impact of credit for investment
- Impact of investing in improved technology
- Saving for investment in production
- Risk management strategies
- Market linkages, and
- Monitoring and evaluation

The training was delivered by the MatchMaker Associates, an organization based in Arusha, Tanzania, as part of a three month business mentoring initiative.

4.4.5. Livelihood diversification implementation – CDF / CCG
1. Provision of Support to the business groups
   a. Women saving & credit cooperative
   BERSMP continues to support women saving and credit cooperatives in the priority Woredas. The cooperative members are all women and members of the bigger natural resources management cooperatives in the pilot Kebeles. They are engaged in the trading of natural forest honey and coffee. They are buying the products from the producer farmers that are managing the forest.
The programme provided 20,000 ETB in 2008 to women credit & saving groups in two Kebeles (Chiri & Wabero) in Delo menna woreda. The grant money was a revolving fund that every member of the group will be benefited from. Currently, the Wabero & Chiri group provided 2nd round credit opportunity to another 20 women. Previously the group provided the credit to 40 women and each of them made a profit of 800 – 2100 ETB and paid back the loan. The programme continues supporting the group with provision of training and technical advice.

b. The Bee keeping groups

The programme is supporting bee farmers in the four priority Woredas through the provision of training, improved equipment, and technical advice to improve the honey production in terms of quantity and quality. Currently there are 21 beekeeping groups established under the Forest Management Cooperatives in the 3 priority Woredas (Delo menna, Haranna Buluk and Nensebo). The total number of members is c.332. The programme also continues supporting the Honey groups in technical advice, and the provision of accessories (smokers, bee veil, honey compressor, glove, and others). The current challenge, particularly in Delo Menna and Harana Buluk, is bee absconding due to extreme heat of the long dry season in both Woredas.

4.4.6. Scale up through Woreda offices

Part of the Business mentoring initiative was aim at build Business Development Services (BDS) at Woreda level. BERSMP is waiting for the reports of the consultant group in order to determine next steps.

4.5. Sustainable financing mechanisms for the Bale EcoRegion which benefit government and community

Development of Sustainable Financing
- Increase / retain revenues / tax Benefit sharing – concessions / regional revenue
- re-investment in local government services
Share experience of SF mechanisms
Government capacity for sustainable financing built

4.5.1 Development of sustainable financing

As a follow up from the PES feasibility study and an initial market assessment for the proposed Bale REDD, next actions will be taken up into two phases. Phase I will aim at securing investor commitment through sufficiently elaborating on financial, legal/institutional and technical designs. This activity is being carried out by a consortium of consultants (UNIQUE Forestry Consultants, Climate Focus and Terra-Carbon). Primary tasks in this phase include:

- Refine baseline carbon stock projections and develop carbon stock projections with project scenario
- Develop preliminary leakage estimates and design of the monitoring plan
- Develop operational plan for Joint Forest Management (JFM) and woodlots development
• Develop cost projections for project implementation and leakage mitigation (over first 20 years of project crediting period)
• Develop financial summary and market documents

The current work is ongoing since Jan 2009 when the consultant group and BERSMP and OFESA/OFWE, Bale branch Forest Enterprises staff undertook an aerial observation flight over Bale’s forest resources. It is expected that the REDD preparation work will be completed within 4-6 months leading to the first investment in Bale REDD for PDD development (Phase II).

4.5.2. Increase / retain revenues / tax Benefit sharing – concessions / regional revenue – re-investment in local government services

A consultancy work on benefit sharing was finalized. The main aims were (i) identification of natural resources based revenue generating goods and services and quantify the amount of revenue that can annually be generated from the sources, (ii) providing a detailed framework for benefit sharing among relevant stakeholders, and (iii) suggesting appropriate institutional framework necessary for the implementation of the benefit sharing mechanism.

According to the study, from the products side (i) NTFPs excluding firewood but including forest coffee, honey and bamboo, and (ii) wood based products comprising lumber and firewood are found to generate considerable revenue in the short term. From ecosystem service side Carbon Finance, Trophy hunting, and Sport Fishing and associated ecotourism activities such as trekking and eco-lodging are found to have high potential to offer revenues in the short term. The following recommendations are given regarding institutional arrangements, benefit sharing and implementation modality.

A) Institutional Arrangements:
   i) For NTFPs:
   It was suggested that the existing household based production model (customary production system) be adopted. In this regard Oromia Forest and Wildlife Enterprise, Bale & Arsi branch Forest Enterprises will be the marketing, packaging, processing, sales and transporting centers for the eco-region’s NTFPs industry, while the farmers will be the suppliers of the raw materials.

   II) For wood based products and carbon finance:
   The management of all the forests of the eco-region needs to be arranged in joint forest management (JFM) scheme in which CBOs and the Oromia Forest and Wildlife Enterprise, Bale & Arsi branch Forest Enterprises share joint responsibility of managing the forest area.

   III) For trophy hunting:
   Possibilities need to be worked out for transferring the concession areas presently operated by private firms to OFWE, Bale branch Forest Enterprises. Then, let OFWE, Bale branch Forest Enterprises manage these concessions jointly with local communities living around these concession areas. These communities can be organized as Community Wildlife Conservancies (CWLC). Finally, the trophy hunting operation can be arranged in joint CWLC- Oromia Forest and Wildlife Enterprise, Bale & Arsi branch Forest Enterprises scheme. If necessary they can lease the actual hunting operation to private firms.
IV) For sport fishing and associated opportunities:
Communities that share lands around the facilities need to be organized as ‘River Associations’, legalized and given exclusive rights. The associations can run the business themselves or can lease it to hotels or other legal agents.

B) Benefit Sharing
- For the NTFPs, harvester individuals and/or their cooperatives having exclusive use right collects all the revenue accrued from sale of the NTFPs. But these individuals and their cooperatives need to pay 5-10% of their sale revenues as Forest Development Fund (FDF). This fund together with other similar funds will be reinvested and support forest and Wildlife management efforts by Oromia Forest and Wildlife Enterprise, Bale & Arsi branch Forest Enterprises & CBOs,

- Benefit accrued from sale of wood products (lumber + firewood), Carbon Finance and trophy hunting is suggested to be shared at 40%:60% (of the net revenue) between CBOs and Oromia Forest and Wildlife Enterprise, Bale & Arsi branch Forest Enterprises. Of the revenue share 5% from each party, which means 10% altogether, should be reserved as FDF and Wildlife Development Fund (WDF) to be reinvested in forest/wildlife management,

- Income from sport fishing, eco-lodge and accompanying ecotourism operations will go to the River Association, who will be granted exclusive right. However, they should also assist the JFM scheme by paying tax of up to 5-10% of their net revenue for the FDF, and

C) Implementation Modality
- Establish the appropriate CBOs as suggested above, legalize these CBOs and build capacity of CBOs management in terms of financial administration, auditing, etc.,

- Negotiations on the suggested benefit sharing schemes and incorporate the agreement reached on benefits sharing clearly in Forest Management Agreement (FMA) to be signed.

- Establish FDF and WDF collection and administration unit within Oromia Forest and Wildlife Enterprise, Bale & Arsi branch Forest Enterprises and capacitate this unit with the necessary skill such as database management, accounting system, etc.

- Put in place a transparently functioning external and internal financial auditing system, and

- A board of governance that oversees the FDF and WDF to insure high transparency and grant community confidence is also suggested.

The results will be used as an input for PNRM negotiations, particularly with benefit sharing and implementation modes, including carbon funds, among the stakeholders – Oromia Forest and Wildlife Enterprise, Bale & Arsi branch Forest Enterprises and CBOs. The full report will be posted on the BERSMP website shortly.

4.5.3. Share Experiences on SF Mechanisms
Regional Bio-carbon workshop
BERSMP has co-organized a regional bio-carbon workshop titled “Bio-Carbon in Eastern & Southern Africa: Harnessing Carbon Finance to Promote Forestry & Bio-Energy” together with UNDP and FAO in April 2009 for policy-makers, Designated National Authorities (DNAs), NGOs and CDM project developers and other stakeholders. The aim of the workshop was:

- To raise awareness of the bio-carbon opportunities offered by the CDM/REDD,
- to enhance technical understanding of carbon finance,
- to create a ‘carbon community of interest’ in the region and
- to catalyse a CDM bio-carbon project pipeline
The four day workshop was attended by various countries and institutions working around carbon finance development and created an opportunity for future networking with the different organizations. BERSMP also financed the preparation of a workshop paper titled “Providing public goods through forestry: An enabling environment”.

4.5.4. Government capacity for sustainable financing built

In-house carbon advisor:
The development of the Bale REDD project requires further feasibility studies in order to secure investor commitment to finance technical development of the project. Considering the substantial financial investment of the BERSMP before such funding can be secured, a support consultant is sought that will act as an in-house Forestry Carbon Advisor, interfacing between BERSMP and Unique Forestry. This expert support in capacity building was also discussed and agreed during the 2008 year-end donor meeting. The consultancy service will be provided on an ad-hoc basis within 2009.

The Forestry Carbon Advisor is undertaking the following duties:
- Liaise between Unique, FARM/SOS and the Oromia State Forestry Agency to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of communications.
- Respond to issues of clarification from either side and to produce briefings on aspects of project design as and when required.
- Protect the best interests of BERSMP and the project developer OSFESA by keeping up to date with relevant forestry carbon market developments such as, standards, methodologies, monitoring and verification, and regulatory carbon market policy developments for forestry.
- Act as a representative for the Bale REDD project as appropriate and when required, in both the UK and overseas, to all stakeholders (investors, government, NGO and local communities) and attempting to manage stakeholder expectations.
- Provide short training sessions for BERSMP and OSFESA staff concerning aspects of Forestry carbon markets
- Develop the FARM/SOS Forestry Carbon Task Force.

Major activities during the year include:
- Critical clarification questions and comments on the work plan were discussed between the Forestry Carbon Advisor and Unique FC and the minutes of the meeting was circulated to all concerned in BERSMP and OSFESA
- Socio-economic data requirements and availability of data for carbon stocks in the region identified
- A draft concept note for Carbon Taskforce is prepared.

Carbon Task force:
In order to co-ordinate the relevant existing expertise within FARM-Africa/SOS Sahel and so that forestry carbon projects that meet climate change mitigation, adaptation, biodiversity conservation and sustainable development goals can be developed, the setting up of a forestry carbon taskforce is found to be necessary. It is expected that the interest in forestry carbon will grow in Ethiopia and FARM-Africa/SOS Sahel are well placed to engage with forestry carbon with existing expertise in community natural resource management and participatory forestry management. The trust, capacity and links that have been built up at the ground level will also prove vital when forestry carbon projects are initiated.
Looking at the long-term, carbon finance could bring considerable funding streams for continuation of FARM/SOS activities. The need for in house expertise, so as to reduce costs and reliance on external consultants, is therefore very useful. Based on this idea, a concept note for the setting up of the task-force has been drafted and is being discussed.

The Copenhagen Climate Summit
BERSM has financed the participation of two senior staff from government (Region and Federal levels) and one from NGO in the COP 15 meeting. The participants will be giving a briefing shortly on the outcomes and the implications for Bale and our country. It is hoped that the attendance at this climate discussions by these staff is useful to contribute to the promotion of carbon finance initiatives in Ethiopia.

Deforestation rates
As part of the setting up of the carbon model to calculate the expected emission reductions for each Woreda, deforestation rates for selected woredas has been calculated. This was done by using SPOT satellite images of three time periods: 1986, 2000 and 2006.

Papers presented on workshops
Presentations on experiences of BERMSP regarding carbon finance were delivered on three workshops during semester II.

4.6. Improved / appropriate legal, policy and regulatory frameworks for EcoRegion planning, CBNRM and protected areas

Policy Framework Study and Working Groups
Policy analysis – policy briefs produced

4.6.1 Framework Study and Working Groups
Since the working group regained its momentum in 2003-2004, it has been annually organized by the support of the various working group members and regional counterparts.

Though a number of points were raised and discussed in the 2008 meeting, the major decision made was that considering the increased interest on PFM in Ethiopia, and the participation of multiple regions (Amhara, Oromia and SNNPR), it was meaningful for the working group to be led by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MoARD) rather than the Oromia Regional Government. The meeting ended with BERSMP taking the responsibility of bringing MoARD on board.

Through discussions with the Ministry, BERSMP has successfully carried out its assignment and MoARD has agreed to take the lead by being the chair of the working group and thus have called this year’s meeting along with NTFP – PFM R&D project. It was with the MoARD assuming its lead role that the 2009 PFM-WG was successfully conducted in Jimma. BERSMP has further worked with the Ministry to develop a draft ToR for the working group which was discussed and enriched and to be endorsed by the Ministry taking into consideration the new EU-PFM initiatives.

Project presentations from various organizations were not only informative but also helpful in experience exchange. Discussions were made by workgroups on three selected crosscutting issues: Simplification of the PFM process, Community institutions, Scaling up PFM and formulated strategy and timeline for dealing with each.
Policy support

BERSMP has produced the third policy brief entitled “Diminishing Grazing and Grassland Resources: Lessons from Livestock Management in the Bale Mountains” in February 2009. This brief presents some key lessons concerning livestock management and grazing resources in the Bale Mountains based on the Livestock and Livestock Systems Study carried out by the BERSMP in 2007-8. This work was undertaken in recognition of the importance of livestock to local livelihoods and the escalating stress coming to bear upon their livestock management systems. The highlights of this study together with key issues of concern are presented in order to share our learning, and to inform land use and development decision makers at national, regional and local levels.

Forest development, conservation and utilization Regulation of Ethiopia

Based on a request from the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MoARD), the BERSMP has commissioned a consultant to produce the Forest Regulation for the forest proclamation. This is expected to emphasize on the issue of PFM in a more explicit way than as in the policy and proclamation thus paving the way for scaling up of PFM into more regions. A final draft of the document has now been distributed by the MoARD to concerned bodies including regional, federal institutions and NGO’s for comments. A consultation workshop is scheduled for beginning of January 2010.

BERSMP Website

All publications produced by BERSMP and other relevant ones are regularly uploaded on the BERSMP website www.pfmp-farmsos.org. A recent update has been made to the website.

Publications:

Based on request from the MoARD for the reprint of additional copies of the forest policy/proclamation booklet that was published earlier by the support from BERSMP, the document has been reprinted for further distribution by the Natural Resources Department of the MoARD.

A new BERSMP brochure has been published and a CD containing all important documents of Phase I is also produced.

An article on the New Agriculturalist

The September 2009 issue of the “New Agriculturalist” magazine has issued an article on the Bale REDD titled “Green light for Ethiopia's REDD project”. Here is the link for your reference: www.new-ag.info

5. Mid Term Review

A Mid Term Review (MTR) was carried out in April / May of the first semester. This activity is seen as critical in assessing the impact and progress of the programme. Considerable time was invested in the development of the Terms of Reference for the MTR study, tendering of the study and the selection of independent international / national consultants.

The MTR team was led by Nico Van Wargenigen, supported by Christopher Daley (PRNM) and Dr Dena Freeman (Livelihoods). The national consultant selected was Abebe Hiale (SW - NTFP Project). The team worked with BERSMP programme partners in Addis Ababa and in the field. The MTR visited all 4 priority woredas.

After a month in the field the MTR team presented their findings to a multi stakeholder workshop organized for one day. Discussion and debate centred around issues such as the delay to the publication of the Bale Eco-Region Plan, the recommendation to concentrate on forests as the key
resource of the Bale Mountains, and the recommendation to focus in on specific livelihood options. It was recommended that the BERSMP continue its work at the scale and following the Goal / Purpose and Outputs of the original Programme Document.

A full MTR Report and a summary MTR Report have been circulated to key stakeholders and are available from the BERSMP PNRM unit. The documents will be uploaded on to the Programme website in due course (see below).

6. Donors / GO / NGOS MTR Response

Feedback meetings have been held between the Donors / Government (OSFESA) and FARM-Africa and SOS Sahel Ethiopia. FARM/SOS presented their response to the MTR results and recommendations in a meeting held in June. The Donors also presented a number of issues that were of concern to them. OSFSA also gave their response to the MTR process and results, emphasising their interest in the gradual hand over of activities and right sizing of the work in order that the transition from NGO to government is effective.

It was generally accepted that the BERSMP was on the right track and that the Donor group would continue to give their full support to the set out operations, taking into account the MTR recommendations and their own points. The meeting was concluded with the agreement that the BERSMP team would present an outline of the revised BERSMP structure and activities to the Donor consortium in Mid August.
2.1.2. Enhancing Pastoralist Environmental Right and Livelihood in Borena and Guji Zones

1. Introduction

The Enhancing Pastoral Environmental and Livelihoods Right project (EPELP) has commenced in 2008 to improve the accessing of natural resource use right and livelihood of the pastoralist and agro-pastoralist communities through promoting participatory natural resource management system and commercializing NTFPs in Yabello, Arero and Liban districts of Borana and Gujii zones Oromiya regional state.

The project has built the resource ownership felling within the community to manage the forest sustainable and possessed resources use right in last two projects and on the first phase of EPERLD project. To access the right of use and exercise the management of the resources, participatory forest management plan and agreement revision has implemented in all forest areas. Capacity development in technical, financial and offices facilities have widely given to major forest management groups (FUGs and OFWEA). PFM plan and agreement have revised in the way it incorporating with the vision of newly established forest authority, Oromiya forest and wildlife enterprise agency (OFEWEA).

Likewise, the livelihood of predominant marginalized pastoralist/Agro-pastoralist community in Borana and Gujii which still rely on the utilization of natural resources nevertheless they possessed high potential of this vast natural resources have been minimally harassed for sustainable economic gain, and therefore has had little impact on the livelihoods opportunity for resident rural area communities.

The lack of well organized commercial structures and mutually beneficial trustworthy linkages between chain actors has led the inability of these communities not to reach rewarding regional, national and global markets. Significant capacity gaps exist in terms of the skill based in pastoralist and agro-pastoralist communities to manage business, organizational structure, and communication as well as the gain exposure, knowledge and expertise in NTFPs production including hone, value addition and need the market expectation.

Thus the project will develop the capacity of forest users group to participate in the whole range of tasks in production/collection, processing, value addition and marketing of bee products.

The aim of second year project is to ascertain the access of resources use right and diversify the livelihood of the forest dwellers pastoralist community through organizing pastoralist into bee product commercialization entity.
Objective 1: Secured access by pastoralist to the forest and other key dry land natural resources

1. Objective 1: PNRM plan developed and implemented (Outcome 1)

SOS Sahel had developed participatory forest resource management that contained four major resource management parts: Development, Utilization, protection and monitoring in past PFM project and agreed to implement with Pastoralist development office natural resource department. However due to devolving of the authority of forest management from pastoralist development office to Oromia forest and wildlife enterprise agency (OFWEA) there is a need to harmonize the PFMP with vision of newly established body. The revision helps both forest users group and OFWEA in managing the forest and clarifying thematic area of working with community as there are many governmental development offices that currently work on natural resource management.

Outcome result: 11 Forest blocks (7 in Yabello, 3 in Arero, and 1 in Liban) were revised and endorsed to implement.

1.1. Revised the previous forest management plan and produced one new management plan (Outcome Result 1)

1.1.2. Organize joint community OFWEA feedback workshop to validate the PNRM plan

Output result: 11 forest blocks participatory forest management plan documents revision was validated. The plan was duly accepted by OFESA to implement without any amendment.

On January 2009, intensive and wide ranges of community discussion meetings on participatory forest management plan revision were conducted with all forest impacting community and OFWEA. Likewise joint OFWEA and Community feedback consultant workshop has held at Yabello to validate the plan.

On the workshop most of the zonal, districts, and PA level governmental development workers, community representatives, Gada leaders were taken part on it. The revision of plan has benefited both OFWEA and community to implement the plan and rectify using right of the resources.

1.2. TOR developed on the role and responsibilities of various stakeholder involved in the PNRM (Outcome result 2)

Similar to PFM plan revision, due to devolvement of forest stewardship or authority from rural agricultural and pastoral development office to Forest enterprise, there is a need to revise the entire role and responsibility of forest management groups and introducing of new forest management body to others stakeholders particularly community to clarify with whom they work pertain to forest management. The agreement will held on the all three districts forest at block level in between community (FUGs) and OFWEA.

Outcome result: OFWEA and community (FUGs) signed forest management agreement document that contained the role, responsibility and revenue to implement PFMP collaboratively.
1.2.2. Organize consultant meeting to clarify the roles and mandate of FUGs and OFESA (Output Result 2)

Output result: 11 forest blocks forest management agreement documents (3 of Arero, 7 of Yabello and one of Liban forest blocks) were signed by implementers on the presence pf most forest management stakeholders.

1.2.2.1. Facilitate for the negations between forest user groups and OFESA to reach the benefit sharing agreement through sigend the agreement

The Gujii and Borana zone participatory natural resource agreement signing workshop were held on September 10 and November 17/2009 at Negelle and Yabello towns respectively. The agreement was made in between two major forest management stakeholders (Community and OFWEA) focusing on role, responsibility and revenue they owned on the cost of managing the forest. The agreement has helped to enter both parts into practicing participatory forest management plan and providing the community right of accessing environmental resources.

On the workshop, 107 participants which drawn from Gujii and Borana zone forest enterprise and supervisor agency, Borana zone forest enterprise and supervisions sub-office, Liban, Yabello and Arero forest supervision field offices, Borana –Guji zones Admin, Borana –Guji PDO, Borana – Gujii Land uses and env’tal protection, Borana –Guji coop promotions, Borana –Guji women affairs, Yabello person offices, Liban, Arero and Yabello Admins, Liban, Arero and Yabello PDOs, Liban, Arero and Yabello Coop promotions, Liban, Arero and Yabello police, Liban, Arero and Yabello prosecutors, Liban, Arero and Yabello women and child affairs, Liban, Arero and Yabello land uses and envr’tal protection offices, Liban, Arero and Yabello natural resources desks, Liban, Arero and Yabello FUGs (Community, 2 person from each forest block, Gada leaders, leaders of forest cooperatives) were taken part on it.

1.3. Expected Result 3: Appropriate Silvi-Culture Schools become Function (Out come 3)

Based on idea generated from the community on the course of forest management, three silvo-pastoral demonstration sites will be established to promote sustainable management of forest plant and animals (livestock) could instantaneous managed and provided high production of animal’s fodders and suitable forest production. Training will provide in silvo-pastoral concepts to develop the skill of forest managements system.

Outcome result: One silvo-pastoral demonstration site was established at Yabello Gombo Gudo forest blocks on the November 8/2009

1.3.1. Provide support to the establishment of farmers/silvo-pastoral field schools (Out put result 1)

Output result: One newly demonstration site that contained three treatments (Fully open and exploited as usual pastoral land uses system, partially and/or seasonally grazed system and fully protected) was established at Yabello Gombo Gudo forest blocks on the November 8/2009 by OFWEA experts on the presence adjacent community.

Baseline survey for demonstration site was collected from all three treatments

The awareness creation on concept on Silvo pastoralist field school was made by forest experts and natural resource advisor on the past first year of the project. Based on this the project entitled "Enhancing Pastoral Environmental Livelihood Right-BG" constituted an establishment of three Pilot Silvo-pastoral/ pastoralists' field schools in three target woredas (Yabello, Liban and Arero)
after thoroughly discussion with community (FUGs) with an intention to serve as a forest
demonstration site on January 2008.

However, due features of forest management that takes time, financial and efforts and minimizing
the risky incurred as result of its management, the demonstration site establishment method were
revised to practice on one plot initially and disseminate the result that gained at end of it. Based on
this, the first demonstrating site where established at Yabello forest area after thoroughly discussion
and visiting were made in forest areas Gombo-Gudo forest block. Selection of site was based on
optimal production of animal’s feeds and sustainable forest management.

Demarcation were held using GPS to know where it situated exactly. Baseline serving were
conducted at all treatments (Fully open and exploited as usual pastoral land uses system, partially
and/or seasonally grazed system and fully protected) to evaluate the out put of demonstration site
through comparing and contrasting the implementation in the presence of impact community.

1.3.2. Organize training to FUGS in basic farmers/ silvo -pastoral concept and running
silvo-pastoral field schools (Output result 2)

Output result: TOT training on silvo-pastoral management system has been provided for district level forest and
wildlife experts and project staffs on December 11 and 12 2009. Three project and 2 forest and wildlife field office
heads were engaged with training.

The design and method of conducting the demonstration area were briefly explained to the adjacent
community on the second days of the training. More than 68 adjacent community members were
attended on the orientation.

Training has compressed both theoretical and practical aspects which more part of it has conducted
on the field. The OFESA who took full in managing silvo- pastoral trial has planned to develop
training manual and provide training for in and adjacent forest dwellers.

2. Objective III: Pastoralist livelihood diversified and improved through
commercialization of NTFPs (Outcome Result 1)

3.1. Pastoralist organized in to commercial entity (Output result 1)

The pastoralist has high potential and vast natural resources that could be diversify and improve the
livelihood of this community. However the lack of well organized commercial structures and link
between chain actors has led to the inability of these communities to reach rewarding regional,
national, and global market.

Outcome result: Nine forest blocks pastoralists’ communities were organized and register as commercial entity
under 9 forest cooperatives.

3.1.1. Provide technical support to recognize and legally register into coops

3.1.1.1. Organize Nine business cooperatives and a union by the pastoralist
beekeepers

Result: 9 Bee keeping commercialization groups were organized in 9 forest cooperatives. Each group has possessed
their leader and product purchasing committee which is additional to existed forest executive and other committees.

Result: 8 cooperatives were initiated to unit with electing of their board members (five persons from each cooperative),
elected executive committee and product purchasing and inspection, contribute sharing and registration money, open
bank account etc
Table 2.1.2.1. Summary of all cooperative members and group size

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.N</th>
<th>Forest Block</th>
<th>Name of cooperative</th>
<th>Group size</th>
<th>Size of members</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Obada forest</td>
<td>Latu Obda</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Gombo Gudo</td>
<td>Gadisa Gombo Gudo</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Yubdo</td>
<td>Gadisa Yubdo</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Jijidu</td>
<td>Kayo Jijidu</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Gombo Diqho</td>
<td>Choqorsa Ganya</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>71</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Meti</td>
<td>Qalicha Metti</td>
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<td>Nyaro</td>
<td>Qubsa Obda</td>
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<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Haro-dimtu –Mata gafarsa</td>
<td>Latu Arero</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>52</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Mankubsa</td>
<td>Biftu Manqubsa</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>142</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td><strong>Total size of group and beneficiaries</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>58</strong></td>
<td><strong>613</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Process of organizing bee keeping group:**

At the beginning of intervention, the project has discussed with all forest impacting community to promote honey product development in organizing them into groups (cooperatives). Similarly the strategies of organizing bee product development on the forest impacting area were discussed with zonal and district level cooperative promotion offices.

This was done because in past PFM project, 11 primary forest cooperatives were established by the project to diversify the livelihood of forest dwellers community. The major objective and plan of these cooperatives is to provide service of credit and saving for its groups members based on their agreement. On their bylaw they possessed the possibility of producing bee products on article 2 sub-article J never the less they lack any type of business plan to commercialize the products.

Therefore based on the comments gained from community and coop promotion offices, 9 bee products that contained 58 groups were organized under 9 forest cooperatives.

**Fig. 1.1.2.1. Traditional bee swarming prooe by pastoralsits after project intervention**
Rational set up for organizing under forest cooperatives

- The new planned bee cooperative was planned to implement in the same site where forest cooperative were organized in and on the same peoples.
- In bylaw of forest cooperatives there is an article that allow to implement bee keeping when ever they deemed
- All cooperatives has possessed their capital at list to start the business instead of finding credit for cooperatives
- All concerned cooperatives were already legalized by coop promotion office
- Still all cooperative has scarcely working on their capital except providing service as credit and saving to their members.

3.1.1.2. Train 75 bee keepers on coops business management, account, beekeeping

Result: 32 beekeepers were trained on cooperative business management system for two consecutive days stating from August 31 to Sept 01/2009 at Yabello town. The trainees were gathered from nine (9) cooperatives (4 from Liban, 4 From Arero and 24 from Yabello of seven cooperatives). Out of 32 trainees five (5) of them were women.

The training is mainly focused on sound financial management: bookkeeping, resource handling and accountability of coops members in both financial and human resources management. The training has further benefit union leaders and its members all of the trainees who took the training are coops members who elected for union leaders.

3.1.1.3. Support the establishment of comb honey for nine cooperatives

Result: product collecting, handling, processing etc were purchased both for coops and central processing area.

This activity has planned to establish nine comb honey collection centers use for bee products collection and storing uses for temporary period to time for organized nine cooperatives. However, due allocated budget for construction and from point of sustainable forest management view, the activity has bee delivered in way it supports the cooperatives to supply quality bee products.

1. Constructing house with allocated budget (5000 Et. birr/per house) is incredible due current status of the country economy where the cost of every construction materials is untouchable.
2. Through community participation. It will lead to forest devastation particularly on Yabello forest where seven cooperatives are located around it.
3. The house could provide service only for particular period time which is one or two month during product purchasing time.

Based on this, honey and other bee products collecting and transporting equipments such as Roto of different sizes, basin, scale, etc, were recruited and distributed for all cooperatives. Like with support in renting temporary ware house has been arranged until the cooperative stand by two legs. With this special attention was given to Negelle cooperatives due its distance from center processing points. Nagelle is far 400 KM from Yabello town to organize as union with other 8 cooperatives.
3.1.1.4. Facilitate for legal certification of coops

Result: all forest cooperatives were legalized

To implement the planned activity smoothly and make legalize, the project has initially discussed with both zonal and woredas cooperative promote offices on how best to implement the activity. With this they offered their comments to carry out the bee product development activity under forest a cooperative which is already legalized by cooperative office on the same area planned to organize bee keeping. Therefore the process of legalizing the cooperative has solved with this consensus as all forest cooperatives possessed their legal entity.

3.1.2. Organize exchange visit

Result: 18 cooperatives leaders and government partners (11 community members, 3 cooperative offices experts and 4 project staffs) visited Angusta bee products development association at Amabara region starting from June 28-July 05/ 2009. Out of 18 visitors four (4) of them are women. Including journey eight days experience sharing visiting was made on commercial bee product development, product supplying chain and processing method and center, marketing and cooperative management system of the association. The visiting included both field: contacting farmer on field, observing type of bee hives and its management, resource for bee, bee colony, farmer interview etc, cooperative office: product collecting, handling, processing, labeling, marketing, etc

3.1.2.1. Provide technical support for the union

3.1.2.2. Train the coop representative on the need of union formation

Result: Based on this, the eight (8) forest cooperatives have agreed to unite and precede their business collaboratively. They also developed commenced the development of business plan for both cooperatives and union

- capacitate the established forest cooperatives on the importance of involving into trading and organizing in union, the cooperative promotion office along with project has provided a wide range of awareness creation on the need of organizing cooperatives into union.
- Likewise one day discussion workshop was held at Yabello. 49 coops members executives committee drawn from seven forest cooperatives have taken part on the meeting and reached to the consensus of uniting under one umbrella after thoroughly discussed the benefits, and impact working in collaboration.

3.1.2.3. Facilitate for the union formation

- Union Board members that contained 40 persons were elected
- Union executive and other comities were elected
- Union name and business brand, where designated
- Sharing and registration fee were collected
- set up union bylaw
- Office furniture’s, working documents and stamp were produced
- Bank Account was opened
- Provided training on business management and marketing for 45( 35 men and 10women)
Once either the primary cooperatives established and strengthened that should developed with the minimum of beaurocracy including an agreed basic institution and list of the approved members to coop. A proactive partnership can then be secured through memorandum of understand between the main actors. To put effective coordination mechanism among the coops; the union should be structured and strengthening in managing their organization and finical aspect to achieve the necessary of the organizational to operate successfully and efficiently as commercial gentility.

Accordingly the project organized a training workshop for 45 elected primary forests cooperative members in December 2009. The participants of this meeting were drawn from 9 forest coops (35 of Yabello, 5 Arero and 5 Liban). They are the members of union that could serve the union on the behalf their cooperative.

The training focused on how cooperative can run business activities at different stage, developing integration among different cooperatives from different operational areas, how to make coops (union) competent in central and international market, establishing central for coops to encourage and render market information for different locality etc.

On top of this, marketing management, purchasing principle role and procedure of purchasing were provided for trainers.

With this the participants were nominate their name (union name) “Borana Honey Producers Coops union”, elect board members (executive committee), purchasing committee, proclaiming share to be sold by union, share price, registration fee (500) and refining bylaw of the union in preparing stamp by their name, brand (BEE) and developing internal bylaw.

3.1.2.4. Facilitate for the legal certification of the union

The process to legalize the union has been recently started and will be completed in the next fiscal year.

3.2.1. Organic Honey production, handling and processing technologies improved (Output result 2)

To enable the beneficiaries to produce standardized quality of honey and bee products, honey production/extracting, handling, value adding, etc trainings will be given to coop members. Improved beehives that have already tested and accepted will be introduced as model and adjacent in the context of environment and bee colony.

Output result: Acacia Honey were avail in Yabello town

3.2.1.1. Introduce improved beehives that have been tested

Result: 258 improved Kenya top bar beehives were produced
Result: 113 hives were distributed to the elected beneficiaries (24 are women)
The hive was fabricated after its conduciveness to local climate, size of colony, etc has bee thorough studied by experts in consultation with community and field practice. Unlike the previous adopted Kenya top bar beehives, the investigated size of this hive is small in both size and volume.

Considering its distribution, the cooperative members have set up the criteria for those who get the hive on the first round. Gender equity has set up one of the criteria.

Further to support the groups in producing better quantity and quality of bee products currently the project has produced 145 Kenya top bar bee hive which distributed for coop members at end of December. This has increased the total numbers beneficiaries from 113 to 548.

Increasing the amount of bee hives help women to participate on bee management and marketing. On the top producing quality honey products, it reduces time of extracting honey and challenge in climbing of tree. It also uses as model to produce prototype of Kenya top bar from locally available materials to increase the amount of production.

3.2.1.3. support the construction and equipping of two honey processing centers

3.2.1.3.1. Support the construction of central process and storage facilities

Result: Bee products collection and processing center is constructing at Yabello town.

Honey and bee products collection and processing centers has been constructing on 1020 ha of land at Yabello town. Currently this construction of warehouse has completed 90% and expected to finalize in mid of January month. Additionally almost all of bee products collecting and processing equipments, offices furniture, documents etc for this center were recruited and waiting for warehouse accomplishment. Bee product collection, storing, processing, packing and labeling center

Constructing the center and equipped with processing equipments will enhance the confident of coops members in providing quality products at central points where they confidently collect, store, processing and sale their products. Likewise they promote the sale of product through adding value to the processed products that further promote their products and increase the prices.

All coops members and other adjacent community who participated in bee keeping and the around Yabello area town dwellers have benefited as it is the sole processing center in the area even though 8 cooperatives will be benefited directly from centers.

3.2.1.3.2. Support coops and the union to be equipped with the food graded materials and equipments

Result: All products collecting, handling, storing, processing, packing and labeling materials and equipments and bee colony managing tools were distributed to 9 cooperatives.

Product value adding materials and processing equipments were purchased based on developed business plan. The equipments like honey purification and packing materials use for central processing area whereas most of collecting and handling materials purchased for sub-central product collecting area. Those materials has already delivered to all 9 cooperatives and providing service for
primary cooperatives. Likewise bee product extracting materials were distributed to cooperatives in order to extract the product without hurting bee colony.

3.2.2. Support for honey packaging and labeling

**Result:** 42 (36 coops members, 3 coop promotion offices, 3 FWEA) persons engaged in honey processing, packing and labeling training that held on December 26 and 27 at Yabello town. (5 of them are women)

Honey processing and packing has been planned to conduct concurrently during the extraction of honey season so that the community could exercise the processing method using adopted honey process technology on the spot. Where as the labeling materials (sticking paper and jars) were already arranged by project.

Training was conducted in two sessions (Theatrical and practices) for two days. The participant were drawn from (Liban, Arero and Yabello district forest cooperatives, cooperative promotion offices and forest and wildlife district offices)

3.2.2.3. Training and skill development honey production, harvesting and processing for 225 coops members

**Result:** 192 community members drawn from nine (9) forest cooperatives were trained on bee keeping management system (148 men & 44 women).

**Result:** 9 Honey product development community action plan were produced

The training was provided in three sessions. The first one that involved members elected from seven forest cooperatives was held starting from 23/06/2009 at Yabello, the second was held in June beginning from 12-14/06/2009 at Negelle town and the third was held in July 2009 at Matagafarsa town.

The training focused on bee colony management, bee hive management and bee transferring, domesticating wild bee, product identification and management, manufacturing of model Kenya top bar bee hive from locally available materials etc. It was supported both by video show and demonstration of honey products like purified honey, honey with wax, different wax product, pollen etc

At the end of every trainings, the trainees have developed bee product development community action plan that enable them to enter in to work and uses for monitoring their ongoing activity. With this they learnt how to produce prototype of Kenya top bar bee hive from locally available materials.

3.3. Access to organic, fair-trade and conventional markets created (Output 3)

To encourage the cooperatives further, on the management resources and marketing technical support has crucial in developing market and business plan, identifying locally existed credit services and linking with them, and provision training on different topics that improve quality and quantity of products.
3.1. Formulate market and business development plan

3.3.1.1. Support for the development of strategic and short term businesses plan for the nine coops and a union to access and apply for credit service

**Result:** Nine cooperatives and one union (communal) bee product development business plan were developed

To practice bee products as commercialization, all cooperatives and one union five years bee keeping businesses plans have been developed and approved by cooperatives members on general assembly. The plan helps all cooperatives to request for credit (if they demand money to run their business) from available micro credit agency, enterprise etc existed in the area.

The plans of all cooperatives are attached to their bylaw and delivered to district cooperatives office (Liban, Arero and Yabello). Similarly the business plan developed as union was attached to their specific cooperative business plans so that every cooperative explore the plan as deem raised. On top of this the union business plans including cooperatives were compiled in the form of document and arranged to deliver for all concerned body.

**Facilitate improved access to rural financial and micro-credit**

**Inject the union with community development fund**

To purchase products developed by coop members both at primary and union level, the cooperatives should empower with financial and avail in market information. Locally existed micro finance credit services should be identified and linked with cooperatives to get the access of the credit. Likewise the system of managing the grants in way to benefit women developed. Accordingly, 72,000 Eth, birr credit were provided for nine cooperatives though local micro finance institute.

Right after the development of cooperatives and union business development plan the project assessed micro-credit services that provide credit services to the area. Except micro-enterprise offices that works in organizing poor community members on small trade, no any institution which provide credit service neither for individual nor in group.

Understanding this, the project has revised some of its activities and facilitated community fund in consultation with donor. The credit was given for 9 cooperatives through singing memorandum of understanding on the presence of cooperative promotion offices, Admin and forest users groups (Gada, cooperatives, PFM groups etc). The credit has planned to pay back at one year period time. The money helped the entire cooperatives to purchase honey for the first time.

**III. The unforeseen consequences and its impact**

The project has faced two major and highly fascinated activities during the course of silvo-pastoral demonstration site establishment and organizing pastoralist into commercialization entity implementation.

1. The planning considered establishing of silvo-pastoralist demonstration sites as single activity that could be implemented within short period of time. However, due to future of forest resources management and sketched activity the activity was investigated to be implemented slowly for more than five years. Thus it has a negative implication on planned budget and implementing time.

2. Organizing and legalizing both cooperative and union simultaneously and instantly in one year period has impact pertain to implementing time. Union should have to come through long process after the primary cooperatives organized firmly.
IV. Provision of support from Funding Partner (NPA)

To enable the smoothly running of the planned activities in context of Pastoralist environment and monitoring system to follow up the ongoing activity as scheduled the donor has provided training support on establishing monitoring system for seven consecutive date.

The training has helped to revise our ongoing activities and planning for the third years of the project on the top of establishing project monitoring system.

V. The extent has the project been implemented in cooperation with other local authority, and other accordance with their plan?

SOS Sahel has tremendous and strong experience in working with government and other development actors (NGOs) to bring a significant impact on working area. As usual pertain to this project; the project has strong cooperation with Oromia forest and wildlife enterprise and district cooperation promotion offices as major government partners. Similarly it has been working with other identified 16 forest management stakeholders such as Admin office, land uses and environmental protection, pastoralist development office, court, police etc and other NGOs.

VII. the report shall indicate how the project has related to gender equality, HIV/AIDS and climate-, and environment concern

SOS Sahel has strong believed that the impossibility of any development without gender equity. The organization has worked all development in respect to gender balance. The participation and presentation of women in all development corners and meeting has intentionally considered.

In all election and participation work always women participation was given 2 out of five, where as in presentation still they elected on post managerial. For instance the vase chair man of the union is women. Thus the project has intensively worked on empowering women through increasing their presentation in all development corridor and participation on leading role.

VIII. Monitoring visit -there was planned visit by the project staff and other development partners over the fiscal year took On Mid of February 2010

IX. Variance note if there is discrepancy between planned and achieved activities.

Most of the second year second semester plan has been planned a bite ambitiously. It is just like 'cargo is being ahead of horse'. Intervening bee keeping and product development takes time even in well aware farmers leave alone the pastoralist community to manage bee properly and enter into fair-trade, certified in producing organic honey etc.

Therefore, those activities has been revised and changed in way that it supports the cooperatives to bring significant change and paves the way to the development of organic and fair trade and marketing.

X. Main Problems Encountered During the Implementation of the Project

- Drought problem that prevails for a long within the intervention areas
- Ethnic conflicts mainly in the Arero project implementation area
- Delay in signing an agreement with relevant government partners
- Displacement due to severe drought and ethnic conflicts to implement activity timely
2.1.3. Ensuring Secured Access and Sustainable Use of Land and Environmental Resources in Lake Hawassa Catchment project

1. Background to the project

SOS Sahel Ethiopia had commissioned study of Hawassa lake catchments by GIS specialists and economists before four year. The result of the study clearly showed that the Hawassa Lake, which has multidimensional significance not only for the region but for the whole country is in a threatening situation. In addition, the Hawassa lake catchment kebeles around Lake Hawassa are under enormous danger. The organization made efforts to develop project proposal to curb the situation around the lake Hawassa catchments and managed to secure fund from the Norwegian People’s Aid.

Ensuring secured access and sustainable use of land and environmental resources in Awassa lake catchments project secured its fund from Norwegian Peoples Aid (NPA). The total fund secured from the donor and allocated for the implantation of preparatory phase is 505,305 NOK. And the project period is from August 2009-December 2009. In this preparatory phase the main activities which were planned are those that lay foundation for the activities that expected to be implemented in the coming two years.

The six kebeles that have been targeted are Shamena Garmama, Shamena Hurufa, Udo Wotate, labu koromo, kajima umbulo, Beke Lalima. The total number of people living in these catchments is estimated to be 29466. The population in the six intervention kebeles are expected to be 29466 and The total household in the kebeles are 4913. The average family size is ranges from 4 to 10 from one kebele to another. And the average family size in the six kebeles is 6 children. Almost all the head of the households are male except some widows,

2. Accomplishments of the Project

The accomplishments indicted here are only the preparatory phase that is as of August1, 2009-December 30, 2009.

2.1. Action plan development

The project had already developed major activities that have to be accomplished during the project proposal development. In this action plan development detail activity plan to be worked out at each kebeles has been developed in consultation with the community and the woreda government. Accordingly the project has developed the action plan at each kebele and has compiled in aggregate as shown in under each output.

2.2. Baseline survey

Base line survey of the project area is necessary for two reasons. First for development of database in the six kebeles and most importantly the base line survey helps to evaluate the impact that would be brought as a result of the intervention of the project and so that the significance of the project is judged accordingly. Hence for this purpose the organization has commissioned the DALTA consult to study baseline and produce document with in one month and. Accordingly the consultant has accomplished the study and compiled the report and submitted to the organization. See annex

1Though the project has been operational as of August 2009, meanwhile it is under revision and negotiation with the funding partner; NPA on the overall aim and expected results.
2.3. Action research on Lake Water Quality

Action research was conducted to know the level of Hawassa lake pollution and develop mitigation mechanism. Hawassa Lake is not only being threatened by siltation that may result in dry up of the lake but also it has been exposed to pollutions due to its proximity to the effluents of factories. To study of the level of pollution and develop mitigation mechanism the organization has commissioned the study to be done by five consultants, who have rich experience in action research and develop mechanism for environmental rehabilitation and pollution abatement. The consultants have accomplished most of their task except some experts that will stay till January 30. Hence they have submitted first draft of the report to the organization for comment. They submit final report at the end of January.

2.4. Develop use right procedure and certify the hill side of the area and so that the area is Managed and used in a sustainable way.

A common property resource is main cause of the degradation of lands in the country in general and project area in particular. Common property resources are no bodies’ property and everybody’s resource at the end. It opens access to every one. The presence or absence of the exclusivity has some important implications for many economic issues. With private property rights, market will allocate resources efficiently. However, in the use of common property resources market mechanism does not lead to efficient allocation and hence some intervention is needed because no one can prevent others from using the resources.

Hence the project plan in this preparatory phase was to develop the usufruct procedure and certify the area for a given individual and so that the common property resource is turned to be private resource. In this preparatory phase the project had planned to develop use right procedure and certify the area to a given group. To do this repeated discussion was made with the community, zonal and woreda government and finally consensus was reached to distribute the communal hill side land to the youths who has no land and no other income source. Accordingly the youths were screened by the woreda and the community representatives and the hillside land measured and given to them as shown in the following table.

Table 2.1.3.1. Hill side area certified

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Name of kebele</th>
<th>Area allotted (ha)</th>
<th>No. of youth</th>
<th>remark</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Labu koromo</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>301</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Umbulo kajima</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>185</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Udo wotate</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>204</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Shamana hurufa</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>155</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Shamana garmam</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>371</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Beke Lalima</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>198</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>716</td>
<td>1414</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Selection of youth beneficiaries to distribute closure areas followed all legal procedures of both the project and the government. The woreda technical committee (TC) did this screening with full involvement of the kebele administration and the community. Initially the list of youth brought to the project by Kebele administration and sent back for approval at the whole community gatherings in each kebele. After long discussion the community identified youth who could be eligible to own
the closure, it is then signed by the kebele leader, Kebele youth league leader, kebele land administration and use committee leader, kebele manager, kebele rural development representative, and DAs. It is after this long process that the final list of youth submitted to the woreda officials who are directly responsible for certification and the user right procedure is finally approved by the woreda ARDO head, Woreda youth and sport head, Woreda EPLAU team leader. After all these process the hill side areas that amounts to 716 hectares of land has been given to youths and certified by EPLAU process.

Usufruct procedure was primarily prepared by SOS Sahel before 10 years in North wollo Meket woreda. The major objective was to create owner ship for communally owned and most abused degraded hillsides. The procedure was successfully implemented in the selected hillsides and the government took it as part of its development approaches in Amhara region. Then, after the establishment of Environmental Protection Land Administration and Use (EPLAU) Authority in the region the procedure revised and reorganised to fit with the land certification criteria of the authority. It is this procedure again revised and adapted to the condition of Southern Region rural land use policy and forest reclamation regulations and used to distribute communal hill sides for landless youth in the six kebeles of Hawasa Zuria Woreda. The procedure mainly contains

- Application letter of the group/individuals
- List of beneficiaries
- Names of the group leaders and their duties and responsibilities
- confirmation of kebbele signatories
- The right and obligations of the beneficiaries
- Approval of the woreda signatories
- Management plan of the closure area.

The application letter is prepared by groups and sinned by group leaders and sent to Kebele administrators. And after the kebeles administrator approved the application it is sent to woreda signatories (ARDO, Woreda Youth and sport office and EPLAU process). The kebeles administrators and DAs crosscheck the reality of the closure area, base map and development Map before sending to woreda. Base map is the map that shows the existing situation of the land and while development map shows what the area would look like after the area is developed.

To effectively use the land there is obligation of each benefice (group member) that is stipulated on their management plan. Accordingly the following are duties and responsibilities of each beneficiary.

1. protect the land from soil erosion
2. based on the management plan to participate on the actions of area development
3. Rehabilitating the degraded land based on the plan of the group. If the group fail to comply with the management plan approved, the group is denied the use right and the land is given to others. And in the same way if the individual doesn’t comply with the group’s bylaw he/she is also denied membership.
4. Existing indigenous species are by any means cut and used.
5. the group protects the area from animal and illegal use and interference
The group will get the following benefits from the closure area:

1. they can use non forest product like grass, fruits and other
2. they have right to exclude non beneficiaries to use any benefit from that area
3. they have inheritance right to their relatives when dies
4. they can produce perennial crops that doesn’t harm the ecology of the closure
5. They can use the closed area for income generating activities like beekeeping, Jatropha processing etc.

Management plan of the closed area includes the following aspects:
The objective of the area closure, type and amounts of tree to be planted, way of guarding the area, way of using the area products, the required support from external and from the members, base map and development map etc.

2.5. Stakeholder workshop

The objective of the Stakeholder Workshop is to officially launch the project. Earlier the contract has been signed with the pertinent government sector. The overall objective of the project is to establish institutional arrangements for inclusive, equitable, and sustainable systems for natural resources governance that reconciles human action with long term environmental sustainability. The project aims to achieve its purpose and contribute the overall objective through promotion of Community Based Natural Resources Management, increasing access and ownership of land resources by the local communities, diversifying income generation opportunities, and evidence based policy communication.

One of the activities that were planed for the preparatory phase was to identify key stakeholders and sign memorandum of understanding with the key stakeholders and so that the implementation of the project will be in collaboration with all pertinent stakeholders. Accordingly, the stakeholder workshop was organized to create a platform for key government shareholders/ policy makers, communities and relevant Non-Government Organizations to identify and agree on the key stakeholders roles and responsibilities, clarify institutional mechanisms to achieve high level of integration and synergy, and establish a firmer ground for smooth implementation of the project and future replication and expansion of successful technologies and approaches, essentially in integrating into government programme/ extension system. To make this objective effective the project made effort to contact the stakeholders before the workshop was conducted to search out the idea of the stakeholders. The stakeholders believed that organizing workshop and to discuss upon institutional arrangement and stakeholder analysis was found to be imperative. Accordingly the important stakeholders were invited to the workshop in Yiragalem, FURRA institutes as of October 12, 2009-13, 2009.

The participants of the workshop were drawn from government sectors, NGOs, communities and colleges and research institutions.
2.5.1. Papers presented on the workshop

To share experience from each other different papers were presented on the workshop and discussion was made with the participants. The following papers were presented on the workshop.

- **Hawassa lake catchments study** – the presentation the danger of the catchments areas and fate of the people there was visualized vividly. As result of the this presentation the participant could be able to conceptualize the problems in and around lake Hawassa, and all convinced that integrated effort is required to curb the danger laying head.

- **Project presentation** – by explaining what the project ‘Ensuring Secured Access and Sustainable use of Land and Environmental Resources in Lake Hawassa Catchments’ is all about, the donor, the total budget, the project life and the major activities of the output and expected results.

- **SOS Sahel Amhara region experience** - The SOS Sahel work experiences in other regions like Amhara Specially in Meket woreda was presented in the presentation the community based integrated watershed management and land users right was stated

- **Presentation on SLMP and PSNP** – a representative from the SNNPR Bureau of agricultural and Rural Development presented what the bureau has been practicing till now and its major experiences and positive and negative impacts of its activities SLM projects and PSNP

- **Land administration and utilization proclamation** - The last presentation was about the proclamation that clarifies the land administration and land utilization. The lesson learned and impacts of the proclamation were thoroughly discussed.

- **Stakeholder identification and institutional arrangement** - The workshop was finalized by defining the key primary stakeholders and by developing institutional arrangement for smooth implementation of the project. Accordingly the key stakeholders of the project as identified by the participants were mentioned as follows.

As a result of the workshop the following outputs have been achieved

- Common understanding developed about the project
- Institutional arrangements made.
- Key stakeholders identified and their roles and responsibilities defined.
- MOU signed
Lessons and Challenges

Lessons

- Transparency with the government and community created good relation and affect the achievements of the project positively
- Smooth start up of projects leads to good relation with regional, zonal and woreda government and build strong trust on the organization, this helps the organization for its future undertakings
- Usufruct procedure and FLIWM developed by the organization was seen as a good asset for the woreda government as they are starting to use the method for other kebeles
- The project was as invite in that it enables landless youth to get land.
- Innovative NRM methodologies are highly appreciated by the government if they are supported with tangible and adaptable evidences

Challenges

- Underestimation of budget in some activities created inconvenience at the begging of the project implementation but later solved after budget revision.
2.2. Smallholder and Pastoral Food Security Projects

2.2.1. Pastoralist Food Security Partnership Project (PFSPP)

1. Background

This was one of food security project implemented in partnership with Action for Development in four Woredas and 14 pilot PAs. It has succeeded in putting the community at the centre of natural resources mapping and community action plans by working in close partnership with the local Government Line Departments, traditional Institutions and social groups. This project helped the community to realize and understand their existing resources and potential which have supported improvement in communities’ livelihoods and as well to know their rights and obligations to conserve manage and use their resources in sustainable way.

The mapping and community action plan practice has become a strong initiative for the local people to sustainably manage and utilize the resources in which the livelihood depends. The project has also helped the community to identify productive plant species that have potential to produce different natural products (Aloe, Gum, Resins/Incense, Myrrh or “Qumbi” and scent wood), which can serve as the source of income generation. The project greatly contributed in water development through rehabilitation of traditional water wells and ponds, facilitated Waleensu – Wachile expansion of motorized water scheme through the community action planning and mapping exercise.

The mid-term evaluation in June 2008, confirmed that the project had achieved its purpose and done so effectively and efficiently in promoting inclusive, equitable and sustainable systems for conservation and management of natural resources. However further external support will be needed to strengthen established commercial entities and market development that gives significant opportunities to target communities to sell their products.

1. Major Achievements

- Seven PA’s NR maps were translated to GIS and distributed for the PA administration, GOLD
- Fourteen PA’s atlases were developed and disseminated for the PA administration, GOLD
- Power tool training was provided for 45 community representatives selected for presentation of CAP from nine PA’s
- Four community action plan presentation dialogue workshops were supported
- Twelve community action plan working documents were translated to ‘Afaan Oromo” and disseminated for the end users
- Two demonstration and experimentation sites were identified for the range land management experimentation work
- Two PTD groups working on the experimentation sites were established
- Three experimental “kalo” opening days were supported
- Four INRMB’s quarterly reflection meetings were supported
- Training on Aloe soap making was provided for community beneficiaries, GOLD staffs and project staffs
- Training was provided for gum and incenses and scent wood cooperatives and GOLD staffs in collection, handling and processing of the product
A community seed fund of 175,000 was transferred to seven groups/cooperatives account as startup capital.

Construction of two workshops for “Fuldowa” and D/Badana Aloe soap making groups with community participation (labour, wood, sand and stone) is underway.

A team composed of project staff, community and government representative have made an exchange visit “Kenya” to get lesson in Aloe soap making and gum and incenses.

2. Detail Accomplishments Report

Result-1. Optimal Use of Natural Resources

1.1. Natural Resources mapping and translation to GIS

1.1.1. Translate seven community drawn resource maps into GIS maps

Translation of seven pilot project areas communities and drawn map into GIS was completed in for seven PA’s of Dirre woreda. Printing of A1 and A3 size maps and atlas for 14 PA’s, including the other seven PA’s of which their mapping and translation has been carried out so far, were completed. The maps were distributed for Zone and district pastoral and agricultural development office and PA administration in on the community action plan presentation workshop. The maps and the atlases include the detail report for the proper resource management developed by the experts in collaboration with the project officers and counter government parties.

1.2. Natural Resource Management Plans

1.2.1. Provide power tool training

Power tool training, using the IIED ‘power tool’ methodology, was provided for 45 community representatives drawn from 9 PA’s, government line departments including DA’s and development facilitators of AFD aiming to increase their presentation capacities by customize them with development languages and approached to be used for the presentation of their respective community action plans to government bodies and other potential development actors for five days. The training has also focused in understanding and use of the five capitals (human, financial, physical, natural and social capitals) which are basically used for planning development works. Pursuant to delay created in conducting CAP presentation workshop vis-a-vis the training time and missing of potential numbers of the PA’s presenters a refreshment training was provided for community representatives come from ‘Gobso’, ‘Megaddo’ and ‘Dillo’ PA’s on the “power tool” methodology for five days.

1.2.2. Organise CAP presentation and dialogue workshop

The aim of the CAP presentation dialogue workshop was to encourage and coordinate the efforts of the community and optimize the multiplier effects of mapping and community action planning so as to encourage the involvement of other development actors in using the map and action plans developed by the community to address priority issues unable to be covered by the project and others demanding more effort than the project can deliver. Subsequently Yabello (2PA) Dirre (7PA) and Arrero (3PA) districts community action plan presentation was supported in three sessions. 113 community representatives drawn from 12 PA, zone and the district counter government bodies, invited NGO’s and other institutions took part in the CAP presentation and dialogue workshop. The presentation gives an emphasis on identification of the resource available in their locality,
existing priority problems, potential of the community to react on the problems and the support required from other aid origination.

Some of the main priority problems drawn the attention of the community and needs to be reacted on are

- Water shortage for human and livestock
- Lack of health posts and inefficiencies on the existing once
- Shortage of teaching classes around schools and teachers residence
- Bush encroachment and
- Lack of appropriate and fair market for their products

During the presentation and dialogue workshop CAP documents in English and ‘Afaan oromo’ version, Atlases and different GIS map’s of the targets PA’s were handover to the respective government office officials’ and community representatives to be used regularly by their resource managers.

1.2.3 **Translation of CAP (working documents) in to “Afaan-Oromo”**

A summary of Twelve (12) PA’s natural resource management (NRM) plan working documents were translated in to “Afaan-Oromo” for the ease of use by the community and were disseminated to the PA administrators during the CAP presentation workshop.

1.3. Pilot projects in Natural resource management implemented

1.3.1. Promote communities managed grazing "Kalo" reserves

1.3.1.1. Set up a Participatory Technology Development (PTD) Group

Two PTD groups were formed in "Danbala bandanna” and “Dhoqollel” PA’s of Dirre woreda to work on rangeland management (communal "Kalo" and experimental plots). The PTD groups were composed of different social section.

1.3.1.2 Identifying demonstration and experimentation sites

Two demonstration and experimentation sites from the existing "kalo" were identified and the experimentation work is undergoing according to the guideline developed to pilot and produce appropriate range management system recommendation at the end.

Hand tools were purchased and distributed for the PTD group members on those PA’s for the use of the experimentation sites (Fencing, making partition among the strata and selective bush clearing). Fencing the entire experimentation areas and dividing them into different strata, broadcasting of two types of selected grass seeds over the degraded area as an enrichment planting and selective bush clearing are among the main actions taken so far.

Cutting the bush at breast height and debark the trunk, cut at root polar area and uprooting of the entire bush are among the different methods of bush clearing under exercise as different tree species have different budding mechanism for survival. The first and second system was adopted from community experience on “sigrso”, “wanga” and “saphansa” tree species. Basic data required for the analysis of the result was collected from the entire stratum and community indicators were also set.

Broadcasted grass seeds were washed away by flood in D/badana experimentation plot. In Dhoqolle PA even if the grass seeds have germinated to some extent much of it were destroyed being eaten by
wild animals as the new grasses were so young and palatable compared to the other limited grasses found in the surrounding area. The erratic rain fall situations of the areas have also put a pressure on the potential germination of the grass seeds.

1.3.1.3. Conduct “Kalo” Opening day Ceremony

Three experimental “kalo” opening ceremony days have been supported in Yabello (Surupha), Arrero (Fuldowa) and Liben (Bulbul) districts. On the field day the whole process of doing the experimentation and the results obtained from it was disclosed by the experts. Different questions from invited neighbouring communities and government partners have been raised and a serious of dialogue has been carried out to transfer the best experiences obtained by considering challenges faced. About 171 peoples (119M and 52 F) composed from different segments of the society, government line departments and invited gusts have taken part on the field days.

During the field day prescribed fire practice had conducted by the assistance of rangeland expertise from Zone and Woreda government offices. The rangeland was not fully burned since the existing grass and other species were not dry enough to burn.

1.3.1.4. Conduct INRMB quarterly reflection meeting:

Four INRMB’s quarterly reflection meetings were supported in Liben, Arrero and Yabello and Dirre district. Members of the INRM bodies and governments DA’s and experts from the counter government bodies have participated on the session. The session has listened to the progress achievement reports of the respective PA’s based on the role and responsibilities set before. It has also discussed on the problems that would be happening as the current water and grass sources are getting scarcer compared to supporting the existing livestock’s over the remaining period of time. Possible plan and solutions considering the importance of the resource as well as the information drawn from the plot on the use of the experimentation plots, without affecting the fulfillment of the intended objectives of the project, were also the core or central discussion of the session.

The quarterly session has also discussed on Settlement rearrangement, reduce/ban farm land expansion, management of dry and wet season grazing area (experimental plot follow up), relationship of INRMB with community and GO offices, Abandoning private Kalo and revitalizing communal ones, Problem encountered on the process of executing different NRM activities and awareness creation on INRM systems, working relationship with partners etc.

Some of the achievements of the INRMB’s that were reported during those reflection meetings were:

- Rehabilitation of existing roads and clearing new ones
- Rearrangement of villages in such a way that they settle at proper location that is recommendable by pastoralist way of life
- Banning a private “Kalo” and transforming into communal ones
- Selective bush clearance
- Rearrangement of mobility patters and setting aside areas for wet and dry grazing season
1.4 Piloting new natural resource management approaches

1.4.1 Cultivation and sustainable utilization of productive natural plant species

1.4.1.1 Provide training on soap making for 30 community members, 13 government employees and 3 project staff for seven days

Following the TOT training for the counter government bodies, two trainings were given for two Aloe groups located in “Danbala Badana” and “Fuldowa” PA’s. A total of 30 (20F and 10M) group members who were organized for this purpose by the project have well attended the training and have also practically produced a sample Aloe Soap. Important activities required for the registration of the group into a formal cooperative is underway. A draft TOR was also prepared and circulated for comment to provide the groups with the community seed fund.

1.4.1.2 Provide training on gum and incense and scent wood product development for community members, government employees and project staff

The groups were formerly organized as a group and currently different awareness creations were provided in collaboration with the district cooperative promotion office to reorganize them into a formal cooperatives. Following the groups has agreed on the criteria’s they must fulfill to get the legal certificate and the process is underway with the facilitation of the project.

The project has transferred a community seed fund to the cooperatives following the business plan development, opening of a bank account and issuance the legal certificate through the office. While facilitating for the cooperative registration training was provided for “Bulbul” women scent wood group organized to work on the scent wood as an alternative source of income. The three days training focused on how to best use the existing resource and extract more income in an organized way while conserving the productive plant species.

Other Training was provided for “Elwaye” Gum and resins group in two sessions. The first session was for 16 cooperative executive committee members for three consecutive days on the cooperative management, principles and others associated with the cooperative by-laws and roles and responsibilities of the management. The second session of the training was for the entire members of the cooperative (108 peoples) on the techniques of quality harvesting, plant conservation and warehouse and post harvest management.

1.4.1.3 Provide training for cooperative members on gum and incense and scent wood

Training was provided for “Debanu Walenso” and Badhadhina Bulbul” gum and incense cooperative members for three days. The training was well attended by 69 (22F) members of the cooperative. The training focuses on increasing awareness level of the cooperative members in knowing and conserving tree species which do produce gum and incenses. Gum and incense collection, drying methodologies and materials used for handling the products to maintain the quality of the product are among the topics which were given an attention on the training. Similar training was also conducted for waccile scent wood collection and processing groups for three consecutive days. The training focusing on identification of the plants and processing, to produce “Qayya”, was well attended by 15 (1M) members of the group. At the end of the training all members of the group were able to process “Qayya” from different plant species.

Ten members of “Badhaadha” Bulbul gum and incense cooperatives were supported to participate in a training organised by COOPI Negelle on “Natural gum and incense production, sorting and storing” for two days.
A simple manual illustrating gum and incense trees with photograph and providing information on collection techniques was produced and provided for the cooperatives. The documents were also translated to ‘Afaan Oromo” for the ease of understanding by the beneficiary communities.

1.4.1.4 Provision of Community Seed Fund (CSF)

A community seed fund amounting 175,000 (one hundred seventy five thousand Birr) was transferred to two cooperatives organized in Aloe soap making, three cooperatives engaged in collection and processing of gum and resin and two cent wood processing cooperatives.

A comprehensive memorandum of understanding entailing the purpose for which the money has to be used and the role of each partners in technically supporting the cooperative was developed and signed among the project, district administration, district cooperative promotion office and the beneficiary cooperative itself up on transferring of the community seed fund to the respective cooperatives.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of the cooperatives</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>CSF transferred</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Debanu Waleensu</td>
<td>Gum and resin</td>
<td>Arrero</td>
<td>25,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Har-Qalu aloe</td>
<td>Aloe soap making</td>
<td>Arero</td>
<td>25,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urga-Dakara</td>
<td>Gum and resin</td>
<td>Yabello</td>
<td>25,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Danbala Badana</td>
<td>Aloe soap making</td>
<td>Dire</td>
<td>25,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulbul gum and incense</td>
<td>Gum and incenses</td>
<td>Liben</td>
<td>25,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulbul gum and incense</td>
<td>Cent wood</td>
<td>Liben</td>
<td>25,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urga-Qayya</td>
<td>Cent wood</td>
<td>Arrero</td>
<td>25,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>175,000.00</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1.4.1.5 Construction of a two workshops for “Fuldowa” and D/Badana Aloe soap making groups with community participation (labour, wood, sand and stone)

Detail discussion has been made with the cooperative members regarding their participation and contributions in terms of labor and provision of locally available materials. Site selection and collecting of locally available materials have started. Selection of experienced working crews and collection of Performa invoices were carried out and were under analysis for the procurement of fabricated materials. The entire work of the construction would be completed by the end of January 2010.
Fig 2.2.1.1 Community and Gov’t partners trained on how to process Aloe soap

1.4.1.6 Exchange visit to “Kenya” for experience sharing

Aloe products and Gum and incenses are specifically envisaged and SOS Sahel has identified some beneficiary groups, organizes them in a form of cooperatives, and has provided training and community seed fund to pilot this activity.

To pursue Aloe and gum & incense product elements of the project, SOS Sahel has organized an exchange visit to North Kenya from 16th -21st October 2009 with an objectives of drawing lesson on the basics of Aloe cultivation (including all the nursery management) and different product development, tapping, collection, sorting, grading and packing of gum and incenses. Following a team of five peoples (Project coordinator, 2 SOS Sahel project officer, Yabello district CPO and secretary of Fulidowa Aloe soap making cooperative) have made a visit to some selected areas by the facilitator.

Some of the areas visited were

1. Visit to Arbor Oils. This is the company run by Hilary Sommerlatte, and specializes in distilling the oils from natural Gums and Resins mostly Frankincense and Myrrh.
2. Visit to Robin Slade and Arid Land Resources Ltd. For the last 15 years the company has been encouraging nomadic pastoralists to collect Gums and Resins as an alternative income.
3. Visit to Twala Cultural Village. We met up with Jonathan Rana, a Community Field assistant working with ACC – African Conservation Centre who support the village
4. Visit to Gatarakwa village and Mr. Ernest Wangombe who is interested in Aloe farming although admits he doesn’t know a lot about it
5. Visit to Laikipia Aloe grower. This is a nursery run by Marria Dodds, growing Aloes for commercialization. The whole process from seed germination and propagation was shown and explained.

6. Visit to the Rumuruti Women Aloe Group which is a group of 25 women of different ethnic groups and have come together first as a merry go round helping members financially but have now developed a small cottage industry making Aloe body care products.

Visit to Lubanchem Ltd in the Industrial Area of Nairobi –The Company buys gums and resins from Northern Kenya and Somalia at the present time and then distils them on a larger scale than Arbor Oils and exports them. The team were shown the different stills and explained how they worked and had a short discussion about linking up and supplying them with gums and resins from Southern Ethiopia.

3.4.1. Support 8 internees at FURA (supervision)

Four quarterly monitoring visits have been carried out to FURA to follow the progresses the internees are making and provide support required. Result to that the students have now completed their second year class and went for the practical work that will be done with the facilitation of the project and the college.

3. Lessons Learned

1. Understanding and the use of existing indigenous knowledge in designing new activities will help to address the communities felt needs.
2. Closely working with relevant line departments plays a great role during and after program implementation.
3. Preparing contingency plan for uncertain / unforeseen events is very significant to take measures when the need arises.
4. Integrating project activities with other development programs ensures the synergy of impacts, reduced resource wastage and reduce duplication of efforts.
5. Activity planning by considering the local calendar has a great value for the effective participation by community and success of the project.
6. Understanding the partnership working system before the start of the project implementation was seen crucial.
7. For sustainable development, peace and stability has crucial implication.
8. Product development should be substantiated with value addition and market linkage.
9. Poor entrepreneurial knowledge and cooperative legislation of the last regime had an impact on the current cooperative business development.

4. Problems Encountered/Challenges Faced

1. Insufficiency of vehicles available for the particular work vis-a-vis the wide working areas.
2. Drought: As the water and grasses are becoming scare, pastoralists have started moving from their vicinity in search of water grass for their livestock. As the result it has become difficult to find the community to the required number for discussion as well as community participation.
3. Conflict: recurrent ethnic conflict recently arose between two adjacent pastoral communities (Borena and Garri) resulted in
• declining community participation, hindered the mobility of staff to the project sites
dermented, change of travel roots – which has a cost and time impact
• looting of communal resources - breaking into experimental “Kallo” for grass and
other resources found inside
• In general poor stability has created among the community as they used to focus on
the security than on the development

4. Continuous government meetings and staff turnover
5. Effects of the new CSO legislation- poor understanding on the content of the legislation at
lower government structures
6. Expansion of project target districts from 4 to 6 (“Dillo” and “Dhas” newly emerged
districts).
2. 2.2. Drought Risk Reduction (DRR II)

1. Background of the project

SOS Sahel started working in Guji and Borana Zones of Oromia Region lying at the southern part of the country in 1999 with new and innovative Natural Resources Management called Participatory Forest management (PFM) where the community and government jointly own, develop and utilize the resources with sound management and sustainable approach. It is during this period that the organization closely studied the socio economic systems of the pastoralist in the area and drew lessons on intervention strategy.

In January 2008 SOS Sahel Ethiopia secured fund from Cordaid/ECHO under project title Disaster Risk Reduction/Drought Preparedness II, which was proposed to be implemented in one and half years. However, due to some circumstances few months were lost from the implementation period. The idea of this project was based on previous Community Risk Assessment done at the end of the DCM project. The outcome of the assessment and different studies necessitated the implementation of DRR II in Borana and Guji Zones predominantly pastoralist and agro pastoralist areas. At each zone one Woreda was targeted. In Borana Zone, Arero Woreda Kawa and Fuldowa kebeles were targeted while in Guji Zone, Liban Woreda Hadhessa, Dhaka Kalla and Karsa Malle kebeles were targeted. In total the organization operates in five kebeles in both Zones with over 24,360 (people) beneficiaries.

The project goal is to increase the self-reliance and resilience of pastoral communities in the Southern Ethiopia. The purpose of the proposed project is to improve drought preparedness through increased capacities of all stakeholders to prevent and respond to emergencies as well as by enhancing livelihood assets of pastoralists in the drought prone areas of Borana and Guji Zone of the Oromiya Region, Southern Ethiopia.

2. Major Accomplishments of the project

To achieve the project objectives stated above, the project has achieved the following two results with accompanying detail activities:

Result 1- Enhanced community capacity and resilience to cope with drought and vulnerability through improved productivity and management of rangeland resource

The detailed activities are:

- Support the community to plan and execute community based disaster risk reduction action plans
- Improve the productivity, utilization and sustainable management of key rangeland natural resources - interventions to improve pasture and water availability or reserves for drought period and Kalo/ calf enclosures productivity and hay management practices.
- Support water harvesting and storage facilities for schools
- Improve community capacity to manage conflicts over resources
- Provide training/support to kebele DCM working groups
- Provide facilitation type support for customary institutions in their engagement with Government structures and processes
• Conducting participatory rangeland resource surveys and mapping and facilitating the formulation of community action plans
• Establishment of communal drought reserve grazing areas (through rehabilitating poor and/or degraded dry season or foora grazing areas and improving water supply facilities)
• Improving the quantity and quality of pasture from traditional calf enclosures (Kalo) and hay making and handling practices
• Conduct rangeland resource assessment surveys
• Support to revitalize and strengthen the traditional rangeland resource management structures (customary institutions).

As per the plan and objectives set out in the document, the project drew annual action plan to implement the activities. Accordingly, the following major tasks has been accomplished:

• two pasture enclosures in each kebele and all the ten enclosures of 8 to 357 hectares were accomplished. The organization followed totally the criteria of the community in defining the sizes and sites of s within their kebele. Even the minimum two s of 8 and 18 hectares are found at Karsa Malle kebele were the livelihoods of the community depends much on opportunistic agriculture, external support(relief) and other petty works.
• One grazing reserves per Woreda were accomplished.
• Five kebele based DCM working groups were completed.
• Eight water points improvement were planned and 8 was done.
• Six schools with two 10,000lts capacity Roto tanks were completed
• Rangeland management works like soil and water conservation works, NR mapping and delineation, capacity building for community and government partners were undertaken.

Fig 2.2.2.1: Enclosures-striking difference (left at the beginning of the intervention and right- the current status)

Basing on indigenous knowledge of range land management is the key to successful implementation of community based development strategy. In Borana rangeland conflict, overgrazing, population growth, bush encroachment, expansion of farms and private were the main reasons for loss of pasture and it negatively influenced pastoralism. Range degradation is characterized by intrusion of
undesirable woody species and unpalatable fobs, losses of grass layer and increased soil erosion. Borana experienced a best indigenous knowledge of drought coping mechanism. Some of the community’s strategies include establishment of Drought Grazing Reserve, enclosures and social security networks.

With facilitation of SOS Sahel at 5 PA’s in Liban and Arero District Community identified and reserved 10 Communal kalos and 1 Drought period Grazing reserve area as demonstration site under DRR II project. Community set up two (2) kalos in each PA level at five (5) (Madda). An integrated land use constituting the communal reserve grazing land and kaloo has been introduced in those PAs.

Under DRRII project the main activities of range land components include selective bush clearing, fencing, improve productivity, fair utilization, sustainable management of rangeland resource water & grass, Support to implement physical and biological soil and water conservation activities to improve and rehabilitate degraded land within the drought reserve grazing and kalos, introduce better Kaloo Management practices to improve dry season drought period feed availability and other minor activities.

Drought coping mechanism is influenced by the security of resource tenure and traditional value, other myriads of problems and opportunities that could positively or negatively influence the social systems. Technical support from project as well as outsider team from FAO and other range land experts like PDO suggested that selective bush clearing is important. The locally ‘wayama’ is the site that requires bush clearing since it is infested with invasive and thorny bushes that prevent livestock to graze. The reserved area are not allowed to be grazed by any one unless and otherwise the community agreed to be open while the restriction is through consensus or what Liban Jaldessa (Aba Gada) call “Fencing by rules and regulations”.

Activities that needed to be done on rangeland improvement is discussed and agreed upon by and between the community members, and on expert advice/support. Based on this the community identified compartments that require different types of activities out of which bush clearing is one. They selectively cleared unwanted bushes that negatively impact rangeland while other species of trees which was preferred by the community like Baddana Dhadacha and shade trees were left for feed during dry season for weak animals and calves. The most dramatic change in resource tenure is introduced by range enclosure this has been managed for less than 8 month. The area was part of open range land that reportedly was degraded. Followed eight month of management the grass has recovered, the management system is include protecting the area or resting for more than two years and allow weak animal to graze during the dry season.

The total area of the grazing reserve is 160 hectares. The area is degraded by overgrazing and unwise utilization. The community suggestion is to leave the area rest for at least two years. The enclosures were precisely measured, digitized and mapped. During the Natural Resources Assessment, community were involved and come up with NR assessment and action plans. The community action plans were put on the map. From the assessment and resources mapping, the community supported by the expert formulated plan maps which direct them to action. The maps will be printed and put at the community centre for references. The following are some of the NR maps done at the enclosures (kallos).
Bule Tile

The total area of Bule Tile is 111 hectares which is very historically very suitable for grazing. The community used their indigenous knowledge to select grass land. They demonstrated their rich knowledge in land use management and if supported and other external influence is not there they could manage the natural resources and sustainably use them.

Bush clearing is one of the main activities undertaken at this site. The area is well suited for pasture as the community tells. However, the site is highly infested by acacia type that is very difficult for livestock to move to the site and graze. The bush also controlled the growth of grass. The community, with technical support cleared the bush and fenced it well.

Kaloo Gara Dhaka Kalla

The some processes has been followed in all the site unless the planned activities are differ from site to site therefore as technical support from project as well as outsider team from FAO and other range land experts from PDO suggested that selective bush clearing from a selected compartment. As per the suggestions selected bush clearing is completed like the kaloo it has been evaded by bushes locally known as Saphanssa and Burkuke. Dhaka kalla has more than three compartments whereby gully control, general management bush clearing were planned by the community and accomplished accordingly.

Soil and Water Conservation

This days, in Borana, land degradation presents the most serious problems in most parts of the two district (Liban and Arero), forage productivity is being hampered by inadequate natural fertility and shallow soils, erosion due to steep slope, poor drainage and high population of both animal and human, less fallow land, overgrazing-those are the main causes of land degradation. The land degradation crises make good time to put in to general practice of soil and water conservation as well as improvement techniques that have long been developed but are still not widely used at such bare land hope in Borana context. There are two basic principles of soil conservation we have used such as first permanent cover of soil secondly it crucial not to disturb the top layer of the soil by working it too vigorously. In the two impacting PA of Liban and Arero we applied thus technology. To counter the land degradation, we as project at planning first decided to tackle the problem of erosion which, in the land of thousands hill and other features, carries the fertile soil down in to valley and leave the land bare.

With the Communities and PDO soil conservation department having defined area they want to develop 21.5 KM of soil band and 37.5 KM of check dam at Gara Dhaka Kalla and Kubi Jimma. Building these terraces manage water runoff as well as reduce soil erosion. As I tried to explain on the above pages we planned various measures to tackle thus problem like check dam, Soil Band, Plantation of cactus tree and other thought to be measure for Soil and Water conservation and control measure for gully and sheet erosion.

Bush clearing, fencing, mapping, and soil and water conservation were done on this basing on the community action plan (CAP). Major attention was paid to the since it is degraded due to its physical structure (hilly), farm encroachment and overgrazing. Few occupants, who farm the area, were voluntarily left the site. The management aspect and rest period was recommended and agreed upon. Accordingly there is a great change on the site. Activities like check dam, Soil Band, Plantation of cactus was done. The community and Pastoral Development Office experts were very active in
undertaking the prescribed activities. The community surrounding is very determined and ready to see the difference. The regularly monitor the progress and follow up if the bylaws are adhered to. The technical advice as well as CMDRR training was also given to this community as given to other community of other kalo there for hopefully the site will be safe and well protected and also productive.

In this target kebele, the need for communal is not very welcomed by some of the community members since they depend on different types of livelihoods systems and the land is almost partitioned and occupied by privates for opportunistic farming. However, most of the community needed to have a common as a reserve. In addition, it is also the strategy of the government to intervene in building the coping mechanism. The community then discussed a lot and selected the area that fits to the major criteria for rangeland.

The first activity is to delineate and then to decide the action to be taken to improve the status of the rangeland. Accordingly, bush clearing is mostly prescribed where ever unsuitable bushes exist and at this activity was undertaken. The land needs longer period of rest period which is all agreed by all parties (the government as well as the community). The community selected, demarcated and undertaken improvement works on two major s at this kebele. When compared to Liben, Arero is mostly dominated by pastoralist and therefore, the nature and management of s in size as well as in health differs. These are Tula Tentiro with an area of 135 hectares and Dhaka Warabessa which is 294 hectares. According to the community action plan bush site selection, bush clearing, soil and water conservation and management are the priority activities. As per the action plan, the community undertook the activities.

The land degradation crises make good time to put in to general practice of soil and water conservation as well as improvement techniques that have long been developed but are still not widely used at such. There are two basic principles of soil conservation we have used such as first permanent cover of soil secondly it crucial not to disturb the top layer of the soil by working it to vigorously; a light forking of the earth is sufficient. In our impacting PA Arero we applied thus technology. To counter the land degradation, we as project at planning first decided to tackle the problem of erosion which, in the land of thousands hill and other features, carries the fertile soil down in to valley and leave the land bare. A total of 11 hectares of soil band and check dam were already completed at this site which mean that for every one hectare of land 100 soil band is done which makes a total of 1100 bands on the 2% of slope of land and the labor participated in this work is 73 persons per hectare.

**Tula Tentiro**

Fence has been followed the processes to other kalo even though these kalo activities were finished long ago mostly via community participation the fence is better and most protective than before and hope fully if there is strong monitoring and follow up is applied the site will be more productive and can be the other way to cope with drought.

Selected bush clearing was done from the compartment as planned.

**Kawa Kebele**

At this kebele the same process is followed to select two model s. Even from Arero this kebele are more inclined to have more common s. The physical land structure is better than all the other four kebeles. They selected mudhi Dhadacha equals to 185 hectares and Dembela Eege is equal to 357 hectares.
Kaloo Mudhi Dhadacha and Dambala Ege

Those are the largest of all kalo from both of district located at remote area dominated by pastoralist community and indigenous natural resources management skills still working relatively better than the other. Meanwhile working with such community is an opportunity because they are fully committed, passionate, and hardworking. The activities done on both sites are bush clearing demarcation and management. The result is also rewarding. At both sites there is no need of rest period however, the community use them during Bona.

Table 2.2.2.1. : The profile of the enclosures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Grazing Reserve</th>
<th>Beneficiary (HH)</th>
<th>Suggested Resting period</th>
<th>No of animals grazing</th>
<th>Labor on bush clearing</th>
<th>Area/hectare</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Chochobe</td>
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<td>2-3 years</td>
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<td>5 month</td>
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</table>

Water Points Development

The project activities and objectives have been introduced to key partners such as the beneficiaries, district education office and so on. After the familiarization, assessment of the existing potable water supply situation of schools in both districts have been conducted at the same time the availability and status of water sources that has been used for domestic consumption in the target PA have also been investigated. As it is clearly stated in the project proposal the water related interventions of the project has two components, the first being installation of 20,000lit plastic tank per school for a total of 9 schools and construction or rehabilitation of water points such as pond and well in the close proximity of drought reserve grazing lands.

School water supply

Assessment of existing water supply situations in schools is part of the activities A discussion has been made with district education office experts on the following main points

- Briefing the official about the plan(activities to be performed) of the project
- Gathering information about the existing water supply situation, population of each school that has serious problem of potable water supply, their distance from district capital etc.
Objective of the assessment were:

- To introduce the community and other stockholders about the plan of the project.
- To identify peasant associations and schools that have serious problem of potable water supply.
- To investigate the extent of damage and current status of the existing water points.
- To assess the technical, social and other problems experienced in the past from the existing schemes.
- To have an overview of the situation (Socio-economic, nature and infrastructures) in the area.
- To gather some basic information about the target groups (TG) and the area. For instance (data on population, site location and accessibility)

Out puts:

- The beneficiaries and the stockholders ware warred of the project plan.
- Schools with serious problem of water have been identified.
- Information on current status of water points in 21 schools has been obtained.
- Practical Experience has been gained about the techniques to be followed while planning and implementing water harvesting schemes.
- Basic information on technical, infrastructural, population status of each school has been gathered.
- An over view of the area in general and the target schools in particular have been gained.
- The newly employed staffs were familiarized with the community.
- Documentation of the findings: Detail report on the result of assessments has been prepared

Methodology of data collection:

- Interviewing the district education office personnel and discussion with the local administrators, Signer SOS staffs, other NGO staffs and with the TG them selves
- Visual inspection of the area and questionnaires.
- Note taking and others (Photos and GPS readings)
- Measurement of dimensions of physical structures

After the assessment, the main tasks performed were:

- Sample design of the roof water harvesting installation
- Preparation of bill of quantities
- Procurement of plastic tanks, fittings and other accessories
- Transportation of the materials to the site
The project team have visited all the remaining schools that has no problem of security, and we have found that all schools in the district has very good water harvesting system except some minor maintenance work that can be done by the school itself. There are also five schools in the district that have no any means of water harvesting scheme, namely Annaa, Teso kela, Gare ejerssa, Dheka bericha and dembela ege. These schools are not covered by corrugated iron sheet, which may requires construction of roof catchment.

Criteria set to select schools to be benefited:
A school that do not have any means of water supply and that can be accessed very easily has been given priority. Thus based on the above criteria the following schools from both districts were selected for roto installation.

Table 2.2.2. Guji Zone Liben District School roof water harvesting installations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.No</th>
<th>Name of the school</th>
<th>GPS reading(degree)</th>
<th>PA</th>
<th>No. student</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>East</td>
<td>North</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Dibenoe</td>
<td>39.67268°</td>
<td>5.33571°</td>
<td>Miesa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Dido Goba</td>
<td>39.54377°</td>
<td>5.34941°</td>
<td>Kersemele</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Kersemele</td>
<td>39.49562°</td>
<td>5.36688°</td>
<td>Kersemele</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Arda Bururi</td>
<td>39.57598°</td>
<td>5.37789°</td>
<td>Arda bururi</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Borena Zone Arero district

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S/N</th>
<th>Name of the school</th>
<th>GPS reading(degrees)</th>
<th>PA</th>
<th>No. students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>East</td>
<td>North</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Anaa</td>
<td>38.72474°</td>
<td>04.55720°</td>
<td>Anaa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Teso Kelo</td>
<td>38.72298°</td>
<td>04.45972°</td>
<td>Teso kela</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Even if the plan of the project was to implement 20,000 liter capacity plastic tanks for nine schools we have implemented 20,000 liter capacity for 6 schools( 2 of them are in Arero district and 4 of them are in Liben district). The number of schools has been reduced from 9 to 6 because of increase of cost of tanks, construction material transportation and labor. As stated earlier the schools in Arero district didn't have corrugated iron sheet cover as a result the community have agreed to contribute wooden poles, stone, sand, water and labor for the construction of the roof catchment and the foundation of the rotos. The project covers the remaining cost for iron sheet skilled man power and others.

Technical feasibility:
The rainfall pattern of Guji and Borana lowland area is characterized by Bi-modal namely the Hageya rain or the short rain season( from mid of September to mid of November) and the Ganna rain or the main rain season (mid of march to end of May). To see if the installation of two roto tanks per school is feasible or not it has been tried to analyze the hageya and the Ganna rainy seasons separately. Table below shows the frequency distribution and return period of specific amount of seasonal rainfall, thus as we can see from this computation the propability of obtaining 414mm of rain fall during Hageya is only 5.6% where as the probability of obtaining 199.7 and 78.8mm of rain fall is 50% and 94.4% respectively. That means it is possible to get 414mm of rainfall once every 18 years and 199.7mm rain fall can be obtained once every 2 year. Assuming the per capital demand is 1liter/day/person, the total demand for a duration of 4 month( gap between hageya and gana) for kersemele school becomes 38,280 liter provided the number of students is constant and the next season rain fall is arriving on time. On the other hand the possible supply assuming 80 dependant rain fall (138mm) and average roof area of 140m² becomes 18,354lit which
shows a deficiency of 19,926lit. that means water will not be available for 62 days which is equivalent to 2 months, thus installation of 20,000 lit for such schools will not be sufficient, instead it is recommended to have additional 20,000lit plastic tanks or stone masonry cistern to have sufficient supply of water throughout the year.

Construction and /or rehabilitation of Ponds and wells

In the second component of water related intervention, it has been tried to rehabilitate selected wells and ponds. The selection of the water points that have been rehabilitated was done by the beneficiaries themselves after thorough discussion during community meeting and CMDRR training. Similar discussion and planning were done in all targets PA and the following water points were selected for rehabilitation and development.

Table 2.2.3 : Details of Construction and /or rehabilitation of Ponds and wells

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.No</th>
<th>Name of the water point</th>
<th>GPS reading(degree)</th>
<th>District/PA</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Work to be done</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>East</td>
<td>North</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Ela Dheka Kela</td>
<td>39.48983</td>
<td>5.21387</td>
<td>Liben/Dheka kela</td>
<td>Shallow well</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Haro Mokonisa</td>
<td>39.51442</td>
<td>5.40456</td>
<td>Liben/Kersemele</td>
<td>pond</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Haro feta</td>
<td>39.70380</td>
<td>4.98525</td>
<td>Liben/Hadhessa</td>
<td>pond</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Haro Dheka kela</td>
<td>39.48678</td>
<td>5.24216</td>
<td>Liben/Dheka kela</td>
<td>construction of access way and cattle trough</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Ela Adadi</td>
<td>38.66584</td>
<td>4.73101</td>
<td>Arero/Fuldowa</td>
<td>Shallow well</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Haro dembi</td>
<td>38.59619</td>
<td>4.72551</td>
<td>Arero/fuldowa</td>
<td>pond</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Haro Liben Jilo</td>
<td>38.49435</td>
<td>4.62054</td>
<td>Arero/kawa</td>
<td>pond</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Ela Dembi/Tula tintero</td>
<td>38.66584</td>
<td>4.73101</td>
<td>Arero/Fuldowa</td>
<td>Shallow well</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Demi well:
This well is found in Arero district at about 30 km from the district capital and at about 5km from the nearby village called Fuldowa. The development work of this traditional shallow well includes the construction of 15m cattle trough, collection chamber and three access stairs (stands). From the development of this traditional well goat, sheep and calves of more than 70 households from Fuldowa and Hafura area were got good access to the water. Previous a cattle trough constructed from mud has been used, which leads to loss of large amount of water through infiltration and seepage. The construction of concrete cattle trough reduces this loss of water by 100%. On the development of this well the community collects and loads about 80m$^3$ of stone and 28m$^3$ of sand. Generally 25 selected persons were engaged in this work for 10 days.

Adadi well:
This well is found in Arero district at about 25 km from the district capital and at about 3km from the nearby village called Hafura. The development work of this traditional shallow well includes the construction of 15m cattle trough, collection chamber and three access stairs (stands). Previously watering from this well is very difficult because there was no good access. People were using a wooden stand and a muddy cattle trough which were not suitable and comfortable to take water.

From the development of this traditional well cattle, goat, sheep and calves of more than 100 households from Fuldowa and Hafura area have got good access to the water. Previous a cattle trough constructed from mud has been used, which leads to loss of very amount of water through infiltration and seepage. The construction of concrete cattle trough reduces this loss of water by 100%. On the development of this well the community collects and loads about 108m$^3$ of stone and 28m$^3$ of sand. Generally 50 selected persons were engaged in this work for 20 days.

Demi pond:
This is the biggest pond available in Fuldowa area. It has a catchment area of 7475ha and storage capacity of about 150,000m$^3$ at its full supply level. As the catchment area from where it gets its storage is very big and degraded very high flood has been experienced in the past five years. The pond was breached five years before because of over topping of flood water as the existing spillway was very small to carry the flood. Two years before the eroded embankment were maintained by community participation and aid of NGO. Even if the embankment was maintained nothing has been done on the spillway side which is the safety valve of the pond, as a result the erosion caused by the water passing the earthen spillway is coming closer and closer to the embankment gradually and the pond was at risk. We have also seen the Kawa pond which has been taken away by flood last hageya because of lack of adequate spillway and we have decided to construct a spillway with length of 60m and width of 10m to prolong the useful life of dembi pond. As the pond is a very big beneficiary from more than 5 PA around Fuldowa is using the pond and it is estimated that more than 1000 households are benefited from the development of the pond. The community of Fuldowa PA takes part in collecting and loading stone and sand. For This extension work 112 truck of stone and 34 truck of sand has been collected and loaded by the community. It is the DRR working group that selects and assigns 80 persons on this work for 20 days.
Liben Jilo Pond:

Liben Jilo cascaded pond is found in Arero district and Kawa PA and it is situated at about 65Km from Arero. The main problem with this pond was problem of sedimentation and lack of adequate water diversion channel. As the pond was filled up by sediment its holding capacity was not more than 5000m³ as a result the pond was run out of water with in a very short period of time and people were forced to move for a distance of 13-20km to web and Dembi. The rehabilitation work of this pond has two components the first being removal of the stored sediment from the pond area and the second portion was strengthening and clearing of the canal that diverts water in to the pond. At the end sediment for a depth of 1.5m has been cleared from the entire area of both ponds and a channel of 300m has been maintained. As a result currently the pond is filled with water and found in a very good status. On this work about 200 persons were participated for about 30 days.

Dheka Kela well

The Dheka kela traditional hand dug well Is Found in Dheka Kela PA which is found at about 23km from Negele. The well has a depth of 12m and very wide and liable to flooding, more over fetching of water from such wide and deep well makes the life of the woman risk full and difficult, moreover similar to the well in arero district it did not have suitable stands and cattle trough as a result more than 12 persons were involved to take water from the well for cattle.

After development the depth of the well has been reduced by half and the number of persons engaged in elevating water from the well have also reduced from 12 to 6, moreover 13m cattle trough has also be constructed which helps a lot in saving water lost through infiltration. As the depth of the well is reduced greatly now women can fetch water from the well very easily. To avoid caving in of soil material in to the well during rainfall gabion protection has been built for a length of 34m around the well. Previously the number of households using the pond was not more than 50 but now it is expected that more house hold will use the well as it is convenient for utilization. For the development of this well 142m³ of stone and 20m³ of sand has been collected and loaded by the community in addition of excavating about 6m dept h to reduce the depth of the well. To reduce the flood passing at one side of the well a soil and water conservation physical structure like bunds have also been done by the community. Generally 80 persons were involved on the work for about 15days.

Dheka Kela pond

The pond is found in a good condition from structural point of view. It has adequate earthen spillway. The pond collects water from a catchment of 118ha and its storage capacity is estimated to be 60,000m³. The main problem with this pond is poor management as a result the traditional ‘MERI’ method of drinking and clearing of the pond has been weakened and cattle used to drink water entering directly in to the pond, thus the pond is poor from hygiene point of view. After thorough discussion and argument on the importance and sustainability of constructing and using cattle trough an agreement and has been made to use the cattle trough so that water is kept clean and water born disease reduced. This time 20m and two way cattle trough, collection chamber and access stands have been constructed. Construction material such as sand and stone have been collected and loaded on to truck by the community. Totally atone of 27 trucks and sand of 7 truck has been delivered by the community. The pond serves about 1000 households from different PA around Dheka kela.
Mokonisa pond Rehabilitation:
This pond is found in Kersemele PA of Liben district the site is situated at about 15 KM the district capital, Negelle. The pond was constructed during the Dergu regime and it has been breached after short period of service and left abandoned for more than 20 years. The pond was selected for rehabilitation by the DRR working group during CMDRR training conducted in December 2009. The pond collects water from a catchment of 163ha and it has a storage capacity of 15,000m³. As the main case for the breaching of the pond is lack of adequate spillway, a spillway with width of 5m and length of 30m has been constructed from stone masonry after the breached portion of the embankment is refilled and compacted by community participation. From this rehabilitation work it is expected that more than 100 households receding in the PA will be benefited from the pond. On this rehabilitation work of the embankment 349 persons were participated for 20 days. The work includes excavation of selected soil material from nearby site, filling of the soil in the broken part of the embankment and compaction of the filled soil by locally produced compaction cans which have been filled with concrete.

Feta pond
The pond is found in Hadhessa PA of Liben district at about 60km from Negelle. The pond has watershed area of 5135ha and storage capacity 165,000m³. The pond was found in a very good condition one year before and we didn’t propose any physical structure for this pond as its spillway and embankment were look good as a result we were focusing on management aspects of the pond such as fencing and strengthening of the existing traditional way of drinking and clearing called ‘MERI’, but after the heavy ‘ganna’ rain the spillway of the pond is eroded seriously and the gully formed by the flood is progressing towards the embankment. To protect this pond from breaching it has been tried to slow the flow velocity of the water passing the spillway by putting wooden poles and tree logs in to the eroded channel, but for the future adequate spillway need to be provided to prolong the life of this big and very useful pond.

Result 2 - Enhanced emergency preparedness and response capacity of state and non-state actors through strengthening their capacity to plan, delivers and coordinates DRR services/interventions

Institutions and Social Systems capacity Building
Climatic changes are the great problems and the hottest issue to the world. This is affecting social and ecological systems and also demographic and all natural resource process. It must be noted, however that much of the research demonstrating potential effects of climate change is speculative in nature and based on projecting existing knowledge into unknown future. So this resulted in something like global warming, losses of biodiversity, land degradations, different kind of animals and human disease and ozone depletion. Understanding and seeing this grate hazard which is challenging the life of all people of the world and most seriously the pastoralist who reside in the most fragile environment.

The organization introduced DRR II at the project launching workshop. The community embraced the project from the outset since it was based on the practical need of the community. The community required awareness and initial support/capacity building in the areas where they demand. They also believed that the solutions for their problems lie in their hands. After they were convinced with their capability to do things they elected DCM-WG two from each clusters of the kebele. The selected members of the DCM working group comprised respected elders, traditional NRM
management groups and social figures. The criteria for selection of committee was that person who is mature, active, hardworking and be outstanding and willing to work for the changes of his communities as well as to the area. We had practically seen that the committees are well motivated and interested to do all the activities need to be done at the kebele level. At both Zones major training workshops are given to the DCM working groups. The major trainings are circled around CMDRR. It was done for community leaders, Governments and NGOs partners. On this training many people participated. In this raining the communities are assisted and given the capacities to be able to effectively initiate and manage their own institutions and programs. The other core issue in this project is to work with indigenous peoples who are the source of wisdom, experiences and knowledge to strengthen the customary institutions which is most significant and important.

The project itself encourages working with elders and Gadda council because they are the key in NRM and social systems. In Borana and Guji community the elders are the most respected and listened to. This community formally they had a good customs that can guide their institutions and traditional well being of their community; however this system was weakened for long time for different reasons. Therefore, the main task of the social system is to strengthen and support the community to revitalize the traditional systems which is believed to be effective and viable to create resilient community to drought hazards. The DRRII project has done recommendable works on rangeland management and environmental conservations at targeted Kebels like Kalo system, reserve graze land, wells and ponds maintenances. Unless these structures are supported and upheld by the traditional NRM systems, the sustainability will fall under question. To tackle this social system focuses on the soft part of the management aspects which the community has for centuries but requires strengthening and capacity building. Working groups were established in all the targeted kebeles.

This system helps the comprehensive management systems to control the Development and utilization of pastures, water, forest, kalo, water points, settlement and other social values.

The organization facilitated and supported the community institutions on community action plan development, introduced and strengthened the idea of CMDRR through different activities. One of the activities is community center development where they meet and discuss on their action plans and other issues. Building the community center is very important at PA levels because the community can keep their profiles and documents, to follow and check their progress in their daily activities. At all the five kebeles, the community agreed to hold two meeting per month concerning their action plan progress monitoring and planning at one center within their kebele

The main agendas at the community meetings are:

- Review and reflection of CAP
- Planning and revision of plans
- Strengthening bylaws
- Experience sharing
- Trainings and workshops

The organization undertook major launching workshop and consequently provided CMDRR trainings to government partners and community members.

DRRII project progress review workshop was held at Yabello and Liben. The numbers of participant were 66 male and 15 female all together 81 at Yabello while 91 male and 14 women participated in Liben. The participants were drawn from nthe community, Government partners and NGOs.

The inputs are:

- The goals and objectives of the projects reviewed.
- Concept of CMDRR discussed
Brief Hazard, vulnerability, and capacity assessment done.
Project Activities accomplishment reported both by the community and the organization
The role of the customary institutions in improving the coping mechanism of the community discussed.

Some of the outputs of the discussions were:

**Theme one**
The role of customary institutions in NRM /Rangeland and water/; clearly identify the roles and responsibilities of traditional institutions with regard to NRM.
Abba Olla: holding discussion on well-being of the villages, the wet and dry season of the motilities.
- He is more responsible for a single village.
- He cares for starved, to the disparate in his village.
- He is the headman of the village
- In his village he is more concerned to the visitors.
- When the animals lost from that village he calls the peoples for searching for it.
- Generally he also more concerned for well being of the pastures and water.

Abba Reera
- They are concerned for illegal settlement.
- Further committees were responsible for the shared grazing areas.
- He is responsible for pastures in his PAs at the cluster.
- Marking doongora seera for the reserve land./ doongora seera means the big portion of grazing land which cannot be fenced for its largeness./ so for this reason the elders from that boundary to other it forbidden for grazing until the community open together.
- To follow up whether the people using the system of wet and dry patterns of the mobility.
- To see the proper land use plan.
- To bring those who refuse the mobility system for punishment to AbbaMadda.\ they can punish but when it is beyond their capacity.
- Giving the fair punishment to those who disobeyed the rules and regulations of community.

Abboti Madda:
- Giving penalty to those who refused the decision of the Abba Olla.
- To receive Kara mata from them/ the punishment./
- Karamata means the big penalty according to Borana culture.
- This belongs to all communities for the maintenances of the wells and ponds.

Abba Dheedda:
- He is the headman of the big graining area.
- He is most outstanding man who is more responsible for well being of rangeland and water in his big area of the land.

Abba Herrega (In charge of Water points):
- Taking care of wells and ponds.
- Following up those who spoil the wells and the ponds and giving them penalty.
- Preparing the plans and programs for how the animals drink water.
- Koonfi means the person who first started digging the wells and ponds.
- His responsibility to follow the Abba herrega whether he is doing well
To pay financially and cows to for the constructions and maintenances, again holding the discussion on how the people can contribute for the constructions.
- They are not the only one to contribute for the constriction but the whole clans are responsible.
- Share costs of wells or ponds to the users.

**Abba Qaye (Household):**
- The group said that there is no responsibility on Abba qayyee concerning the rangeland and water because he is more responsible for the issue in clans.

**Hayyu (Wisemen):**
- He is more responsible for rangeland and water
- He is the special counselors where appointed as the mediators within the institutional network.
- He is the most outstanding man who can be seriously concerned about the well being of the community.

**Abboti Seera (Legal Councellors):**
- They are the most decision makers on the rules and regulations.
- They are lawmakers.
- They are law implementers.
- They are retired gada councils. They have more authority than the Abba gadda who has the gadda in hand in legal cases. In critical cases it is he who judge / hin mura/ at Gumi Gayyo, the continual Borana meeting whoever is announcing the adaa and seera.

**Abba Gadda: the Gadda council/**
- They are the directive for good governance for the entire Borana societies were supported by complex administrative system.
- They are more concerned for the rangeland and water for the community.
- They are concerned for the well-being and peace of the community.

**Theme two**
- What are the opportunities that enhance/empower/ customary institution to carry out their roles and responsibilities?
- What are the challenges that hamper/ block the smooth functioning of traditional institution/ rangeland and water./
- What are the actions needed to remedy the challenges?
- Opportunities to empower customary intuitions.
- Recognition of pastoralist.
- Tolerating and supporting the differences by government, NGOs and private sectors.
- To revitalize and support the living traditional intuitions.
- The existence of the raw materials like forest, water, gums and essences so on.

Challenges that hinder the roles and responsibilities of customary intuitions are:
- Shifting of authorities.
- Corruption. / too much taking of alcohol by the people concerned.
- Expansion of farmland, private Kalos and ranch.
- Inappropriate or urbanization of the area around traditional wells and ponds.
- Over grazing of the land or inappropriate settlement.
• Land degradation for the big numbers of livestock’s.

Remedy suggested to address the challenges
• Empowerment of the traditional leaders with training and community mobilization.
• Building the resilience community at grass root levels.
• Establishment of communal drought reserve grazing areas [through rehabilitating poor land]
• Improving the quantity and quality of pastures. From traditional calf enclosures or Kalo and haymaking and handling practices.

Theme three
• What do we understand by community led development: where government, community and NGOs undertake specific tasks to achieve one objective?
• Identify the expected roles and responsibilities of each stakeholder?
• To bring about sustainable development which is owned by the community?
• If the all people agreed up on the goals and objectives of the work then they plan together to achieve that goals and objectives.
• If the whole people benefited from that activities.
• Relaying on the experiences of the people to work for the sustainable development.
• Working for community-centered development its plans and programs set up by the people themselves and which can contribute and people benefited from it.

Community:
• To hold hand in hand and work together with government and NGOs.
• To know the challenges and put accordingly.
• To put down the solutions for the challenges.
• To put the solutions that can bring the change and material needed like finance, man power and tools,
• To establish rules and regulation this can guide the people.
• The community to accept the goals and objectives of sustainable development.

Government:
• To strengthen the Keble leaders for good leadership at grass root levels.
• To Prepare polices that can go with the lives of the pastoralist and bring the sustainable development.
• To create the atmosphere this can bring dialogue and unity with government, NGOs and community.

NGO
• Relaying on government proclamation and polices and urgently working to achieve the goals and objectives for sustainable development. Eg Rangeland development and water.
• To accept our duties and responsibilities.
• To give value to the traditional customs, knowledge’s and experiences of the communities and stand for sustainable development.

Theme four
• What are the opportunities of community led development where [government, community and development agencies] involved?
• What are the challenges in community led developments?
• Identify all possible solutions to the challenges and how to build on the opportunities?

**Opportunities / for communities/**

• To show the interest to work for change or development.
• To crate rules and regulations that can guide them.
• To have in born knowledge and understanding.
• To have traditional customs or rules and regulations.
• To correct formal rules and regulations.
• To create new groups this can work seriously and bring change.

**NGOs**

• To create awareness in the community for what they are doing.
• To help the community with finances.
• To implement all that the project need to do for community to bring changes.
• To consider the gender equality in work so that the women can actively participate in developmental activities.

**Governments**

• To build educated man power or personal.
• To crate good policies and implement, this can serve the community and create opportunity for sustainable development.
• To have strong structures to control all the activities.
• To encourage and give moral support for those who work hard and show the interest.

**Challenges**

• Drought, famine and human and animals disease.
• If the private s were expanded.
• When there is no unity among peoples.
• When peoples expects payment for their development activities.
• When the government responsible people and rich people wanted to use the resources for their private interest or cheat the people.
• If treat hen and forcing the people to work without their willingness.
• To be disobedient or looking down for the development rules and regulations.
• When there is limitation of women participation.
• To select for a work somebody whom the community does not like.
• If the government put the policies which can treat hen the NGOs.
• When there is no sign of development work in the community at grass root levels.

**The solutions:**

• Working for disaster risk redaction at community levels and from bottoms to up.
• Giving the awareness to the community about community managed disaster risk reduction.
• To protect those who have power not to depressing the others and corrupted.
• Talking truly to the people and showing worthiness or sincerity for them to work for sustainable development.
• Encouraging more about the participation of women.
**Customary Institutions vs Modern Administration**

- Identify bylaws governing pastoral land use system with focus on rangeland and water and also conceder farm, settlement and encroachment.
- Select the point of differences and similarities with the government representatives.
- What are our way forwards?

**Community bylaws (community group)**

**Bylaws governing NRM**

**Water points**
- According to Borana traditional customs the water have got the person in charge / who is Abba Herrega. Therefore he can organize the plan and programs for how the people use it.
- That who disobeyed and spoils the rules and regulations of wells and ponds is fairly treated according to his crime.
- The crimes are divided into three categories:
- Small crime / when the person did not clean the wells or ponds which he used for watering his animals./
- Medium crime / the person who water his animals or drink without the permission of Abba Herrega./
- Big crime / the person who refuse the decision of the community on contribution for maintenance and constructions of wells and ponds./ this penalty can go up to protecting the person totally not to drink water all.

**Sanctions/penalties**
- Petty crimes / lobar work./
- Medium crime / penalty of one cow /
- serious crime / karra mataa / qakee more than five heads of cattle penalty/
- If the person refuses the penalty he can be outlasted from the community

**Rangeland Management (Pasture)**

The rangeland use systems are divided into two categories. These are Warra and Foora / that means wet and dry season mobility patterns
- The person who settled at the place which meant for foora or wet and dry period is punished.
- No private according to the customs
- The person who refuses to fence the communal Kalos will not get the access of it for this reason all people participate in it.
- Those who spoil the Kalos will be punished with 500 birr. Rabba Gaddas made this decision.

**Government partners (group)**

- Identify rules, regulation and polices related to pastoral land use plan with focus on rangeland and water / consider the issue of farm and settlements or encroachment/
- Identify the point of similarities and the differences or absent.
- What are our way forwards?
- The land belongs to the government and communities.
- The properties are for individual.
- The running river belongs to all people and communities because it can passes through every one for these reasons all peoples can benefit from it.
• The staying water will belong to individual or groups.
• According to the law concerning water the first priority is given to drinking water.
• Fenced Kalo cannot be only for individual therefore people may use it.
• The landowners should follow rules and regulations of the land to privatized it. For examples: paying taxes,
• If there is differences between the traditional laws and government laws on community problem solving the government laws will solve that conflict and bring dialogue.
• Concerning the investment the government laws say, when the environment or place is conducive for the investment the government can give.
• The rules and regulation or polices on pastoralist are in the process of coming up soon.

Finally, it was agreed that this kind of discussion and dialogue need to be continued among different groups.

**Dhaka Qalla kebele**

At the commencement we visited the Dhaka Qalla community where many people turned up. About 90 male and 7 female totally 97 people present. The meeting was started by project teams and we did the project familiarization and self-introduction. Further the objective and purpose of the DRR project explained very well. Then we discussed with the community based on their comments. The need of women and poorer rangeland users are explicitly identified and incorporated in to the plans. There are six clusters in the kebele

1. koticha sirba  
2. kuphii jimma 
3. qaalqicha looba 
4. jigessa 
5. hallo koortu 
6. taakarii

The kebele formed PA level DCM-WG with a member selected from the community. The members are two from each cluster which is 12 and four kebele administrative bodies.  

Hadhessa Kebele.The community is predominantly pastoralist. At the launching of the project activity, the team went to the community and introduced the objectives of the project. At the meeting the community different issues out of which the main cause of drought and hence accelerates poverty within the community is;

• Poor rainfall/no rainfall.  
• Population and livestock growth. 
• Illegal settlements 
• Poor herd mobility 
• Weakness of traditional institutions  

Some of the community priorities during the discussion were as follows;

• School water problems  
• Communal Enclosures  
• Rangeland Management  
• Land use planning

From there we proceeded to next steps, which was the election of DCM-WG at community levels we clearly explained that the elected members should be trustworthy and strong. They will be
responsible to any activities, which will be done in short time ahead of us. So their names are as follows. They have already done the vision and plan map like other communities also the community action plan and contingency plan. The community built community center like other communities to keep and maintain their profile at PA levels.

They also drew a draft bylaw which stipulates an average punishment of 500 Birr if breached. Again the community already agreed that they should not wait for us to do the work. They will organize themselves and do the activities need to be done by the guidance and support of the committee and also the project supported them with necessary tools for bush clearing and other activities.

**Karsa malle Kebele**

For the first time we went to this community of Karsamalle we introduce our selves to the community and the number of the participants were 98 men’s and 10 women’s. The meeting was started by the project team and we did a project familiarization on top of that we have explained very well about the objectives of the project on DRR-II. The community raised some of the core issues that troubles. The core problems raised at the kebele are the following:

- Over population
- Shortage of rainfall
- No mobility (dry and wet season grazing period)
- Over grazing during wet and dry seasons on pastures
- Private kalo expansion
- Customary bylaws weakened
- Expansion of farm land

**Fuldowa and Kawa Kebele**

These are the two Kebeles we have been targeted in Arero Woreda. These communities are predominantly pastoralist and therefore they mostly depend on livestock production. Thus the rangeland management and environmental conservation is the most important and significant things like Kalo system, reserve grazing land, maintenances of wells and ponds are well encouraged. Fuldowa Kebele. There are seven clusters at this kebele namely:

1. Fuldowa
2. Dhagawarabesa
3. Hafura
4. Dhagabarcha
5. Haraqalu
6. Harakontu
7. Danbii

The kebele DCM-WG were then drawn from each cluster but unlike in Liben, members of Gada Councils reside in Arero and therefore, added to the DCM- WG by the request of the kebeles. The core problems identified by the community are:

- Illegal settlements
- Lack of pasture and water
- Weak customary institutions
- Security
- Animals and population growth.

**Kawa kebele**
At the beginning of the project, the organization visited this kebele to further discuss on the community risk assessment done previously. The community also raised and discussed on common issues like;

- What is existing systems or structures (traditional)
- Institutions responsible for managing the resource use and conservations.
- Mobility map(indicating dry and wet season grazing)
- Negotiated and finalized participatory rangeland management plans.
- They address their needs on range land use and rules
- The capacity of the rangeland to meet the needs assessed.

After we shared with them all this then; we start brain storming them about main problems. The core problems they mentioned were;

- Illegal settlements
- Shortage of rainfall.
- Bush encroachment.
- No wet and dry season mobility.
- Weakness of bylaws

There are six clusters at Kawa. These are;
1. Mudhidii dhadacha
3. MaddoAbamega.
4. Midannuu.
5. Kaawa.

Like the other communities this community also elected the DCM-WG at PA level. The DCM-WG is responsible for all the activities under going at community levels.

Key learning from the DRR implementation includes the following;

- Drought Risk Reduction is an appropriate strategy that promotes and supports the traditional coping mechanisms.
- DRR being a noble approach to transform and create resilient community requires continuous and longer period of time rather. This is justified by the nature of behavioral needed to yield a quite result.
- Intervention that bases on the priority of the community and supported by government succeeds with minimum effort.

Opportunities

- DRR is directly or indirectly being embraced by government. In this respect government believes in self-reliant community and pro capacity building which underlines DRR.
- The pastoralist and agro pastoralist living with fragile environment has accumulated indigenous knowledge and skills to cope with the disaster from drought and other problems. The rate of climate change however, surpassed their coping mechanism and therefore with minor support they are ready to implement the program.
- Wide networking with different agencies and organization those taking part in DRR are provides good direction.
Challenges

- Short time duration. The objective of DRR is to create resilient community which requires work on behaviors and skills. It is challenging to accomplish the task at the given project period.
- Better skill in CMDRR is required. Currently CMDRR is not widely spread and therefore requires more effort and continuous skills updating.
- Staff turnover negatively contribute to the success of DRR (related to the skills and experience)
- Challenge to smoothly engage in the tripartite programme implementation (government, NGO and the community)—gap at the time of planning and implementation—What is promised on each part at the beginning

Ways forward

- Longer time frame of intervention in order to get impact
- Focus on discussion on the process of DRR and refine the systems (the establishment of Regional/National level working group is essential)
- More training and experience sharing of the best practices required
- More networking with different agencies and experience sharing.
2. 2.3. Enhancing Social Protection Mechanism for the Vulnerable (ESPMV) in South Wollo

1. The Project

The project interventions were designed to complement the government Productive Safety Net Program and were fully coherent in geographic, thematic and operational principles and modalities. The project was implemented with full involvement of the relevant government partners from woreda to region and the respective local communities. Coordination and joint work with government institutions went to the extent of government investing on development plans identified and prioritised by the communities as a result of the project facilitation and support.

1.1. Project objective and purpose

The major objective of the project was to contribute to the improvement in livelihoods of 4000 vulnerable people in the two woredas which are among the 64 woredas classified as drought prone and chronically food insecure in Amhara regional state. The project purpose was to provide relief assistance (direct food transfer) to 4000 vulnerable people in two woredas. The project was also intended to contribute to longer term development and improve ability of the target communities and individuals to cope with future shocks through (a) provision of appropriate support for the communities and local government to effectively link safety net and development, and (b) introduction and promotion of complementary development activities that enhance local capacity for future disaster management and creation of assets both at individual and community levels.

1.2. Target group and Major Stakeholders

The major stakeholders with which the project worked include the government partners from woreda to region namely the woreda office of Agriculture and Rural Development, woreda administration, the Zonal and regional Food Security and DPP Offices, and Zonal Department of Agriculture and Rural development. At the community level the project worked very closely with community institutions and kebele level public structures such as the Kebele Food Security Task Forces, Community Food Security Task Forces, Kebele Administration, and Watershed Community Groups and Committees. The project also coordinated its activities with other ongoing bilateral programmes implemented by the government and programmes of NGOs such as Organisation for Relief and Development in Amhara (ORDA).

2. Project Implementation and Achievements

The project implementation began with office establishment at Dessie, capital of South Wollo zone, recruitment of new staff/ relocation of senior staff from Bahir Dar, relocation of vehicles, procurement of office furniture and equipment have been done in the first month of the year. This was followed by project introduction meetings in the target woredas and with government partners at zonal and regional level. The project organised stakeholder orientation training and planning workshop for woreda and zonal government partners and community representatives from 26-28 December 2007. This workshop involved (a) Detailed explanation of ESPMV (Objectives, outputs, implementation strategy, activities, schedule, etc) and stakeholders roles and responsibilities (b) Presentation by the two Woredas of their progress in the implementation of PSNP, activities undertaken, quantitative and qualitative achievements, problems encountered/ lessons learnt, recommendations for future actions (c) Presentation, by senior regional government staff, specific to PSNP approaches, policies and practices and coordination/ integration of efforts – the presentations accompanied by case studies for initiating debate among participants, followed by
SWOT analysis on the PSNP implementation process and procedures etc (group discussion and presentations). Duplication and distribution of PSNP guidelines to government staff (c) Orientation on Food Aid operation and food commodity management (d) Presentation of SOS Sahel’s experience in Farmer Led Integrated Watershed Management (FLIWM) and orientation on planning and implementation of FLIWM in Wreeillu and Legehida. Duplication and distribution of planning guidelines and formats for FLIWM, and (e) Formation of groups of project and government staff, election of group leaders and explanation on the roles of the groups in facilitating the participatory planning and targeting process in the target kebeles/ peasant associations

2.1. Achievements by major outputs

**Output 1:** As indicated earlier this output was planned provide 4000 most vulnerable people with immediate access to food through direct transfer for a period of 6 months annually, through procurement and distribution of 816 Mt of food grain and 57 Mt of supplementary food. The implementation of the output involved (a) planning and co-ordination meetings with government and communities (b) Conducting training course on community based targeting and resource transfer (c) Beneficiary targeting and selection (d) Tendering, bid evaluation and procurement of food commodities (e) Food transport, storage, warehouse management, food distribution and (e) Participatory Monitoring, Evaluation, impact assessment; quality control and inspection.

**a) Beneficiary Targeting and Selection**

Targeting is a tool used to select eligible beneficiaries of any social assistance/safety net programme/ since the poor is at the heart in the direct support intervention. The project intended to provide direct support to that segment of the society who has no any means to survive other than resource transfer. Initially, in the project document, it was planned to provide direct support to 4,000 such beneficiaries. However, during the project inception workshop, which involved government partners and members of beneficiary communities, some corrections were made regarding the number of beneficiaries to be covered and the type of commodities to be offered. Accordingly the beneficiary figure rose from 4000 to 5165 (2846 in Wereillu and 2319 in Legehida). In addition the woreda governments demanded the project to cover all beneficiaries eligible for direct support and to shift the budget that was earmarked in the project document to purchase supplementary food for lactating mothers and underweight children, to purchase horse-beans and vegetable oil as these are commonly used during the previous distribution programmes run by the government and other humanitarian agencies.
Table 2.2.3.1. Beneficiary data for direct support program in Legehida Woreda

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Table 2.2.3.2. : Beneficiary Data for Direct Support Program in Woreilu Woreda

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**b) Procurement of food grain (wheat) and supplementary food**

The project went through a number of steps to procure and distribute the planned quantity of food commodities to the beneficiary people. The process involved (a) tender document preparation and launching on appropriate mass media, (b) bid evaluation, selection of the best bidder based on quality and least price, and contract signing with the selected supplier (c) warehouse selection and arrangements – including cleaning, maintenance and placement of basic warehouse equipment and materials (d) delivery of the food commodities to central stores in the target woredas, and (e) Training for food distributors and store keepers on food commodity management, warehouse management, food receiving and dispatching rules and regulations, and record keeping.

The project planned to procure a total of 816 MT of food grain, 69.73 MT of pulses and 15.5 MT of edible oil for distribution to target beneficiaries during the project life. During the first year, covering the period from 1st October 2007 to 30 September 2008, the project purchased and delivered 464.85 MT of wheat grain, 46.885 MT of horse bean and 15,495 litres of edible oil to the target woredas. During the second year the project procured 148.74 MT of maize, 14.475MT of horse beans and 4965 litres of edible oil which was planned to fill the food gap for 3 months. The total amount of food commodity procured and delivered to the target woredas is therefore 613.59 MT of food grain (464.85 MT of wheat and 148.74 MT of maize), 61.36MT of horse beans and 20,460 litres of vegetable oil.

c) **Food distribution to beneficiaries**

During the first year the food distribution was carried out in three rounds. In the first round of the distribution period (for the month of January and February 2008), the two relief food commodities (Wheat and horse beans) were distributed to the beneficiaries. The vegetable oil was not ready by this time. A total of 1,497.9 quintals wheat and 149.79 quintals horse beans were distributed. The project has now completed the distribution of food commodities planned for year one. The food has been distributed to a total of 2846 (1818 female and 1028 male) people in Woreilu, and a total of 2319 (713 male and 1606 female) in Legehida. As mentioned earlier, due to the prevailing food shortage the beneficiary number was increased from the initial target of 4000 to 5165 people after the discussion with the government officials. The food management and distribution involved a number of complementary activities such as (a) Training on food commodities and warehouses managements for storekeepers and distributors (b) Contracting of Inspection Company to check and control the food commodity in accordance with quality and quantity specification, and (c) introduction and implementation of beneficiary card system to ensure the right beneficiaries obtain the food ration. The food commodities were distributed to each direct beneficiary up on presentation of his/ her ration card which was checked monthly for the date, type and amount food received.

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**Table 2.2.3.3.: Summary of food distribution and beneficiary number**
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<th>Number of beneficiaries Supported</th>
<th>Food Commodity distributed (MT)</th>
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<td>Legehida</td>
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<td>Year 2 (January- February 2009)</td>
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Note: Cereal represents Wheat in 2008 and Maize in 2009 while Pulse represents Horse Bean.

Output 2: The intention of this output was to improve the capacities of local government and communities to be able to effectively plan and implement the Productive Safety Net Programme in a manner that meets the desired quality standard in terms of programme planning and implementation. Limited local capacity is one of the major bottlenecks for successful implementation of productive safety nets, and in particular there has been lack of creative capacity and experience within the woreda ARDO to effectively link relief/safety net with development, and critical capacity gap in financial management and budget tracking within the woreda finance offices to effectively manage the huge amount of PSNP money and other bilateral funds channeled to the woredas. The project carried out the following specific interventions in relation to this output:

a) Training for 53 woreda government staff (including the members of Woreda Food Security Task Forces), on PSNP development objectives and strategies, community based targeting, and also on planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of PSNP interventions. Separate orientation training on the same subject given for 138 DAs and field supervisors drawn from the target kebeles and representatives of beneficiary communities. In addition, PSNP guidelines have been duplicated and distributed to government field staff and leaflets translated into Amharic and distributed to members of the Kebele and Community Food Security Task Forces.

b) Regular technical assistance, financial and physical support to woreda ARDO and WoFED to improve the quality of PSNP public works effectively integrate PSNP with ongoing long-term food security initiatives and improve the effectiveness of PSNP as a social protection mechanism. In this regards, the project sponsored computer training for 4 focal staff from woreda ARDO and WoFED in both woredas, and four set of desktop computers and printers purchased and supplied to both offices. In addition, 2 motor bicycles purchased and supplied to woreda ARDOs in both woredas to improve their field mobility and a total of Birr 160,000 project fund directly transferred to the two woredas during the project period to cover their basic operational cost related to the project.

Output 3: As noted earlier one of the innovative aspects of this project is linking safety net with development, through introduction and promotion of technologies and practical approach for improved management of natural resources, so that PSNP can address immediate food needs while...
contributing to sustainable improvement of livelihoods. The prominent feature of the approach is the promotion of conservation-based agriculture, through the use of participatory planning process (Farmer-Led Integrated Watershed Management), in which farmers are directly involved in identifying and deciding upon their conservation needs and use of resources. The approach integrates different forms of land and water resource management with other farming activities (crop farming, livestock husbandry, forestry) and off-farm income generating activities in a given watershed in order to meet the smallholders multiple needs. The action was designed based on SOS Sahel’s experience since 1990 in Amhara and SNNPR to promote a holistic approach to sustainable conservation and management of natural resources. Specific interventions accomplished in relation to this output are summarised below:

- Identification and delineation of 4 target watersheds in 4 selected kebeles in the two target woredas (Degnu and Mechella watersheds in Woreillu and Yillu and Tachsigede watersheds in Legehida), establishment of watershed management committees and work groups, selection of farmer technicians to be trained and detailed watershed management activity planning with beneficiary members of the communities and local government partners. Series of community discussions organized in each watershed that helped to raise the awareness of local community on Integrated Watershed Management, to develop bylaws, and decide on weekly work schedule. Community forums on environment organised, and a series of community discussions held on communal land management and controlled grazing. Documentary films on Integrated Watershed Management including the experience of SOS Sahel in SNNPR and the “Gedeo” traditional Agro forestry practice in SNNPR for beneficiary farmers involved in implementing FLIWM interventions in the four target watersheds.

- A one week Training of Trainers (TOT) course on Integrated Watershed Management organized and conducted for 30 governmental staff (28 male and 2 female). The course content included participatory land use planning, principles, approaches and applications of integrated watershed management, highland fruit production and forage development. This was followed by an experience sharing visit by the project staff and staff of woreda, zone and regional government partners to Tigray and Southern regions to share practical experiences in Integrated Watershed Management implemented by SOS Sahel, other NGOs and regional government. In both of the experience sharing visits three people from each woreda (Chief Administrator, Head of Agriculture and Rural Development Office and Natural Resource Expert) and all the project technical staff participated. Both the training course and the cross visit has helped the trainees and government officials to develop the concept of Integrated Watershed Management (IWSM), and build their technical capacity. The importance of the inter-regional experience sharing visit was explained by Ato Hussien Muhiey, Chief Administrator of Legehida Woreda, as follows: “After I visited Tigray I got better understanding about watershed and the importance of watershed management and now I am equally concerned with our professionals and committed to playing a pro active role”

- A total of 153 farmers (of which 14 are female) selected as farmer technicians and trained on physical and biological soil and water conservation measures for two consecutive days. The training was conducted on site in each watershed at farmers training centers (FTC) and supported with practical exercises. These farmers technicians have been very active providing technical guidance to fellow farmers and farmers groups, participating in PSNP
public work scheme and FLIWM activities, in laying out terraces, vegetative barriers, and other soil and water conservation structures

- Farm tools purchased and supplied to the woreda ARDOs and distributed to the FLIWM farmers work groups. The groups have group leaders and farmers technicians who were trained to provide technical support for their fellow farmers in FLIWM and Soil and water management. The groups have developed their own working bylaws and come together two day every week to carryout soil and water conservation activities in their respective farm plots. Farm tools were given at 70% subsidy and 30% was contributed by the beneficiaries. The project procured and distributed a total of 3970 pieces of different types of tools (*Shovel, Pick Axe, Flat Hoe Three finger hoe, Crow bar, and Sickle*). In addition *Line Levels, Measuring Tapes and Nylon Ropes* were given to groups to use in laying out contours and terraces. A total amount of Birr 15,250 was collected from the 30% community contribution for the tools and this money was used to procure additional farm tools for use by other needy farmers in the waiting list.

- Animal feed is one of the major problems in all watersheds and the farmers point out forage development was their prime interest during the community discussions. Therefore based on their request 40 m$^3$ “Desho” a multipurpose grass was brought from Hadiya zone in SNNPR, initially transferred to and propagated in four central nurseries in the two woredas and finally distributed to 261 target farmers in the four watersheds. The grass which is well adapted to the agro ecology is already in big demand in the area due to its multiple use as animal forage and soil and water conservation. The project also promoted Desho grass at a regional bazaar that was organised in Bahir Dar in 2008 through displaying the sample of the grass in a plastic pot and distribution of leaflets.

- Introduction and distribution of highland fruit seedlings for 71 model farmers

### 2.2. Project results and impacts

- Improved access to food and saving the lives of 5165 chronically food insecure people

- The project worked very closely with woreda government partners, providing training and technical support for government staff to take the lead role in the planning and implementation of the project with communities in the target areas. The impact of the project intervention in terms of building the technical capacity of farmers and government staff has been significant. Such improved capacity has been evidenced by the ability of woreda ARDOs in both woredas to effectively manage their part in the project implementation process, with improved quality of technical inputs delivered to the target communities and results achieved at the field level. There has been significant improvement in the quality of the planning process and community action plans produced in relation to the PSNP programme. Exclusion and inclusion error in safety net beneficiary targeting has been significantly reduced. The project successfully introduced beneficiary card system which is now used by the woreda governments to ensure that food/cash aid goes to the right beneficiary households and individuals.

- As a result of genuine participation promoted by the project, there has been significant improvement in the self help spirit, sense of ownership and participation of the local communities in their own development. Among others this was manifested in communities increasingly investing their time and free labour in implementing the planned interventions – the fact that greatly contributed to the considerable amount of watershed management activities accomplished and results achieved within a relatively short period. The strategy of closely working with and through the local government structure, and of comprehensive planning at community level, availability of tested NRM technologies for immediate implementation and the pace at which implementation of FLIWM activities had progressed and results achieved at the
community level, created huge interest and enthusiasm on the part of the woreda government partners for replication/ scaling-up of the interventions. There has been significant progress with integrating watershed management extension work with the ongoing PSNP programme in the two woredas.

- Although an in depth study of the impact of the watershed management intervention is yet to be assessed the results of joint impact monitoring by the project and woreda government staff and discussions made with the beneficiary farmers indicate (a) improvement in farmers knowledge of managing their land (b) reduction in un controlled flooding and soil erosion in agricultural land (c) improvement in crop stand and yield in treated farm plots (d) improved access to animal due to the introduction and adoption of Desho – a multipurpose grass which is increasingly replicated by the local farmers. As a result of series of community discussions and demonstration visits organised by the project, communities have been increasingly aware of the benefits of controlled or zero grazing, resulting in improvement in regeneration capacity and the vegetation cover of degraded lands rehabilitated and closed off in addition, the introduction of highland fruits – apple and avocado fruit tree seedlings, helped to prove the potential of the area for fruit development and creating the ground for income generation/ diversification.

3. Project Management and Partnership Development

The project was directly managed by SOS Sahel Ethiopia but implemented in close partnership with communities, government partners and other key actors engaged in similar operation. As indicated in earlier sections of this report, the project was closely worked with its government partners at woreda, zone and region. Both officials and technical staffs of the key partner institutions (ARDO and WoFED) in the two woredas have actively participated in the implementation of the project. The woreda, notably the woreda administrators and heads of ARDOs, played a proactive role in terms of providing the necessary administrative support and working in the field with the project and government technical staff whenever necessary. The woreda government technical staff and development agents based in the kebeles were regularly available to ensure the proper implementation of the project interventions. They were, for example, exclusively responsible for the implementation of watershed management interventions including responsibilities for facilitating the community planning process, provision of training for farmers and implementation of community action plans. On top of regular joint field visits, the project staff and office heads and technical staff of ARDOs and WoFED met on quarterly basis to report and discuss on quarterly achievements, problems and challenges faced in the implementation process and develop action plans and budget for the following quarter. The key partners at the regional level were the Bureau of Rural Development Agricultural Development (BoARD) and Food Security Coordination and Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Office (FSCDPOPO). The project worked very closely with these bureaus which included joint field monitoring and review on regular basis and technical cooperation in their area of expertise in which case senior technical staff from the two bureaus came down to the field and worked jointly with the project and woreda government technical staff.

The partnership between the project and woreda governments had developed to the extent of government committing additional resources for implementation of community action plans that were not financed by the project. Therefore due to genuine partnership already forged the woreda governments agreed to inject their own resources (using Safety Net Budget) in to these watersheds in order to prompt watershed based development. A good example of this is the financing of the construction of hand dug wells (shown on photo below), financed from the PSNP capital budget,
and spring water development activities and provision of improved animal varieties by government in collaboration with ORDA – a local NGOs working in the area.

4. Measures to Ensure Sustainability

This project is fully in line with the government rural development policy and strategy of achieving food security and poverty reduction through market led agricultural development and promotion of sound environmental management, The Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP) is viewed as an integral part of the food security investment strategy objectively linked to ongoing and future food security programmes. The project watershed management intervention is intended to improve environmental sustainability through conservation of land, soil and water while all other project activities are designed address immediate food needs of the target community.

The project has made significant contribution to improving the service delivery capacity of government partner institutions through bringing new ideas/approaches and providing training/technical assistance, and provision of physical and financial supports. The government partner institutions have been involved from the project design phase and have effectively taken the lead in the implementation of a number of the project activities. They have been fully supportive of the project’s approach of comprehensive planning at community level, availability of proven natural resources management technologies for immediate implementation, use of existing government structure and human resources, and training and modest resources provided for the project implementation.

The project also provided continuous support to the community to engage with the public service delivery institutions, assisting community structures to link with the government structure at the woreda level to ensure continuity of services required to sustain the project results after the project withdrawal. This is all bound to ensure sustainability and replicate and scale up successful interventions introduced and achievements made.

5. Monitoring and Evaluation

The project monitoring activities involved joint process monitoring and technical backstopping by project staff and government staff, monthly review and planning meetings of project staff, quarterly review and planning with woreda government partners, internal and external midterm review and project terminal evaluation. On top of the regular field level monitoring and technical support by the project staff the project carried out the following M&E activities (a) the project senior staff, relief monitors and store keepers and food distributors met on monthly basis to report and discuss on monthly achievements, problems and challenges faced in the implementation process and develop action plans for the following months (b) the project senior management and technical staff and office heads and technical staff of woreda government organisations met on quarterly basis to report and discuss on quarterly achievements, problems and challenges faced in the implementation process and develop action plans and budget for the following quarter. In addition to the quarterly review, a joint monthly monitoring and evaluation was conducted in each woreda involving the heads of government offices, experts and SOS Sahel Ethiopia staffs to track the progress of the project.
6. Key lessons and Challenges

The project had encountered the following challenges.

- Delay in signing of the project operational agreement at the regional level due to the tight schedule of the officials of the regional government partner organisations/ signatory bureaus
- Delay in the procurement of food grains and supplementary food in year 1 due to absence of suppliers particularly of wheat due to price hikes
- Delay in finalizing the verification of beneficiary lists and poor targeting outcomes in year 1. There were some inclusion and exclusion errors during targeting that required a considerable amount of the project staff time to assisting woreda governments and communities for its correction
- Too much pressure on the project to increase the number of beneficiaries as a result of the prevailing famine and increase in number of needy households

7. Conclusions and Recommendations

The project worked very closely with woreda government partners, providing training and technical support for government staff to take the lead role in the planning and implementation of the project with communities in the target areas. The impact of the project intervention in terms of building the technical capacity of farmers and government staff has been significant. Such improved capacity has been evidenced by the ability of WoARD in both woredas to effectively manage their part in the project implementation process, with improved quality of technical inputs delivered to the target communities and results achieved at the field level.

One of the key lessons learnt from this project is that with proper demonstration, training and capacity support Government can be made flexible to innovative ways of implementing PSNP and other food security and rural development programmes. The project successfully supported the woreda government partners to effectively integrate FLIWM interventions into the PSNP programme public work schemes in the two woredas. Moreover, the participatory planning process and technologies used in FLIWM and the pace at which its implementation has progressed at the community level, created a huge interest and enthusiasm on the part of the woreda government partners for replication/ scaling-up of the intervention.

With genuine participation and appropriate capacity support, communities can develop strong sense of ownership and commitment to advance their own development. This project has seen a high level of enthusiasm and commitment on the part of the target community - investing their time and labour and sharing costs for inputs in the implementation of the project development interventions. The project evaluation mission from the regional and zonal governments witnessed such a strong sense of ownership and high level of confidence that the community developed to further continue the activities even in the absence of the project, which can be taken as a good lesson for other woredas in the region. According to the government evaluation mission the following success factors could explain the peculiar features of the project:

- The timeliness of resource transfer, regular inspection mechanism to confirm the quality of the commodity, and opening additional distribution centres, in favour of beneficiaries, i.e., to shorten the distance of movement for collecting monthly rations;
- Promotion of self-help spirit, appropriate Community Institution building, and introduction of community by laws and working system for the community to take the lead role in watershed development and management
- Introduction and promotion of new planting material like “Desho” grass to strengthen physical soil and water conservation structures, to fill the livestock forage gap and to create additional means of income generation for the local community;
- Provision of appropriate farm tools such as Shovel, Pick Axe, Flat Hoe, Sickle and others for individual farmers through cost sharing mechanism;
- Genuine partnership and collaboration between the project and the government and high level of involvement of government partner institutions, relevant officials, technical experts and grass root staff in the project implementation

**Recommendations**

The technological options that have emerged from SOS Sahel’s previous experiences were scaled up the two target Woredas. The project has given practical lesson to develop mechanisms for scaling up these successful field experiences within the two target woredas and other woredas in the region.

The following are some of the recommendations that reflect the views of all concerned bodies who were part of the evaluation process including community representatives, woreda government officials, development workers and the members of the evaluation team, regarding the future of the project and areas of emphasis for further scaling up in the intervention of PSNP, both, in the target Woredas and in all PSNP intervention Woredas of the Region.
2.3. Small holder and Pastoralist Natural Products Market Development Projects

2.3.1. Ensuring Small Holder Producers in Ethiopia Achieve Sustainable and Fair Access to Pepper and Bee Product Markets

1. Background of the project

The project entitled ensuring Small Holder Producers in Ethiopia Achieve Sustainable and Fair Access to Pepper and Bee Product Markets. The overall aim of the project is to lift smallholder producers out of income poverty through effective participation in local, national and global agricultural markets i.e. the project aims to support the smallholder producers to overcome constraints to achieving fair and sustainable access to honey, bee products and pepper markets, both within Ethiopia and beyond.

1.1. The Approach of the project

The approach of raising pepper seedling has changed from community to privately managed nursery. In the project area, there have been nurseries of various kinds (for forest tree, fruit, and vegetable seedlings), commonly managed by government and communities. Almost all of them have been closed down mainly for lack of fund and poor management. Based on lessons learned from these past experiences, we have changed the approach for pepper seedling production from originally planned community-managed nurseries to privately owned ones. This will ensure sense of ownership and sustainability of pepper seedling production.

1.2. Target group

The primary target groups of the project are 1,200 beekeepers and 1,600 pepper growing households in four Woredas. Particular effort was made to include vulnerable groups such as women-headed households, and people affected by HIV/AIDS. Indirectly, the project provided additional benefits for the 20,000 beekeepers.

2. Description of the Project

Most of the activities planned for this reporting period were accomplished. This is especially true for the bees’ products component. Progress and impact with the pepper component is low for reasons that will be discussed below.

The project has supported smallholder producers to overcome the major constraints in production, storage, processing and marketing of their products. This support has enhanced their capacity to negotiate a fair price through collective bargaining. They have been organized into four beekeepers cooperatives, with a total membership of 2012. This has not only improved the smallholder producers’ collective bargaining capacity, but also their legitimacy to access Business Development Services (BDS), such as access to credit.

The smallholder producers have gained new skills in beekeeping and bees’ product processing. The productivity of honey per hive has increased from 10 kg to 25 kg as a result of the introduction of modern beehives and improved production practices. Farmers’ processing skills and access to modern processing technologies have been enhanced, enabling them to sell better quality and value added products. All these have resulted in an income increase. On average, their income has increased by Birr 1500 per smallholder producer. This does not include the dividends that they get from their cooperative membership.
The project has contributed for technical, managerial and leadership capacity development of the individual farmers and their cooperatives through various capacity building supports. Their awareness on the compliance requirements of niche markets (fair trade and organic) was raised and the project has began providing them with necessary technical support and marketing information to enable them penetrate this new marketing opportunities. Farmers’ production is more market-oriented than before and they have moved away from subsistence farming towards a more business oriented approach.

2.1. Productivity of small-scale producers improved (Output One)

2.1.1. Designed & provided production training packages based on identified needs of producers

- Training manuals were prepared to train farmers in beekeeping, marketing and cooperative organisation and management.
- 105 government experts, 2012 (222 women and 1790 men) beekeepers cooperative members, and 20 cooperative leaders were trained in cooperative management and leadership.
- 287 (18 women and 269 men) model honey producers, 125 government staff were trained in improved beekeeping (i.e. improved bee hive construction, colony multiplication/splitting, colony transfer, seasonal management, and harvesting).
- 320 farmers were trained in product marketing (i.e. product quality management, price setting, promotion and distribution).
- 45 beekeepers (34 men and 11 women) were trained in bees product (mainly honey and wax) processing, packaging and labelling.
- As the majority of household heads who apply for the cooperative memberships were men, they have received more training than women.
- Due to various training events:
  - farmers awareness was raised on benefits, values and principles of cooperatives;
  - new skills were gained and applied in beekeeping, bees product marketing, and cooperative management and leadership;
  - partnership between the farmers’ organization, the public sector and the project has been strengthened; and
  - Beekeeping technical skill and cooperative management know-how of the government staff has been significantly improved.
- Provision of irrigation equipment and inputs for production of pepper and bees forage (MI drip kit, Treadle pumps, bee keeping equipment) on credit
- Study was conducted on water resource potential and irrigation practice, with the view to identifying major sources of water for irrigation and appropriate irrigation technologies. This was complemented by a socio-economic study that has aimed at assessing determinants of farmers’ adoption of irrigation technologies and measures that should be taken to enhance technological promotion. The reports of the studies have been produced and shared with relevant partners. We will put into action the main recommendations of the study in next year’s
- Improved pepper seed varieties secured from the national agricultural research centre were distributed on credit basis to 94 pepper farmers in the two pepper growing woredas (Jabi Tehinan and Dembia). This has enabled the farmers to produce pepper off-season under irrigation for the first time. However, the benefit was only limited to few farmers who have access to motorized pumps and traditional river diversions. Under the project, we had planned to provide micro-irrigation technologies (treadle pumps, drip irrigation kits etc.), but this did not
happen due to inflation induced budget constraint. This has resulted in underachievement of target set for growing pepper under irrigation. We have planned to rectify this in the coming year. We have reallocated some money from year one for demonstration purposes in order to raise farmers’ awareness and stimulate demand. Farmers would buy the technologies with their own money. Credit arrangement will be facilitated with micro-finance institutions for those who cannot afford to pay upfront.

- Beekeeping equipment was supplied on credit to four cooperatives, which included honey containers, processing equipment and packaging materials. As a result, beekeepers were able to process; add value, package, label and forward quality honey to local, regional and national markets.

2.1.2. Establish community nurseries for pepper and bees forage in the four target Woredas

- 47 farmers have established their own nursery sites and are growing pepper seedlings for planting in April. The seedlings will serve as planting materials as well as a source of income for the producing farmers. That is, the farmers will use the seedlings to plant on their own farm lands, while they will sell the surplus to other farmers.

- On the other hand, preliminary assessment was conducted to identify constraints and opportunities for bees forage production in the target districts. This has laid the foundation for selection, propagation/multiplication and dissemination of high yielding bees’ forages, which potentially not only increase honey productivity, but also enhances environmental stability. Actual establishment of the nurseries will take place in year 2010. Bees forage production is highly linked with the introduction of irrigation technologies as the plan was to help beekeepers to grow their own bees forage in the dry season under irrigation.

2.1.3. Develop micro credit facilities

- The project has succeeded in creating access to credit for the beekeeping cooperatives for honey purchase, processing and marketing. The cooperatives have secured Birr 520,000 (≈ £34,667) from four rural financing institutions and have purchased 20,000 kgs of honey from their members. Besides enabling the cooperatives to undertake bulk purchases; the access to new sources of credit has enhanced their business competitiveness, financial viability and institutional effectiveness, reduced transaction cost and the risks associated with lack of initial investment capital. Profits that the cooperatives make will be shared among the members in the form dividends. Credit providers were government institutions, Micro finance Institutions and cooperatives that were formed to support rural business initiatives. List of the loan providers include Agriculture and Rural Development Office (ARDO), Multipurpose Cooperatives, Zembaba Union and Credit and Savings Union. The beekeepers cooperatives received loan without collateral. Their certificate of registration provides them the legal ground to borrow money from any source without producing extra collateral. Interest on the loans varies according to the lender. For instance, ARDO lends with no interest, while loans from farmer business organizations and micro-finance institutions are interest bearing usually varying between 6% and 9% per annum.

- A women’s group consisting of 11 members received loan from a rural financing institution and bought a small motorized pump for growing pepper and vegetables under irrigation. They will share the pump to grow vegetables individually on their own plots, located near a
stream or a river. This is a good example of how their involvement in agri-business can improve their economic and social status.

2.1.4. Organized stakeholder exchange visits for local and national experience sharing
A team of 11 individuals drawn from partner government institutions and the project staff has visited other similar projects implemented by SOS Sahel and IDE in SNNPR and Oromia regions. The purpose of this visit was to gain practical experience regarding pepper production, processing and marketing as well as practical application of micro-irrigation technologies. The visit has created a unique opportunity for the participants to gain new skills, knowledge and experience in value chain development and micro-irrigation technologies. In addition, the project has created new business relationship between farmers’ organizations and a range of private and public institutions: input suppliers, agricultural extension service providers, credit providers, processors and buyers of bees’ products.

2.2. Income returns of the beneficiaries increased (output two)
2.2.1. Organize smallholder farmers into commercial entities & capacity-building
Three Bees Product Development and Marketing Cooperatives were established in three districts with a total of 1393 farmers as members. The capacity of one primary cooperative that was formed in 2004 by SOS Sahel’s previous project was strengthened through training and technical backstopping. The total number of members of the four cooperatives to-date is 2012 (1790 male and 222 female heads of households). The project is promoting product specific cooperatives to enhance specialization, like for bees’ products. However, pepper specific cooperative has not been established during this reporting period.

2.2.2. Design/provide enterprise management and business development training
Reported under Output 1, sub-output 1 above.

Technical training for farmers on handling of equipment, production, value addition & processing, marketing & management - Reported under Output 1, sub-output 1 above.

2.2.3. Infrastructure development (3 honey collection and processing centres & 2 pepper warehouses)
- Construction of honey Collection and Processing Centres (CPCs) and pepper warehouses was delayed due to the unforeseen sharp increase in the price of construction materials, which made it unaffordable with the originally allocated budget. For example: a price of 50 kg sack of cement increased from 135 Birr to 250 Birr; construction iron of 10 mm diameter size increased from Birr 40 to Birr 95. The same is true for labour and related materials. The trend is on the worsening side with rising inflation (60%) and shortage of foreign currency the country is facing. Meanwhile, the project has supported establishment of 3 temporary CPCs and equipped them with the necessary processing, packaging and labeling equipment and materials, as an interim measure until the permanent collection and processing centers are established. This has enabled the farmers to begin selling processed and diversified products (pure honey, wax and honey wine).

Construction of the CPCs and pepper warehouses will proceed as planned in year two. A portion of the remaining budget from year one has been reallocated to fill the budget gap.
2.2.4. Initial provision of containers and packaging materials
Different beekeeping equipments (honey containers, processing equipments, and packaging materials) were supplied to the cooperatives. All of the equipment mentioned here was purchased locally.

1. Strengthen Resource Centre with website, demonstrations and resource library, and up-to-date - information on market requirements & standards. SOS Sahel had established Information Resource Centre under the previous project in 2004, with the aim to create easy access to information on apiculture. Though construction of the building was completed and handed over to the management committee of the Beekeepers Cooperative Union, the Centre was not fully operational at the time when the previous project had phased out.

The Center has become fully operational due to the strong capacity building support provided to the Union by the current Comic Relief funded project. For instance, website (www.zembababees.org) was setup for the Union and training was given to the management committee and employees of the Union in website management and e-marketing techniques.

2.3. Sustainable linkages established/strengthened with local, national and international markets (Output Three)

2.3.1. Strengthened and expanded unions of producers
Beekeepers Union is an apex structure for the beekeepers cooperatives that was previously established by SOS Sahel with the name Zembaba and with its office located in the Regional town, Bahir Dar. The Union is the highest body of the primary cooperative whose main function is linking the cooperatives with new local and overseas market opportunities, as well as building common vision and solidarity among members of primary cooperatives. The current project has provided financial and technical support to the Union in the form of training and technical backstopping. The support was provided to fill the knowledge and skill gaps identified based on the outcomes of the capacity-building needs assessment carried out by the project staff.

Services from private and public sectors to pepper farmers (input supply and pepper processing and marketing) will be delivered through the already-established multipurpose cooperatives in their villages. Multipurpose cooperatives were established by the government over the past years to provide a wide range of services to farmers, such as buying and selling members agricultural products, supplying inputs (fertilizers, seeds, pesticides), providing credit services, etc.

2.3.2. Developed marketing strategies for both target products
Market assessment on bees and pepper products was conducted, looking at the market trends and product prices, supply and demand situation of those products. Based on results of the assessment, Marketing Strategies for pepper and bees products (honey, honey wine, wax) have been developed and is being used by the producers and cooperatives. The new strategies have given them clear guidance with regard to where and how to sell their products in light of buyers preferences and prevailing market prices.

2.3.3. Production of resource materials for advertisement and promotion, and consumer awareness campaigns
Resource materials for advertisement and promotion have been developed and put into use. For instance, bill boards have been erected on roadsides, CPCs, sales outlets and other important locations. Awareness raising campaigns were conducted in different forums locally and
internationally. There is a clear indication that consumption of our farmers’ honey (labelled as AMAR) has increased locally. Connections have been made with honey dealers, processors and packers. As a result, the number of traders who are in direct contact with cooperatives for bulk purchases has been rising.

2.3.4. Training of marketing staff of the co-operatives

Managing Directors of three cooperatives received training in cooperative management, customer handling, contract negotiation and marketing skills. The training was provided by the project technical staff: commercial advisor and cooperative promotion expert. As a result of the training, the cooperative directors are now capable of running their business with minimum assistance from the project and government offices.

2.3.5. Stakeholder visits to national/ regional/international trade fair, trade missions & buyer visits

The Cooperatives and their Union have participated in two trade fairs and exhibitions organized at regional and national levels by Trade and Industry Bureau/Ministry and other stakeholders. The marketing events provided great opportunity for producers to promote their products, especially the AMAR branded honey.

The Project Manager attended the 6th Middle East Natural and Organic Products Expo and Business Meeting that was held in Dubai. He used the opportunity to promote Ethiopian honey and pepper and to create contacts with international honey/pepper traders and suppliers of processing equipment and other inputs. A key result of the contacts made at the Dubai event is the growing demand for samples of Amar honey from a number of potential buyers from the Middle East. The honey samples have been sent to potential buyers.

2.4. Action research and policy communication (Output Four)

2.4.1. Develop monitoring and learning framework

Project Logical Framework and a detailed Performance Monitoring Framework (PMF) have been developed by the project team. While the Log frame provides broader framework for effective management of the project, the PMF is used to track changes and progress, assess project benefits and impacts, and capture key lessons and experiences.

Monitoring and review of the project progress have been carried out on an on-going basis. The Project Management Committee consisting of IDE & SOS Sahel Country Directors, Program and Finance Managers of the two organizations and the President of ESAT conducted quarterly regular meetings followed by project field visits. The committee reviewed the project progress, made decisions on key strategic and policy issues and supported the staff in developing the Logical Framework and the PMF. The IDE-UK CEO (Neil Jeffery) visited the project. The visit was an opportunity to discuss on key strategic issues pertaining to project financing, partnership building, product development, certification and marketing and the supportive role of the IDE UK.

2.4.2. Feasibility study and business assessment/ planning

A study team consisting of a Hydro-geologist (consultant) and Socio-economic (project staff) conducted an assessment of irrigation water potential and socio-economic characteristics of the project districts. The study was conducted in the month of February 2009 for 20 days. Particular emphasis was given to the two pepper growing districts, namely Jabi Tehinan and Dembia. The studies revealed that there are high surface and ground water potentials in the studied districts and the local people are keen to adopt new and appropriate micro-irrigation technologies (treadle
pumps, rope & washer pumps, etc) for pepper and vegetable production. The finalised studies will be soon published and distributed to all relevant actors, including extension workers, NGOs, private sectors, public sector planners and policy makers.

Moreover, a business situation analysis was conducted both for honey and pepper to develop marketing strategies for both commodities. These studies were conducted by marketing officer (project staff) in the month of October 2009 for 15 days. Report of the analysis was produced and shared with relevant partners. Intervention plans and marketing strategies have been developed based on the results of the analysis.

2.4.3. Compiled and published Lessons learnt

Reports of project experiences to date, research findings and workshop proceedings have been organized and kept in the Information Resource Centre in an easy-to-retrieve manner. The documents, along with some relevant publications and books, are open for use by beekeepers, researchers, students, tourists, staff of partner government organizations, traders and any other interested individuals. Besides, such will be shared with stakeholders through workshops, networks and public forums.

2.4.4. Develop a greater understanding of value chain development and livelihoods

- Regional Project Advisory Committee consisting of key stakeholders from the private sector, NGOs and government organizations has been established to provide advisory support and guidance to the project. More importantly, members of the Advisory Committee have served to popularise the value chain development (VCD) concepts, practices and its role in poverty alleviation amongst the organizations they represent and the public at large. Training workshops and cross-visits to other VCD projects have improved the understanding of the VCD approach.
- Members of the Advisory Committee include Head of the Amhara Region Cooperative Promotion Agency, Head of the Amhara Region Bureau of Agriculture and Rural Development, Heads of Agriculture and Rural Development Offices of the four project Districts and SOS Sahel/IDE.

2.4.5. Research on value chain development

Research on honey and pepper value chains was conducted prior to this project with funding from Comic Relief. It was this research that led to the conception of the current project. The review of the research undertaken prior to the project implementation has revealed that the information generated by the previous research is still valid and useful, thus, it was not necessary to carry out another research at least in the first year.

2.4.6. Disseminating, sharing and learning

- Stakeholder planning workshop was conducted in each district at the beginning of the project to review the project activities, objectives and strategies, agree on roles and responsibilities of the key stakeholders and develop the framework for participatory monitoring and impact assessment. In total 52 representatives from local district government offices attended the workshops. The offices include, Offices of District Administration, Agriculture and Rural Development Offices, Women’s Affairs Offices, Cooperatives Promotion Offices, Irrigation Offices, and Information Desks.
- The Project Advisory/monitoring committee, comprising seven members as reported above (sub-output 4), was formed to regularly assess and record the impact of the project on the
livelihoods of relevant stakeholders and beneficiaries. The project achievements and impacts reported in A2, above, are the outcome of such ongoing participatory monitoring processes.

- The Project is an active member of the ApiTrade Africa. ApiTrade Africa is a trade network dedicated to promoting market access for African bee products. It is established in Africa with memberships drawn from African countries. The network was born out of the growing realization that the full potential of the apiculture industry in Africa has not been harnessed and the obstacles hindering its growth can be tackled best through coordinated efforts across the region. The Project Manager is the member of the Ethiopian Apiculture Board, which is a national apex structure dedicated to promoting the apiculture sector in the country and to the creation of fair and sustainable markets for Ethiopian bees’ products. It was established in Addis Ababa in January 2009 with memberships drawn from agencies involved in the development of the honey sub-sector. The formation of this body was first initiated in January 2007 at the developing business in bee-products international conference held in Addis Ababa, financed by SNV, SOS Sahel, and IDE and hosted by Ethiopian honey and beeswax producers and exporters association. The Project Manager is on the committees of these two important international and national networks that provided a great opportunity to use the project field experiences to feed into the national and regional policies and equally learn from the experience of others.

- The symposium in developing business in bee-products has yielded many significant outcomes of which the following are the major ones:
  (1) The Ethiopian government has developed a National Beekeeping Strategy and established a new Directorate under the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.
  (2) Ethiopia has been granted an official license by EU to export honey to EU countries. As a result one of the cooperatives’ honey dealers (Beza Agro-Industry) was able to export 30 tonnes of honey and 3 tonnes of bees wax to UK.

3. Impacts of the project
The following major impacts are noticeable among the target group

- Collective bargaining. Farmers have gained new skills in beekeeping and pepper growing.
- Their processing skills and access to modern processing technologies were enhanced so that they are able to sell diversified and value added bees and pepper products.
- Farmers Business organizations’ (FBOs) technical, management and leadership capacity was strengthened through various capacity building supports that involved practical training and technical back-stopping from the project subject matter specialists.
- New access to credit was created for beekeepers cooperatives by linking them with rural financing institutions. This has removed financial constraints faced by the cooperatives, freed them from exploitation by traditional money lenders, enabled them to make bulk purchase from their members and remain competitive in the market.
- Input supply chain for agricultural inputs and micro-irrigation technologies are being developed. This has resulted in synergetic business relationship between farmers’ business organizations (cooperatives and union) and private input suppliers. Such positive link between farmers and private traders has enabled farmers to get embedded after sell services for the modern irrigation technologies bought from the private suppliers.
- Farmers awareness on the compliance requirements of niche markets (fair trade and organic) and mainstream overseas markets, were raised and the project has began providing them with
necessary technical support and marketing information to enable them penetrate this new marketing opportunities.

- Public and private partnership has been strengthened by creating links with all honey and pepper value chain actors at local, regional and national levels.

**Increasing opportunities for people to gain greater economic freedom**

To lift smallholder rural farmers out of income poverty through effective participation in local, national and overseas markets. The economic impact of the project on the participating farmers is a measurable indicator of its success. For instance, farmers involved in the project have seen increases in incomes through the adoption of low-cost, locally produced improved beehives; accompanied by improved bees’ husbandry and marketing skills. It was observed that:

- Productivity per hive of comb honey has increased from 10 kg to 25 kg as a result of the introduction of improved beehives and production practices.

- The price received by individual beekeepers has increased by 60% from sale of honey due to quality improvement and value addition.

- New source of income created through off-season pepper production, and sale of value added and diversified products (e.g., wax and honey wine).

The introduction of external buyers for honey and beeswax has made a big impact on the viability of the bee product enterprises, against the previous struggle of traveling large distances to sell their products in the absence of any viable alternative which was a common factor before the project intervention. The cooperatives are buying from members and non-members, therefore, a wider impact is being felt from the increase in price in the areas where the programme is active, although, the rejection rates is considerably higher for the honey from the non-members, as they have not received the same training in product development and processing from the project. In addition to the increase in the sale of the comb-honey to the cooperatives, member farmers are enthusiastic in acknowledging the additional benefits of the dividends provided through the cooperative sales. Although the cooperatives have not yet directly penetrated the global honey market, their product was exported to the EU market through Beza Mar Agro Industry Plc.

Strengthening community groups and local organisations

The purpose it to create viable agri-businesses by organizing farmers into a commercial entity (groups, cooperatives and union). The project supported the farmers to be organized into honey producers and marketing cooperatives in three target districts. The number of membership has increased from planned 120 per cooperative to an average of 464 per cooperative, with a total of 1393 new members for the three newly established cooperatives. The formerly established
cooperative was given capacity building support through training and technical backstopping. 11 women have been organized into groups, enabling them produce and market pepper and vegetable under irrigation for the first time. Such organisation into commercial entity has:

- increased bargaining power and overall competitiveness of the smallholder producers in the market;
- enabled the producers to penetrate new and fairer market opportunities (e.g. retailing processed, packed and branded products);
- enabled them to take full advantage of legal and policy opportunities created for farmer business organizations in the country; e.g. tax exemption, access to credit, free access to urban land for infrastructure development, such as construction of collection and processing centres; and
- strengthened their sense of ownership, responsibility and solidarity.

Interviews with the cooperative members have revealed a positive change in attitude and psychology towards turning production towards meeting the demands of the market place. This is a clear demonstration that the project has helped the farmers to progress from subsistence agriculture to commercial farming, so that they can access affordable production inputs and services and sell their products at a fair price. Furthermore, the development of primary cooperatives in the rural areas break down the social exclusion of women and minority groups, as demonstrated by their successful inclusion within bees’ products producers and marketing cooperatives. Being a member of cooperative opens new economic opportunity for these disadvantaged groups enabling their families, as well as themselves, wider opportunities.

4. Co-ordination and Partnership

The main actors of this initiative are the public sector, non-state actors, research and academic institutions, and consumers. The positive gains during this reporting period were the result of the concerted effort of these value chain actors and facilitators. The clear definition of these key stakeholders’ roles and responsibilities from the outset and the formation of the project advisory/monitoring committee drawn from all stakeholders have not only enabled all actors to fulfill their respective responsibilities, but also to coordinate their efforts for better results. Strong links were created between the farmers’ organization and the private sectors through the creation of input supply chains for micro irrigation technologies and other agricultural inputs. Product supply chains were also created by linking cooperatives with private traders of bees’ products. Such link to new regional and national market outlets has brought rewarding benefits to the cooperatives that have emanated from bulk sells at competitive prices.

5. Challenges and Lessons

Some of the challenges and key lessons of the project are

- More time needed to strengthen Zembaba union
- Lingering weak entrepreneurship mentality
- Inflation which resulted in budget deficit
- shortage of packaging materials supply

Key lesson learned by implementing the project are

- Making market system work for the poor needs addressing institutional and legal barriers
- privately owned nurseries are more profitable and sustainable
6. Case Study on the Impacts

Testimony: Dessie Ademe
Dessie Ademe is a farmer beekeeper who lives in Dangila Woreda in Girarge Kebele (village). He is 42 and has 9 children (7 sons and 2 daughters). He tells his story as follows: “Before participating in the project, I had only 3 local (log) hives and was facing problems such as lack of knowledge on hive construction, colony inspection, swarming control, bees feeding, colony splitting and honey harvesting. These problems, in turn, had negative impact on the quality and quantity of honey I used to produce though I have 25 years of experience in beekeeping. As a result of supports I received from this project, my honey production capacity has increased. I currently own 16 beehives (7 traditional, 6 Kenyan top bar and 3 frame hives) and my beekeeping skills have improved through the continuous training and follow up I get from the project staff. Now I am harvesting 15-20 kg of honey per top bar hive and 40-53 kg per frame hive per season. I managed to buy a cow for my family from this year's harvest”

Fig 2.3.1.1 Dessie Ademe; one of the beekeeper who benefited from the intervention
2. 3.2. Smallholder Livelihood Improvement Project (SLIP)

1. Brief Background of the Project

SOS Sahel Ethiopia – Smallholder Livelihood Improvement Project (SLIP) is a joint initiative of SOS Sahel and International Development Enterprise (IDE). SLIP, funded by Irish Aid was launched in October 2006 and will be implemented over a four-year project period.

IDE is an international non-profit organization that has a mission to create income opportunities for poor rural households. For over 27 years, IDE has worked in many Asian and African countries and helped millions of poor rural households create wealth and lift themselves out of poverty. IDE established a country program in Ethiopia in 2007. IDE core project closely working with SLIP is the Rural Prosperity Initiative (RPI) project funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Netherlands Government in the three adjust project woredas of SLIP.

The project aims to improve the food and livelihood security status of smallholder households in the three target woredas: Awassa Zuriya in Sidama Zone and Meskan and Mareko woredas in Guraghe zone of the SNNPR. The project covered 20 kebeles in the three districts, out of which 18 of them are safety net beneficiary kebeles. Additional 7 kebeles was included during third year as scale-up its interventions in new areas. The project is assisting smallholder farmers, women income generating groups, cooperatives & other value chain actors engaged in pepper and other vegetables production & trading, small ruminates fattening, poultry raring & beekeeping development.

1.1. Development Strategies

SLIP is a learning project researching approaches –pro-poor Integrated Value Chain Development, that enable producers and other market chain actors to identify solutions to market chain issues, regulatory constraints and service needs. SLIP is also promoting Poverty Reduction through Irrigation and Smallholder Market –PRISM approach to enable smallholder farmers to become entrepreneurs who transform natural resources (land and water), human resources (labor and know-how), and agri-inputs into high value agricultural products that can be marketed at economically rewarding prices. The project is fully coherent with the Plan for Accelerated and Sustainable Development to End Poverty (PASDEP) & Millennium development Goals (MDGs). Therefore, the project overall objective is to lift the targeted poor people above the poverty line by ensuring appreciable increase in their incomes over the project.
The Innovativeness of The Project Approach is:
- Sustainability can be achieved since the approach promote in developing markets for input supply’s through private firm not by direct provision by NGO and governments.
- The system promotes embedded services like provide technical training to the farmers how to operate and maintain the equipments.
- The voucher system also conveys the real cost of the technology to the project clients and increase their participation in purchase of the equipments oh behalf of the project.
- Linking the supply chain with credit service
- The system enables the facilitator (SLIP) to bridge the information gap between the recipients and the suppliers.
- Strengthen collaboration among private input suppliers, farmers and their business institutions and NGO (the project) and also benefited the recipients to ask for replacement for less quality (supplied not according to the specifications) equipment and/or parts

1.2. Major areas of project Interventions

SLIP major areas of interventions to achieve overall program objectives are:
1. Organizing the rural poor into different socio-economic groups
2. Facilitate supply of appropriate technology and agri inputs in sustainable manner
3. Facilitate need based extension and business development services
4. Facilitate access to credit, introduction affordable and appropriate and new technologies
5. Facilitate product development, value addition, packing and diversification of farmers produces
6. Promote an innovative Public- Private- civil society Partnership (PPCP)
7. Promote the concept of fair trade within the country

1.3. Focus Sub-Sectors

The program focused on the following sub-sectors that were considered suitable for the local climate, water constraints, market opportunity, crop diversification, and smallholder setting in project intervention areas: Pepper, small ruminants, poultry, vegetable and honey on pilot scale.

2. Progress of 2009

2.1. The Productivity and Quality of selected High Value products improved

2.1.1. Pepper Sub Sector

Plan of the year 2009
- To finalize action research to identify causes and control measures of major pepper diseases which are being carried out since December 2007 in the project intervention woredas.
- Training 60 farmers on improved production technologies and skills (such as organic inputs, pest/disease control methods; post harvest handling and processing)
- Introduction of disease resistant, high yielding and marketable pepper varieties identified by the researchers and/or dress the local variety to improve its disease resistance.

Finalization of Action Research

An action research that has aimed at providing empirical evidence on the critical shortcomings of pepper production in the three intervention areas of SLIP is finalized in this reporting period. Soon after the consultant submitted his findings, the project has scrutinized the report thoroughly and commented for additional clarification on some of the methods employed, the reported findings,
suggested recommendations, and on some of the research gaps reported. Based on the forwarded comments, the consultant has submitted additional clarification and added missed parts as per the contractual agreement signed between the two parties.

Generally, some of the findings the consultant came up with are the followings;

- Most farmer purchase seed from unreliable supplier where the story of the mother seed is unknown.
- Seed dressing is not practiced to protect from seed born and soil born diseases.
- Seed beds are prepared traditionally and the same seed bed location is used year after year promoting the development of pests and diseases.
- Seed sowing in seed bed is practiced using the traditional broad casting method.
- In similar manner to the seed bed sowing, planting in production field takes place using the traditional broad casting method.
- Almost all farmers relay on traditional disease and pest control which are ineffective.
- Fruit harvesting is not in accordance with the proper procedures
- Draying takes place in direct sunlight system that promotes bleaching of the pod and etc

For detailed of the research recommendation please refer annex-1 attached research report on ‘Assessment of socio-economic factors and horticultural practices of farmers constraining pepper production at three locations in SNNPR, with a focus on diseases and pests’

**Validation Workshop on the Action Research**

The validation workshop on action research entitled with identifying major disease and insect pests affecting pepper production by assessing socioeconomic and horticultural practices is conducted during this reporting period. The workshop aimed at reviewing and improving the final draft report prepared by the consultant, providing data to enrich the report with adequate statistics, providing nationwide picture regarding pepper research and enrich the document via gathering feedback from professionals delegated from various research institutions, stockholders and producers so as to incorporate the sayings of these participants into the final write-up of the report.

Participants from various research institutions (Tepi, Bako, Melkassa and Hawassa) and from agricultural universities (Ambo and Hawassa) shared their experiences and challenges they faced in the pursuit to improving pepper production throughout the country as well as strategies to be followed in order to find solutions to accelerate progress towards attainment of the pepper sub sector real economic contributor in the improvement of livelihood of smallholder farmers.

Following the validation workshop, a technical team is established to fill the research gap reported by the consultant and facilitate implementation of the research recommendations or to take follow-up action.

**Technical team establishment**

The validation workshop resulted into establishment of technical team that further undertakes verification and validation researches to fill the research gaps reported by the consultant. This team comprises professionals from research institutions and stakeholders affiliated to pepper improvement including the consultant who was working in the subject for one and half year past. The participants of the technical team are gathered from Melkassa agricultural research center, Hawassa University, Hawassa agricultural research center, SNNPR office of Agriculture and Rural Development, Gurage zone & woreda office of Agriculture and Rural and SOS Sahel SLIP. The
team has been conducting regular meetings to come up with ‘Integrated Intervention for Improvement of Pepper Productivity at Meskan, Mareko and Hawassa Zuria (SNNPR) by improving quality seed supply and management of diseases and insect pests’ proposal. The proposal developed by the team will enable the project to institutionalized basic service provision to appropriate bodies. The implementation of the interventions of the proposal will be as per the developed proposal and MOU to be signed between these parties.

**Support Pepper seed producer cooperative**

In collaboration with Melkassa agricultural research center, the project has made on farm practical demonstration of pepper seedling transplantation, post seedling transplant management and chemical spraying for insect pests and disease in seven pepper grower kebeles of Mareko Woreda.

During the demonstration, necessary safety measure that should be taken during transplanting, control of pests and disease transfer from seed bed to planting field, proper spacing, fertilizing and weeding managements methods of disease and insect pests identification and techniques of spraying chemicals, and barrier crop planting were discussed with the participants of the demonstration site.

The demonstration has undergone regularly in accordance with the growth stage of the crop and so far three field visits is made in 7 kebeles by the demonstrators from Melkassa agricultural research center and project staff.

Moreover, linking the cooperative with the already identified input supplier and with other alternative input supplier is undertaken. This created access to alternative chemicals, fertilizers, and improved seed varieties. Advices are also given to the input suppliers to deliver essential inputs properly on time basis.

**Training 60 farmers on improved production technologies and skills**

Two days training on pepper disease and pest control and management methods was conducted to 20 pepper growing model farmers and 7 government extension workers during this reporting period by Hawassa University researcher. At the end of the training, participants developed a scaling-up strategies to transfer the knowledge they acquired to their neighbourhoods and villages in collaboration with government extension workers.

Due to different cropping calendar of Hawassa Zuria woreda the targeted farmer’s was not participated in the training program organized in Butagira town. Therefore, a separate training program organizing is on the process for Hawassa Zuria pepper grower and government extension workers April 13-15, 2009 with collaboration with Melakassa Research Center.

**Dress the local variety to improve its disease resistance.**

As this commodity is the major crop grown in all the three areas of the project, due attention is given in the biannual to introduce quality seed to the farmers at the right time (based on their cropping calendar). In accordance with this, following the discussions hold with Melkassa research Center, quality Mareko Fana seed is accessed and distributed to early adopter farmers, FTC demonstration sites and pepper seed multiplier cooperative in Mareko woreda. Special effort is paid to grant all members of the seed multiplication cooperative with the seed accessed from the center and ultimately all of the 60 members of the cooperative got 175gram each of seed that will be grown on ¼ hectare of land. Prior to the distribution, on spot practical training is rendered to these
producers on seed bed preparation, and theoretical training on seedling care and management, time of transplant and field preparation and management.

Alongside this, seed treatment (dress) with apron star is made by the project with collaboration with DAs’, to mitigate the effect of soil born disease and insects during germination and boost production as a result. A total of 7kg of Apronstar is purchased to treat 3315.5 kg pepper seed and so far 1568 project clients got this service. Would had it been not there is significant participation of the development agents in the seed treatment process, this would have not been happened. Their commitment to involve in the tiresome and risk business made this reality.

Assessment of Insect Pests, weeds and Diseases of Pepper and their management Options action research identified apart from Apronstar treatment method, two new methods namely treating the seed using sodium hypochlorite (\(\text{NaClO}\)) and hot water. While the first treatment method is chemical the second one is biological. Those new methods were demonstrated to model farmers and government extension workers on integrated insect pest, weed and disease control training program organized by the project. Sodium hypochlorite (\(\text{NaClO}\)) seed treatment is done at the rate 10% Sodium hypochlorite solution was prepared and pepper seed was treated for 40 minutes. Hot water treatment is prepared at the rate 52°C for 30 minutes with help water bath and selected farmers, extension and development agents was allowed to try this method.

2.1.2. The Honey Sub sector

Plan of the year

- Finalize the construction of recently started honey collection and processing center (CPC) with contribution of both the project and the clients;
  - Introduction and promotion of 120 improved beehives
  - Training 90 farmers in improved honey production, harvesting and processing of honey and beeswax
  - Promotion of production of bee forage
  - Supply bees’ products processing equipment

The realities in the project operational areas reveal that the areas have potential for honey production. Although the areas have potential, modern beekeeping is not practiced for so long. Taking this fact into consideration, the project motivated local beekeepers to organize themselves into legal business entity for production and processing of honey. The cooperative organized in Hawassa Zuria woreda, Latisha Bees’ and Bee products Marketing Cooperative, has an experience of processing and marketing honey for over one year period of time. In addition to this, technology promotion aimed at increasing the honey production all over the three woredas is underway through provision of improved transitional beehives during this reporting period.

Finalize the construction CPC

Honey collection and processing centre (CPC) construction work, which was started last year for Latisha Bees Products Development and Marketing Cooperative in Rukessa PA of Hawassa Zuria woreda has been finalized and handed over to the cooperative. The cooperative has transferred their processing equipments and honey containers assisted by the project to this CPC and made functional the centre.

Introduction and promotion of 120 improved beehive

120 Kenya top bar hives is under production and soon after it is done, the distribution will be made to the intended beneficiaries. The distribution of the beehive will be made with 10% and 30% contribution from the targeted clients in Mareko and the reaming two woredas respectively as the
intervention goes to these woredas in a form of technology demonstration plus considering their critical cash deficit created with the fell of main rain season. The past experience of the project was the contribution goes as much higher, to 70% in Hawassa Zuria last year. The contribution money is paid directly from beekeepers their own account. The money collected from contribution of the beneficiaries helps the organized group to facilitate their regular activities and in further duplicating the technology to a wider ranges of clients.

Training 90 farmers in improved honey production, harvesting and processing honey and bee wax

During this semester, the project has expanded the experience of honey production to the other two woredas and hence 30 individuals from each of both Meskan and Marko plus 60 from Hawassa zuria are screened to receive one transitional Kenya top bar beehive per head and training is rendered at all the three sites to the clients on the topics of bee colonies management, colony transfer from traditional to the transitional hive, production of bee flora, honey quality, honey processing, and manufacturing of transitional hive from local materials. 120 target clients (33% more than planned) are screened on the basis of their interest plus their prior experience of honey production through traditional system. The training is supplemented with practical demonstration of colony transfer from traditional to the transitional hive and manufacturing of transitional hive from local materials.

Promotion of production of bee forage
This activity was executed with merging with the activity above.

Supply of bees’ products processing equipment

Though it has been planed to supply additional bee products processing equipments to the cooperative in Hawassa zuria during this semester re-planned to the next yea. The reason for re-scheduling this activity is mainly, since the current existing CPC has adequate processing facilities and not to overcrowd with additional processing equipments. Therefore, additional CPC to be constructed next year will be equipped with processing equipments.

2.1.3. The sheep and goat sub sector

Plan of the year

- Facilitate credit links and supply of sheep and goat for 89 income generating women groups which comprises 890 women.
- Train 90 lead women on supplementary feed preparation.
- Engage the newly established women income generating groups in small ruminants fattening and rearing business activity through providing need base support (training, credit and market linkage).
- Facilitate supply of 480 sheep for 160 women and provide technical training on forage preparation and fattening management for 65 lead women.
- Disperse of 550,000 credit fund to the project different socio-economic groups
- Devise different mechanism to increase loanable capital of Omo MF share campy and reach many project clients as possible.

Facilitate credit links and supply of sheep and goat
Organizing 89 income generating groups and assist them to engage in sheep and goat fattening business initiative through providing credit, technical training, and link with supplier and finial with
buyer were planned to be accomplished during this semester in additional to the last year organized 69 groups.

Due to critical shortage of credit fund and lack of other viable alternative the project with consultation with woreda stakeholders decided to organize 24 groups only. The main reason to come to this reduced number was the credit money allotted this year was 550,000 Birr and those 24 groups alone demands more than 43% the fund. As approach not to distort the extension work we determined not to organize the remaining 65 groups till we sure of the credit fund availability in the system and organized the indicated number of groups during this semester.

During this semester supply of selected 840 sheep breed varieties to 280 women was facilitated. Out of 280 women engaged in this activity, 20 groups (200 women) were the one organized last year and the remaining 8 groups were from 24 groups organized during this semester.

All of the sheep supplied to the women are vaccinated and feed preparation training on Urea Molasses Blocks & Urea Ammonia Treatment which is supported with practical sessions was given to 25 selected women clients by the Meskan District ARDO animal husbandry experts. With the available credit money facilitate supply of 480 sheep for 160 women and provide technical training on forage preparation and fattening management for 65 lead women. The main reason for the re-scheduling is shortage of supplementary forage during dry season.

**Facilitate supply of 480 sheep for 160 women**
Small ruminants’ production plays an important role in the day to day life of the smallholder farmers of the project operational areas. Beside benefit as food consumption, they provide manure for fertilization, sellable produce such as hide, a social value of prestige and above all household security during the time of emergency. Impact assessment on the progress and benefit of sheep fattening across the project operational areas has been made and it came out that there is an interest shift from fattening to breeding plus the major sheep breeds needed by clients were found to be the local one. Hence, the project made minor modification on the activity based on the interest of the clients and service provider (to shorten the loan term to six months) without harming the overall intermediate goal of the subsector. Following are the major achievements made in the subsector.

**Training women on improved feeding practice, husbandry and basic health care**
In collaboration with the woreda animal husbandry experts, animal health technicians and Omo MFI experts, training is given to screened beneficiaries regarding small ruminant husbandry, basic health care systems, forage preparation from locally available materials, and on credit client group formation for group collateral purpose, credit disbursement, utilization and repayment and saving. Consensus also reached with the women and government stakeholders to use the local market as sheep supply sources. Besides, based on the interest made known from the assessment, orientation is made about the activity shift from fattening to breeding and loan term to six moths rather than one year.

**Purchase and distribution of sheep**
480 sheep purchased from local market was distributed to 160 women in the two woredas (Mareko and Hawassa zuria) in accordance with the need of the target clients.
2.2. Improved Access to market and business opportunities created for producers of the high value commodities

Plan of the year

- Training 72 Government service providers to raise awareness and improved planning of market-oriented technical services.
- Support for private sector to promote embedded and fee-based services.
- Facilitate public-private-smallholder producer’s forums.
- Support to the service providers be it government and /or private to publish and disseminate market and Agri-investment information.
  - Support to link the identified service providers with farmers and retailers (Supply chain Development).
  - Support to strengthen Business to business relationship.
  - Technical and financial support for piloting and scaling up selected interventions in other Kebeles.

Market –Oriented Technical Service Provision

The assessment the project made in two woredas of SLIP interventions, on the existing extension system revealed that there is the skill and capacity gaps to deliver market oriented services to the project different socio-economic groups.

To effect this the project organized two days workshop in Hawassa town for 72 government extension workers comprised from 20PAs DAs and woreda experts. The workshop mainly focused to raise their knowledge in Integrated Value Chine approach the project promotes, key roles they should play to ensure sustainable and need based service provision to farmers in rural areas, enhance their communication and extension planning skill and so on.

The project participatory Monitoring & Evaluation approach also made clear for them and they also asked to participate in the process to achieve our common goal ‘eradicate rural poverty’ through making the market systems (input, services and output) work for the rural poor.

At the end of the two days workshop action plan was developed which assist, to develop good collaboration and enabled to scaling-up the good lessons drawn from the project implementation within their respective woredas. It is hoped that the training impacted participants and that they would utilize their newly acquired knowledge in providing need based extension services.

Embedded service

Recently conducted technical training on installation, operation and maintenance of irrigation technologies equipments is a good example of the project achievement in promoting a private sector embedded services provision to the project clients. A private sector who supplied water pumps to irrigation user’s cooperatives provided the above training as embedded service to 54 farmers selected from all the irrigation cooperatives assisted by the project.
Forum Establishment

The project started to facilitate the establishment of forum and/or a platform for policy engagement to enables smallholder farmers and other value chain actors to have access to fair and sustainable Agricultural markets with collaboration with Regional Trade and Industry Bureau. The proposed forum members are divided into two major categories, namely institution and value chain actors. For the detailed list please refer annexed Draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) prepared on Stakeholder Forum Formation and Functioning. The stakeholder platform (Forum) expected to devise ways on how the best outcomes from the action researches and field work of SOS Sahel could inform future policy decisions, actions and practices.

Publish and disseminate market and Agri-investment information.

Advertisement flyers, stackers and roll-up stands were published for the three cooperatives engaged in pepper powders production, labeling and marketing. To enhance participation of Kosh Akebabi multi purpose cooperative members and attract non-members to become a member of the cooperative a brochure, which explain the current development and future vision of the cooperative was published and distributed to members and potential members of the cooperative within the Mareko woreda. 1500 Broachers which explains poultry management under the farmer’s condition was published for the two type’s poultry varieties, Rhoda Island Red and Foamin and ready to be distributed to the women poultry beneficiaries and woreda extension workers.

Supply chain Development and support to strengthen Business to business relationship.

Like the previous project implementation periods during this semester effort has been made to build extension and business service delivery capacity of public institutions especially ARD as well as private sectors (AMIO and Omo MFI) which enabled them to provide demanded service to the project clients. These in turn assisted further strengthen the supply chain and credit delivery systems established. During this semester alone 30 pumps and pump operation and maintenance training was provided for 140 farmers by the technology supplier and credit was provided to 160 individual women and three cooperatives by Omo MFI. Relevant training on credit utilization, group formation and repayment also provided for 160 women by Omo MFI.

The project has assisted technically the technology equipment supplier to providers the equipments timely through providing up-to-date information collected via client need assessment survey conducted by the project. Logistic and financial assistance was provided to Omo MFI to conduct training, to disburses credit and collect previously disbursed credit money to different socio-economic groups of the project clients.

Technical and financial support for piloting and scaling up selected interventions in other Kebeles

With technical and 30,000 Birr financial assistance provided to the three woreda ARD offices successful experience of the project i.e. small scale irrigation development is expanded to additional seven (7) kebeles outside the project intervention areas. The process of scaling-up is planned and accomplished by the woreda government officials with close assistance and supervision from the project both technical and financial. Small scale irrigation development scaled-up into other kebeles via adopting the project irrigation scheme development approach i.e. organizing farmers into legal water users cooperative, train them in cooperative management, irrigation and improved agronomic practices and create access to subsidized irrigation equipment for the cooperatives. To this end, twenty four (24) water pumps are distributed with 50% subsidy to 264 organized individuals into seven WUCs by Woredas ARD as scale-up best experience of SLIP.
The provision of motor pump went with training on maintenance and installation of motor pumps, organizational structuring in cooperatives, vegetable crop production system and credit management system.

Table 2.3.2.1. Detailed data on WUCs members & pump distribution.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WUC Name</th>
<th>Woreda</th>
<th>PA</th>
<th>Total members</th>
<th>Number Pump supplied</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Andinet</td>
<td>Meskan</td>
<td>Batifuto</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Batilejano</td>
<td>Meskan</td>
<td>Batilejano</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gallo Arisa</td>
<td>H/Zuria</td>
<td>Gallo Arisa</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alimena</td>
<td>Mareko</td>
<td>Alimena</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kertefa</td>
<td>Mareko</td>
<td>Kertefa</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hobe jara Demeka</td>
<td>Mareko</td>
<td>Hobe jara Demeka</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gola Chumena</td>
<td>Mareko</td>
<td>Gola Chumena</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>264</strong></td>
<td><strong>24</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Using the credit delivery mechanism designed last year 550,000 Birr (five hundred fifty thousand Birr) was allotted to be distributed to different socio-economic groups of the project clients (cooperatives and individual). Including the last year transferred money and dispersed to the project clients by Omo MF Share Company 850,000 Birr (eight hundred fifty thousand Birr), the total money so far distributed to the project clients has reached 1.22 million Birr and the remaining 180,000 Birr is in the pipeline to be dispersed to 160 sheep fattening women and 20,000 to seed producers cooperative. Here under refer the distribution of credit money to project client

Table 2.3.2.2. Summary data of coops supported by SLIP in the year 2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Clients</th>
<th>Socio-economic type</th>
<th>Woreda</th>
<th>Credit amount</th>
<th>Credit re-distributed from repayment of last year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bunaye</td>
<td>irrigation Coop</td>
<td>Meskn</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smon</td>
<td>irrigation Coop</td>
<td>Meskn</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>yetababerut</td>
<td>irrigation Coop</td>
<td>Mareko</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhobot (2 Groups)</td>
<td>irrigation Coop</td>
<td>Mareko</td>
<td>25,000</td>
<td>5000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weja</td>
<td>irrigation Coop</td>
<td>Mareko</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>5000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jara Gelelecha</td>
<td>irrigation Coop</td>
<td>H/z</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seed producer</td>
<td>Seed producer Coop</td>
<td>Mareko</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hamus Gediya</td>
<td>multi purpose</td>
<td>Meskn</td>
<td>110,000</td>
<td>50000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Koshe</td>
<td>multi purpose</td>
<td>mareko</td>
<td>100,000</td>
<td>50000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Odo</td>
<td>multi purpose</td>
<td>H/Z</td>
<td>100,000</td>
<td>50000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latisha</td>
<td>honey</td>
<td>H/Z</td>
<td>30,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sheep fattening</td>
<td>women group</td>
<td>Meskan</td>
<td>80,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sheep fattening</td>
<td>women group</td>
<td>Mareko</td>
<td>80,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sheep fattening</td>
<td>women group</td>
<td>H/z</td>
<td>80,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>710,000</td>
<td>160,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The project has tried different mechanisms to increase loanable capital of the financial institution and reach as many project clients as possible and broaden the scope of the project impact. To mention some, the project has approached Omo MF Share Company officials to allocate more money to newly opened branches in the project intervention districts, advised some of cooperatives to buy their members' produce on credit basis and we have tried to explore the possibility of introducing Guarantee scheme of certain percentage with the credit provider, Omo MFI. Unfortunately all the mechanisms couldn’t bring any significant contribution mainly due to high shortage of loanable capital in MF and weak financial status of cooperative members.

Therefore, we are forced to explore other best options to increase the amount of credit supplied to our clients.

As part of credit access creation the project staffs have assisted the cooperative to develop bankable business plan.

**2.3. Alternative Sources of Income Created**

*Plan of this semester*

- Smallholders will be assisted to identify and develop suitable water sources for the small-scale irrigation purpose.
- Assessment and/or Identification of promising vegetables including onion for intervention;
- Organize the farmers into water users cooperative and/or increase the member of newly established 5 water users cooperatives in such a way that benefit large number of poor farmers;
- Strengthen already established supply chain and develop alternative supply chain of input to ensure sustainable service provision to the farmers and facilitate Supply of small-irrigation technology equipment at 50% subsidy for 455 farmers;
- Provide technical training for 45 farmers covering topics such as operation and maintenance of the irrigation equipment, improved irrigation and agronomic practices, and on-farm water management; and
- Training for 60 farmers in improved vegetable and/or fruit production practices;
  - Support to supply five hens for 500 poor women (PSNPB).
  - Support to provide vaccine for 2500 pullets.
  - Provide technical training how to produce forage for 500 women.
  - Support to purchase starter forage ingredients.
  - Distribution of micro-irrigation technologies (water lifting, storage and distribution equipment) at 50% subsidy for 320 farmers.
  - Improved access to agricultural inputs and planting materials.
  - Organize experience exchange visit.

Creating new alternative sources of income for the poor and middle income households that have limited sources of income through introducing appropriate interventions in the project areas is what the project focuses on. This has been achieved greatly similar to the other semesters through the introduction of micro irrigation scheme for production and marketing of different vegetables during off-seasons. Additional sources of income were also created for a large number of the poorest of the poor households through the increased in availability of farm employment during the off-season as a result of new irrigation activities in the areas. This, in turn, has contributed to the improvement of food security status of these particularly vulnerable poor households.
The other major intervention which purposely focused the vulnerable section of the community ‘poor women’ is supply of pullet and engages them in poultry raising business.

2.3.1. Poultry Sub Sector

Based on the critical need of aligning more closely the project strategies and approaches with Productive Safety Net (PSNP) and other food security programme 769 poor women supplied five three months pullet each during this reporting semester. 3845 pullets were vaccinated. Above all, the 769 women trained on poultry management and poultry feed preparation. Five kg poultry feed also provided to all women as starter feed. 860 pullets are currently growing in Ethiopia Agricultural research center will be distributed for 172 poor women within three weeks time.

To create sustainable supply of pullets and stimulate a more efficient and commercially progressive sub sector that has the capacity to address the current scarcity of poultry supply lobbying the regional government to privatize the 4 poultry centers will be planned to be executed during the coming implementation period. This task will be expected to be performed by the forum established by the project.

2.3.2. Vegetable Sub Sector

Introducing affordable and new technologies and agro-inputs in sustainable manners through the supply chain developed and made fully functional, assessment of irrigation technology needs of the target farmers, improved land and crop husbandry techniques introduced and exploring ways to expand the supply of indigenous pepper seed, for which the farmers demand is high and organizing farmers into WUCs were the major accomplishments of the project to develop the vegetable sub sector and increase farmers incomes significantly from their small land holdings.

The farmers engaged in off-season vegetable production have increased their incomes. They have provided strong models for other farming communities and there is increasing demand by the neighboring communities for training and seed, motor pumps (and other irrigation technology equipments at 50% subsidy) assistance in store and marketing, and assistance in organize themselves into vibrant commercial entity with access to credit.

Last year five irrigation cooperatives (204 individual farmers) have started to irrigate their land using river streams and lake as water resources. This year significant number of farmers was assisted to use hand-dug wells in addition to the two water sources to irrigate their 96.25 hectares of lands with water pump. A total of 403 farmers were assisted to engage in irrigation and produce pepper, tomato, Irish potato, cabbage and onion.

The number of irrigation cooperatives also increased from five to seven. Accordingly the members of the cooperative increased from 204 to 356 (74.5% increment).
Table 2.3.2.3. Distribution of irrigation equipments through the supply chain

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Technology /equipments , seeds supplied</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Supplied to</th>
<th>Woreda</th>
<th>Subsidy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Robin water pump with accessories</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>6 cooperatives comprised from 236 members</td>
<td>Meskan and Mareko</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pulleys (2-tones)</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>46 individual farmers</td>
<td>Mareko</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pepper seed (sourced from Melakasa Research Center)</td>
<td>52.5 kg</td>
<td>300 farmers, 7 PAs (3 PAs outside of SLIP intervention)</td>
<td>Mareko</td>
<td>Free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100 meter discharge house</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1 cooperative comprised of 120 members</td>
<td>Hawassa Zuriya</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Onion</td>
<td>18.68 kg</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Watering cane</td>
<td>36</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vegetable transporting crate</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>1 cooperative comprised of 55 members</td>
<td>Meskan</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Water Pump Technical Training**

The project has facilitated operation and maintenance of the irrigation equipment (water pump) technical training for 54 farmers comprised from seven irrigation cooperatives assisted by the project. The training was conducted by the supplier of the water pump as embedded service. The training also included on-farm water management. The accomplishment of this activity is 20% more than the plan.

**Improved Vegetable Production Training**

With collaboration with Melakassa Research Center three training programs were organized. The main topics to be presented are improved vegetable production, which includes seed selection, seedling management, pest control, application fertilizes, transplanting, vegetable farm management, post harvest handling and so on. Each training program will be conducted for three days and a total 330 vegetable produces are expected to participate in the training.

Even though the plan was to trainee 60 farmers due to huge demand we decide to raise the figure sharply and conduct the training in FTC in cost effective manner.

**Distribution of micro-irrigation technologies (water lifting, storage and distribution equipment) at 50% subsidy for 320 farmers**

Since agriculture in the project areas is dependent on rain-fed, the crop production is mainly dependent on erratic and unreliable rainfall resulting into vulnerability of the livelihood earners from the sector. SOS Sahel Ethiopia SLIP has put its effort forward since its arrival to these communities to introduce affordable and appropriate water lifting technologies all over the intervention areas.

As a result of its technical simplicity, cost effectiveness (since they are provided in group of ten individual), and go with the demand of smallholder farmers, motorized water lifting technology gained priority over other water lifting technologies by the smallholder producers throughout the three intervention areas. To effect this the project has established a supply chain that linked technology suppliers with the producers. Currently, the project has intensified the use of motorized water lifting technologies to increase agricultural production and enrich the livelihoods of resourceful poor farmers in the three intervention areas. This water lifting technology is provided to
the clients through the supply chain developed with 50% subsidy from the project and 50% direct contribution of the client either in cash or from credit facilitated by the project in collaboration with Omo micro-finance. The mode of repayment of the credit is based on the terms and conditions signed between the client and the micro-finance institution.

Based on the semester plan, the project has distributed 30 motorized water pumps (24 scaling-up 6 in the project intervention PAs) to nine (9) organized water users cooperatives comprised of 410 farmers with 50% subsidy. Currently the farmers are producing various vegetable crops using the water pumps distributed.

**Support alternate water lifting technology (Wind pump)**

Following an assessment made for alternate water lifting technologies in the intervention areas, wind generated water lifting technology came into picture for its advantage over other technologies. Among many reasons that enforced selection of wind generated water lifting technology from a basket of technology choices are its cost effectiveness (except for initial investment and maintenance cost, it doesn’t need operational cost) and its use of renewable source that doesn’t have negative consequence on the environment. Based on the standard wind generated water lifting technology recommended by the assessment team, installation of demonstration pump is done in Mareko woreda on Yetebaberut Tadagi irrigation water user cooperative farm field.

The woreda is recommended by the same assessment team for having wind energy potential. On spot operation and maintenance training is given to the members while installation is made in the farm plot. Demonstration of wind generated water lifting pump is one step forward to solve the critical water shortage during pick dry season, but the desire of water users’ cooperative still lies on better alternative water lifting technology.

**Vegetable crops production training** (re-scheduled from the first semester)

This training resulted from merging three separate trainings planned to be rendered in the first semester. Those are training farmers on improved production technologies and skills (such as organic inputs, pest/disease control methods; post harvest handling and processing), training for farmers in improved vegetable production practices and Identification/introduction of other essential inputs (e.g., organic fertilizer). Merging the separate trainings into one full package training realized after noticing that all the three separate trainings goes to the same clients. And on the other side, it also save management costs that the project would incur if it would have been given separately and yet again to increase the time efficiency of the clients.

Prior to arranging the training section, identifying constraints of target vegetables production was held in the vast majority of the districts and the assessment report gave an evidence to practices like low input low out-put system, compromising between traditional and improved production technologies, and fear to fully risk the better way of production owing to lack of exposure to successful life experiences.

Unlike to conventional training procedures, the one under discussion is held at the farmer’s production field employing practical demonstration of some methods and techniques. The training section was so participatory and clients were highly motivated and inspired to take part of the skill transfer process. The focuse of the training was on:
- Improved agronomic practices (seed bed and land preparation, spacing, seed rate, fertilizing, etc) of pepper, onion, tomato, cabbage and potato.
- Controlling the infestation of pests and disease by improving the management practices of vegetable crops.
- Briefing on pests and diseases of pepper, onion, tomato, cabbage and potato and their control measures.
- Preparation and utilization of organic fertilizers.
- Seed multiplication procedures of pepper and onion.

The training was a means that created peer to peer learning from each other experiences. Best experiences and practices of the clients picked during discussion time are lifted up by the training facilitators so that other clients dare to risk the same kind of better farming system. The training is held at three rural sites of SLIP’s interventional areas with main essence of saving the time the participants spend if it would have been conducted in urban centers as the time was pick cultivation period. Efforts were made to pull together all irrigation water users cooperative members of the three woredas. Three training were organized and each training session has taken three days. A total of three hundred thirty (330) individuals have attended the training. The training is provided by three senior researchers of Melkassa research center and senior agronomic advisor of the project.

**Motor Pump Installation and Maintenance Training (embedded training by technology and input supplier)**

Similar to the first semester this semester too an embedded training on water pump installation and maintenance was conducted by AMIO (technology supplier) in three rounds for 140 farmers for one day each at Meskan and Mareko woredas. The trainees were drawn from among the nine (9) WUCs. The following main topics were discussed on the training section; Percussion procedures, Parts of water pump and carrying out quality services and maintenance during failure.

**Organize experience sharing visit (executed by merged with peer to peer evaluation)**

Three days experience sharing visit aimed at enhancing innovative ideas, introducing and demonstrating key production concepts, clarifying the implications of quality processing procedures and creating market linkage for agricultural produces was held to Zeway Haleku vegetable producers cooperative, Merti agricultural farm and agro processing industry, Melkassa research center and vegetable marketing cooperative in Addis in this reporting semester.

Sixty (60) participants are gathered from the woreda PME teams, irrigation user cooperative members, pepper processing cooperatives and bees and bee products marketing cooperative from the three project intervention woredas.

During the first day of the tour, a visit is made to Zeway on the farm of Haleku vegetable producer cooperative. The leaders and members of the Haleku cooperative gave the team a warm welcome and shared their experiences on the story of the cooperative formation, their production and marketing experiences, work opportunities they created in the area, their key successes and lessons, challenges and the ways they solve their challenges. The team members asked various questions to the cooperative and the leaders and members gave detail clarifications to the raised questions. Finally, the first day visit is concluded by visiting the irrigation scheme, crops, fruits and vegetable fields and nursery site of the cooperative.
The second day travel is made to Merti vegetable farm and Merti agro processing industry plus Melkassa research centre. On the tour to Merti, the team has visited the tomato production farm field. Most of the team members were fascinated by the technological method the farm is adopting to produce quality industrial tomato. Specially, the trap method the farm is using to eliminate insect pests impressed all the producers went there. Visiting the production field is followed by the agro processing industry. Detail clarification is given on spot by the concerned experts on each and every step of processing, quality assurance method, storage procedures and marketing systems. After visiting Merti, the team moved to Melkassa to visit improved production methodology released by the research centre to producers in the rift valley region. Here, every detail production systems of pepper and onion are briefed to the participants with a practical visit on the field. In addition, the team has visited the laboratory of the centre and demonstration is held in the laboratory on the identification of insect pests and diseases pictorially plus using laboratory equipments.

The next move (the third day) was to Addis and to Butajira to visit the marketing cooperative and to have peer to peer discussion respectively. Team splitting into two groups and representative from each woreda with SLIP senior agronomy advisor and Monitoring and evaluation officer went to the cooperative office of Addis while the other team members made their way to Butajira to make peer to peer evaluation and discussion.

The marketing cooperative of Addis made a warm welcome to the visiting team and pleasant discussion has been made with the about their role in marketing vegetable crops, their source of products, their pricing system, on the creation of linkage with producers in our areas. At the same time, the team in Butajira has conducted a discussion to share learning’s gathered while visiting the areas so as to replicate the systems and procedures according to the context of the respective woredas.

2.4. Smallholder Producers Marketing Cooperatives formed, strengthened, and effectively functioning

Plan of 1st semester

- Support to establish new specific purpose cooperatives or strengthen already established ones to increase their members, establish offices and systems;
- Training cooperative leaders in, business management and leadership skills;
- Support for recruiting and placement of production manager for the three multi-purpose cooperatives engaged and to be engage in pepper powder production;
- Support the payment of cooperative accountants;
- Support the promotion of sales of products (attend trade fairs and exhibitions; publish posters, brochures and flyers); and

1st semester Accomplishments

The project has started its intervention of strengthening three existing multi-purpose cooperative engaged in unfocused businesses and has weak entrepreneurial and management skill during the first year of its implementation. And facilitated the establishment and legally registration of seven new specific purpose cooperatives, five small scale irrigation, one bees’ product development and marketing and one pepper seed producer and pepper marketing cooperatives during the second year of project implementation. Similarly during this reporting period in addition to strengthen already established 10 cooperatives, two new irrigation cooperatives were assisted to be established in Meskan and Mareko woreda and enabled to engage in vegetable production with the project
support. All irrigation cooperatives (seven of them) were supplied 14 Robin motor pump with 50% subsidy and accessories through private supply chain developed by the project. The three multi-purpose cooperatives supplied pepper milling machines. Pepper seed producers and pepper marketing cooperative members (60) also assisted to access pure seed from Melkassa Research Centre. One irrigation cooperative was supported 84 vegetable transporting crates, which help to supply their product to better market. Apart from the major support indicated above 11 cooperatives enabled to access credit from Omo MF Share Company during this reporting period.

Training of cooperative leaders in, business management and leadership skills is conducted in Mareko District for four cooperatives management members. The training participant were 66 out of which of which 11 are women. The trainees were composed from all committee members (Executive, Controlling, credit, purchasing, etc) of the four cooperatives and the government cooperative extension workers of the district & DAs from the PAs under SLIP project intervention areas. The training was held for three days and found to be imperative to replicate for the remaining 8 cooperatives of the two woredas during the second semester of the project implementation period.

Moreover, three Operational Managers are hired for the three multi-purpose cooperatives to facilitate and lead the pepper processing activities. The production manager is responsible to plan the overall production, facilitate purchase of ingredients, processing, packing and marketing of the final product. Ensuring the quality of the produce and employ the work by consulting with the cooperative management members is also his/her main responsibility. Moreover assist and advice the coop leaders in planning and managing their core business, design and facilitate a package and prove on job training is also his/her duty.

Support the payment of cooperative accountants which provide practical on-job training, assist the coop leaders to develop and adopt accounting systems and guidelines required to run and manage their finance effectively is also the accomplishment of this reporting period. Cooperatives promoting Melkaman Mareko pepper powder of Hamus Gebeya Cooperative and Hawassa Honey of Latisha Bees product Development and Marketing cooperative was undertaken on exhibition prepared by Women Traders Association in Hawassa town in this semester.

Plan of second semester

- Support to establish or strengthen farmers marketing cooperatives
- Support for recruiting and placement of cooperative accountants and production manager
- Support the promotion of sales of products (attend trade fairs and exhibitions, publish posters, brochures and flyers)

Accomplishment of 2nd semester

Until the start of this semester the project has strengthen already existed three multi-purpose cooperatives and facilitated the establishment, legal registration and engagement into specific business initiatives of nine (9) new cooperatives, seven (7) WUCs, one (1) honey and one (1) pepper seed marketing cooperatives. Similarly 69 women small ruminants fattening groups were organized and engaged into sheep fattening business. Assistance like strategic and bankable plan preparation, link with credit and technology equipment suppliers, hire accountant, sponsor cooperatives to participate in trade fair and bazaars, train cooperative management members in leadership and marketing, build CPCs etc were provided to the existing and newly established cooperatives in the previous reporting periods.
**Support to establish or strengthen farmers marketing cooperatives.**

Similarly during this reporting period eighth (8) WUCs were established, assisted in accessing subsidized pumps and trained in cooperative management and leadership, pump operation and maintenance, improved vegetable production techniques and engaged in the production of high value vegetables production. This makes the total number of cooperative assisted by the project so far twenty one (21), 18 newly established and 3 existing cooperatives comprises two thousand two hundred fifteen (2215) members, out of which 19.3% of the members are women.

In addition to the 69 women income generating groups 36 women small ruminants fattening and/or raring groups comprises 360 women were organized during this reporting period. Out of the 36 groups only 16 groups were engaged into the intended business initiative due to shortage of loanable capital. The remaining 20 groups will access credit in the coming year and engage into similar initiative. Six (6) women credit and saving groups were also assisted to establish in H/Zuria woreda comprises 276 women. This makes the total number of groups so far established, one hundred eleven (111) comprising of one thousand two hundred eighty one (1281) women members.

**Support for recruiting and placement of cooperative accountants and production manager.**

Support the salary payment of the cooperative accountants and production managers which provide practical on-job training for cooperative management members, lead the development of bankable plan, control financial transaction, lead production and purchase plan and follow-up its implementation is provided to the three multi-purpose cooperatives during this reporting period.

**Support the promotion of sales of products (attend trade fairs and exhibitions, publish posters, brochures and flyers)**

The three multi-purpose cooperatives were assisted to participate in two trade fair and bazaars organized in Arbamich and Addis Ababa towns during this reporting period. In addition to this the three pepper powder brands (trade names) were printed on promotional T-shirts and flayers were distributed to potential customers and market outlet shops. Above all, for the first time those products advertised on Ethiopia TV for ten consecutive days during the New Year.

As a result of aggressive promotion started during this reporting period, potential agents were contacted and currently the cooperatives and the selected agent is on the process to sign an agreement to distribute the cooperatives pepper powders.

**2.5. Collection and Processing Centers for Pepper and honey are established, provided with credit and fully functioning**

**Plan of 1st Semester:**

i. Introducing/promoting improved pepper drying and storage practices and training farmers in improved storage methods, and pest and disease control techniques.

ii. Support for pepper product quality standardization

iii. Support to furnish the collection and processing centers of pepper with processing equipments

iv. Provide training for CPC workers and cooperative management members in improved product handling, processing and packaging of pepper and honey.
1st semester Accomplishments

Apart from enabling the farmers business organization managing the chain (increase bargaining power, defining grades and standard of their produce, targeting consumers and management of innovation) enabling them to engage in value addition (Processing) is the strategy the project follows to increase income and improve smallholder’s livelihood status. A combination of vertical (more activity) and horizontal (more management) movements would push the smallholder into the chain co-ownership status. Activities the project undertakes play a role in integrating smallholder vertically in the value chain.

SLIP project has constructed four Collection and processing centers (CPCs) and handed-over to the community. Three of the CPCs were for pepper powder processing and one is for honey processing. The project also furnished the centers with pepper processing milling machines. In addition to the CPCs three mill houses were constructed by the contribution of the project and cooperative were constructed within the vicinity of the CPCs.

Installations of all pepper milling machines are under process. Accessing power line from Ethiopia Light and Power Authority (ELPA) has cause delay to make functional the pepper milling machines on time.

The centers were provided with additional credit money of 160,000 Birr for the purchase of pepper to processed and stored in their warehouses. To scale up and engage the other two multi-purpose cooperatives in processing and marketing of standard pepper product consultant was commissioned who will undertake pepper product handling, standard recipe development, processing and packing training for CPCs women and operational managers. In addition to provide training for the new sites Mareko and Hawassa Zuriya the consultant will conduct refresher training to the Meskan site too.

Introducing improved pepper drying and storage practices was promoted in the compound of the CPCs during the training.

Out of activities planed for this semester, ‘support for pepper product quality standardization’ activity purposely delayed and re-scheduled to be implemented during the coming second semester. The reason behind the delay is to treat the case after all the processing centers are functional. As standardization process we will expected to take samples from all the CPCs.

Plan of 2nd semester

- **Training for farmers in post harvest handling, processing and packaging**
- **Support for pepper product standardization**
- **Support to establish 4 CPCs for vegetable and honey from local available materials and 1 market outlets.**

2nd semester accomplishment

During the previous project implementation periods three Pepper collection and processing centers have been established, equipped with processing equipments (including pepper mills) and provided with birr 160,000 of credit. Women processors of one CPC was trained based on standard pepper recipe developed by the consultant. As a result they are now fully functional. Similarly, one honey collection and processing centers was established and furnished with handling, processing and packaging materials and birr 30,000 of credit money.
During this reporting period additional 150,000 birr of credit money, structures/items and utensils for pepper powder processing were provided for three CPCs are listed in table- 3 and annex-5 respectively.

The reason of choosing pepper powder as a value add product and establishment of small scale processing units at Dore Bafano and Koshe during this semester are: (1) the potential for in situ Mareko fana pepper value add using affordable technology like of Meskan district , (2) existing high demand of Mareko fana pepper powder and its growth potential , (3) potential to increase small holder farmers’ income and livelihood improvement , (4) market competitiveness of in situ processing over competitors at distant processing site , (5) asset of indigenous knowledge in the hands of small holder farmers (women) that enable them to value add on their own produces , (6) opportunities for horizontal and vertical linkages including the support of the project as supporting and facilitating agent , (7) cheap source of labour and encouraging policy in the rural area , (8) potential to increase chilli pepper productivity and storability for year-round processing , (9) farmers’ cooperatives both at Mareko and H/Zuria districts are producers of Mareko fana pepper , (10) scaling up of MMB processing technology and strengthening the bargaining power of the three districts , (11) Location advantages of Mareko and H/Zurai districts to the major spice producers at the neighboring districts that also created additional business opportunity of supplying semi-processed spices to large scale pepper powder processors in Addis Ababa ,and (12) high potential of pepper /spices for fast impact.
2.5.1. Training for farmers in post harvest handling, processing and packaging

The training organized and conducted by the consultant is focused on extension of MMB powder processing technology at Koshe (Mareko) and Dore Bajano (H/zyria). 12 women selected among the members of farmers’ cooperatives were trained on standardized processing of high quality pepper powder, good manufacturing practice (GMP), good hygienic practice (GHP), pepper powder quality management and food quality assurance.

The objective of the training at Koshe and Dore Bajano are to: (1) adapt appropriate MMB powder processing technology developed on the basis of indigenous knowledge, (2) initiate value add on the farmers’ produces and shorten the existing complex pepper value chain, (3) demonstrate the potential of small holder farmers in agro- processing, adaptation and transfer of appropriate technology, (4) develop and process high quality and safe MMB powder from the well known Mareko jana variety at Koshe and Dore Bajano –at farm gate, (5) increase income and improve the
livelhood of small holder farmers (enhance food security) , (6) demonstrate the potential of farmers cooperatives in agro-processing as an infancy of economic transformation , (7) to attract investment on the chilli pepper industry at sub –regions , and (8) to demonstrate the high potential of chill pepper in SNNP Regional state and develop its center of excellence.

Re-fresher training also provided to six women processors of on MMB powder processing technology at Hamus Gabiya (Meskan).

Table 2.3.2.4 - Name, function and quantity of structures/items for MMB powder processing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of structure and item</th>
<th>Quantity (in number)</th>
<th>Function</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Elevated drying bed(s)</td>
<td>2 to 4 (40 to 80 m²) blocks: dimension of each block (1 0m length x 1m height x 2m width) with 2 m distance between blocks for movement of loads.</td>
<td>Drying of pepper &amp; spices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Plastic carpet/mat (black/dark color, thick) (●●●●●)</td>
<td>6 to 12 carpet/mat: dimension of 3m x 4m. - black/dark color for drying - white/bright color for cleansing, dust/rain shade</td>
<td>Drying of ingredients</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Wooden rod sticks or spatula with flat end</td>
<td>6 to 12 different free hand size for mixing and stirring drying ingredients</td>
<td>Stirring at drying</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Working chairs/stools</td>
<td>Standard size: equal to the number of workers plus 3 more</td>
<td>Working seat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Worktables – very strong</td>
<td>2 (2m length x1m height x 2m width)</td>
<td>Ingredient preparation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Worktable – very strong</td>
<td>1 (1.5 m length x1m height x 1.2m width)</td>
<td>Ingredient weighing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Milling heat exhaustion or cooling bed</td>
<td>1 Wooden or stainless steel framed smooth bed with slight depression. Dimension (2m length x 1m height x 1.5m width)</td>
<td>Spread cooling of the pepper powder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. White thick plastic sheet to be placed on a raised cooling frame/bed</td>
<td>2 thick (3m length x 1.5m width) Spread cooling of the pepper powder before packaging</td>
<td>Spread cooling the pepper powder before packaging</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Worktable – strong</td>
<td>1 (1.5m length x1m height x 1.2m width)</td>
<td>Weighing and sealing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Support for pepper product standardization

By the name of the three cooperatives engaged in pepper powder processing the project applied to Quality and Standard Authority of Ethiopia (QSAE) for acquisition off national standard for pepper pod and pepper powder. Due to non-existence of standards for both products we applied for QSAE couldn’t able to give those standards on request. Therefore, acquiring standards may take longer time till those standards developed with professional teams comprised from different concerned institutions. To speed up the process the project will assist the development of company standards
by professional during the coming year which will create springboard for QSAE to develop national standards.

**Support to establish 4 CPCs for vegetable from local available materials and 1 market outlets (shade)**

Four vegetable collection centers and one market outlet is currently under construction in the three project woredas for three WUCs and one pepper seed cooperative. One market outlet is under construction in Butagira town that serves as shopping center for WUCs produces. These cooperatives also provided 110,000 birr of credit to assist their production operations.

**2.6. Enabling Institutional Environment that makes the systems work for the benefit of the small holder created**

**Plan of this Semester:**

i. **Design and undertake action research on “policy opportunities and constraints for small producers’ market access’**.

**1st semester Accomplishment**

SLIP project as part of promoting pro-poor agricultural marketing policy, developed Term of Reference (TOR) and advertised on the national news paper two times and the bid was opened, analyzed and agreement was signed with the wining consultant firm. The field work of the research activity is expected to be started on the second week of April 2009 and expected to be finalized within a month time. This action research looks into policy, legal, technological and institutional opportunities and constraints for small producers’ market access. The research expected to identify, document and analyze the opportunities and multiple difficulties, obstacles and barriers that the smallholder producers face to access local, national and overseas markets, and suggests practical policy measures that should be taken to make the marketing systems work for the benefit of small producers.

The action research also looks deeply the following three issues:

1. To assess the prevailing trade barriers (technical, legal, institutional, policy, political etc), that hinders the involvement and integration of smallholder farmers into local and overseas agricultural markets;
2. Assess alternative and feasible institutional arrangements for Farmers Business Organization outside the cooperative; and
3. Recommend technical and policy actions that should be taken to remove trade barriers and promote alternative institutional arrangements outside the cooperative.

Furthermore, the project will use the key policy issues that emerge from the action research and field experiences to debate and dialogue on platforms that involve policy makers, smallholder produces and other value chain actors. The stakeholder platform, which is on the process of establishment by the project expected to devise ways on how the best outcomes from the action research and field work could inform future policy decisions, actions and practices. For more information please refer the attached TOR to this report.

**Plan of 2nd semester**

- Support action research on “policy opportunities and constraints for small producers’ market access” (started during first semester)
- Document key field experiences and identify major policy issues from the action research for policy engagement
Devise policy lobbying and lobbying strategy including creating strategic alliance with other actors.

Production and dissemination of policy briefs, concept and technical papers for wider circulation among the development practitioners and policy makers.

Accomplishment of 2nd semester

Small holder farmers in general and vulnerable section of the community ‘the poor’ in particular suffer from lack of access for productive resources coupled with non-conducive market systems (inputs, services and outputs) which makes them moor poorer. Creating access to productive resources such as land through enables them to access credit and lease land, organize them into WUCs to access subsidized irrigation technology equipments and agri-inputs, equip them with improved agronomic practices and above all enables them to use their small holdings two times a year has demonstrated in improving their income and livelihood status within short period of time. But the demonstrated fact is under great constraints of unfavorable marketing systems specially inputs and outputs for the small holders or the poor rural community which need policy engagement.

To facilitate and deal with and resolve selected challenges through influencing policy makers of the region, the project has established a regional platform for policy dialogue on trade barriers for small holder market integration and made functional with collaboration with the Region Trade and Industry Bureau. Two professional committees gathered from concerned institutions of the region and outside of the region which have direct stake in the development of the sub sectors the SLIP project promotes were established and made functional. The first committee is the one which deal with inputs, production and post harvest handling constraints and the second committee is focus to remove value addition and marketing barriers. The major organizations represented by two and three professionals from different departments within the institutions in the committees are Hawassa University, Melkassa and Hawssa Agricultural Research Centers, Region ARD and Region Trade and industry Bureau. QSAE, Region Bureau of Finance and Economic Development, Zone ARD, and woreda ARD are represented by one professional each. One workshop and more than four technical committees meeting were conducted within this reporting period as a result of these project proposal which assit the project to institutionalize pepper sub sector development interventions specifically on the topic of Integrated Intervention for Improvement of Pepper Productivity at Meskan, Mareko and Hawassa Zuria (SNNPR) by improving quality seed supply and management of diseases and insect pests was prepared and submitted to SLIP. The way forward to standardize pepper pod and pepper powder and means has been devised to approach the policy makers to introduce incentive to ethical traders like cooperatives engaged in pepper processing through linking to institutional buyers. Above all interventions planned to be executed the coming year under this output is in the way to make more functional and fruitful the effort of the regional forum.

Support action research on “policy opportunities and constraints for small producers’ market access” (started during first semester)

Action research aimed to look deeply into: (1) the prevailing trade barriers (technical, legal, institutional, policy ...) that hinders the involvement and integration of small holder farmers into local market, (2) alternative and feasible institutional arrangements for farmers business organization outside the cooperative model, and recommend technical and policy actions that should be taken to remove trade barriers and promote alternative institutional arrangement outside the cooperative was finalized during this semester. The research was commissioned by SOS Sahel Ethiopia and conducted by Uma Consult in between May - June 2009.
Most pressing technical, technological, financial, institutional, policy and legal barriers requiring immediate attention; both policy response and practice change at least in the short term that are generated from action research are outlined briefly below:

1. Initiate open discussion with SNNPR BoARD and the Research Institute to strengthen the pepper research unit within the regional research center and streamline pepper in the regional extension support system.

2. Approach the Regional Government to address the infrastructure gaps; mainly rural road, and power supply problems of the pepper producer associations so that to harness the local potential to make PASDEP reality. Liaison with Rural electrification section of Ethiopian Electric Power Corporation (EEPCO) SNNPR sub office for connecting the processing centers with power sources.

3. Enhance the product development capacity of coops to meet the Sanitary and PytoSanitarily (SPS) and US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) requirements and possibly to penetrate international market, especially to create suitable trading relationship with Ethiopian Diaspora.

4. Facilitation and technical support to link coops to ethical rural financial institutes having lending capacity; like the Rural Finance Fund of SNNPRS.

5. Bring on board and form a strategic alliance with the BoARD in facilitating the establishing of farmer corners in major towns and connecting pepper coops with potential ethical buyers; like universities and TVTs in the region and beyond in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and TVT Commission.

6. Assist pepper marketing coops so that they should closely work with consumer protection associations on creating consumer awareness and building the corporate social responsibility among the private sector spices/food processing industries.

7. Continue working with the SNNPR Bureau of Trade and Industry (BoTI) in establishing and strengthening the regional stakeholders’ forum and look options to have similar structure at woreda level to improve sector co-ordination and integrate the good practice to the regional government broader development strategy and extension system. SLIP can largely share its lessons; both successes and challenges for shared learning. Therefore, SLIIP should support the Regional Stakeholders Forum to continuously dialogue and work with QSAE to have the mandatory local grade for pepper products.

8. While supporting the current coops to transform to strong farmer business organizations, organize series of consultations sessions with coops member, concerned government bodies at both woredas and regional level mainly help to create awareness on the existence of alternative legal and institutional provisions apart from coops as farmer business organization in the law of the land from which farmers could make choice depending on their technical, financial and managerial capacity and as agreed by the majority members of their constituency.

The evidence generated from wider groups; producer, supermarkets, retailers, NGOs and government organizations supporting farmer producer and business organization, research, private sector agro-processing and traders engaged on pepper sub sector show that there are still unaddressed technical, institutional, technological, policy and legal constraints that are hindering the pro poor market development. The research was concluded by forwarding key recommendations indicated in box-3 above for practice change and creating enabling environment to integrate the small holder pepper producers supported by SLIP to local, nation and global pro poor markets. For detailed please refer part I – the main action research report on “policy opportunities and constraints for small producers’ market access” and part II – report on “Analysis of Options to Promote Farmer Business Organizations (FBOs).

Document key field experiences and identify major policy issues from the action research for policy engagement.

Documentation of field experiences in the form of case studies, pictures, video films are under way by the project staff and hired camera man. Concise written and audio-visual documents of the
project experiences will be finalized and dispersed to the concerned parties the coming year. During this semester the mid term review also documented the project best experiences and also re-enforces issues selected for policy engagement from field experiences and action research conducted by the project demand policy engagement to be resolved, to cite as example:

- Absence of compulsory pepper product standardization leading to unethical trading practices
- Inadequate and lack of alternative rural financial services; due to stringent financial policies of formal financial institutions, and limited financial capacity of rural micro-financial instructions.
- To solve critical shortage of pullets, advocate privatization of four poultry centers currently operated under Regional Agriculture and Rural Development Bureau insufficiently are agendas on stake to the forum to lobby the policy makers of the region.

Creating strategic alliance with other actors

The project has created strategic alliance with university, research centers, Bo ARD, BoTI, BoFED, QSAE, private input suppliers, financial institution, cooperatives etc to facilitate smooth implementation of the project interventions. Professional represents the above mentioned organization also directly participate in the technical committees facilitate valuable inputs for policy engagement and institutionalize major interventions of the project to the appropriate organizations to sustain the service provision to the needy small holders and their business organizations.

The two technical committees organized by the project and made functional have devised a straightforward policy lobbying strategy to influence policy makers. The initial strategies developed by the forum technical members were to include representatives of the institution to be lobbied as member and/or gust member during the committees meeting to ease the lobby process is the one. The second is to publish and disseminate technical papers and policy briefs and organize meeting, receptions and farmers filed days and invite policy makers.

Production and dissemination of technical papers for wider circulation among the development practitioners and policy makers

So far two draft technical papers/policy briefings were prepared and ready for publication and dissemination after presented and endorsed by regional platform/ forum which will be gathered during the first semester of fourth year.

The first policy briefing is a summary of outcomes of an action research examined to identify opportunities and barriers to pro poor market development in pepper sub sector to slip intervention areas in SNNPRS. The evidence generated from wider groups; producer, supermarkets, retailers, NGOs and government organizations supporting farmer producer and business organization, research, private sector agro-processing and traders engaged on pepper sub sector show that there are still unaddressed technical, institutional, technological, policy and legal constraints that are hindering the pro poor market development. The second one is a summary of field experiences documented by the project staff as the first policy brief of pepper.

2.6. Monitoring and Evaluation

Plan of the year

- Support participatory monitoring and evaluation team (PM&E) to conduct monthly and quarter monitoring visits.
- Conduct quarter monitoring and evaluation visits and produce progress reports;
- Coordinate Mid Term Evaluation.
- Organize Peer to Peer evaluation and
- Facilitate donor and country office monitoring visits.
The importance of monitoring and evaluation (M&E) is highly recognized in SLIP project. Hence it is planned and implemented as one of the component of the project activities.

**Support PM & E teams to conduct monthly and quarter monitoring visits**
The project has assisted financially and technically the three Participatory monitoring and evaluation teams to prepare their action plan, develop check lists, conduct three field visits in the targeted kebeles and produce monitoring reports. The teams also conducted separate field visits and discussion with WUCs, sheep fattening group and pepper processor cooperatives members and commented on issues need to be strengthened by the project clients and implementing partners for overall success of the project.

**Conducting quarter visit and produce progress report**
The project staff lead by the monitoring officer has conducted quarterly filed visit, disused with relevant project client and stakeholders and forwarded corrective measures for deviated actions, delayed implementation and weak performances. Strengthening one of the PM&E (Mareko) also done in this reporting period after discussion made with relevant stakeholders at field level. During this reporting period third and fourth quarters progress reports are prepared and distributed to signatory government regional, zone and woreda bodies.

**Consultation and Review of 1st semester accomplishment with stakeholders:** is one of the major accomplishments of this semester. Three consultation and review workshops of the first six months accomplishment of the project were held at Butajira and Hawassa towns. The participants of these workshops were from Zone & woreda ARD and Finance offices, smallholder farmers’, cooperatives management committee, sheep fattening group leader’s, Omo MFI representatives, PM&E members and from SOS Sahel. Totally, 100 participants (4 from Guragie zone, 37 from Meskan, 33 from Mareko & 26 from Hawassa Zuria) have participated in the three separately organized and conducted consultation workshops.

The workshops participants reviewed thoroughly the accomplishments, challenges encountered; collaboration of different stakeholders and forwarded recommendations for corrections. Also implementing partners also agreed ones more to play greater roles in assisting the project implementations. Finally, follow up action plans were prepared and dispersed to all implementing partners at the end of each workshop.

**Mid Term Review**
SLIP project mid term evaluation was conducted from July 29, 2009 up to September 5, 2009 by the expatriate consultant and team comprised from Regional signatories (BoARD AND BoFED) and woreda government offices and SLIP staff.

The mid-term evaluation was intended and conducted to allow an independent assessment of the project implementation and management by specialized expatriate consultant in value chain development approach. The major Purposes of the evaluation were to: assess the project progress forward in achieving its stated objectives, draw key lessons and experience, suggest appropriate exit strategy, and assess the sustainability and potential for scale-up. The mid-term evaluation was concluded by collecting feedbacks from 28 relevant stakeholders on workshop organized and conducted in Hawassa town.

Valuable recommendations suggested by the MTR evaluators that were incorporated in the fourth year plan of the project includes: organizing apex structure for WUCs which serve as inputs supplier and market their produces, training and skills development of the extension/field staff and the
farmers in natural pest and disease control and soil fertility building, agro-forestry, integrated ethno-botany for livestock veterinary treatments, etc. Exploratory visits to Kenya that will provide insight as to the suitability of these approaches for pro-poor agro-enterprise development also planned to be executed next year.

Additional recommendations like: market research, quality standards and protocols, product branding, product promotion, market trialling, linking with new markets based on ethical commercial partnerships, marketing information through interactive websites and information brochures, training in business management and marketing based on fair-trade principals, etc that draw the attention of the project were included in the fourth year project plan which entirely prepared based on the recommendation of MTR report.

The processing and collection centre for the pepper powder product could undertake a HACCP process (not necessarily to achieve labeling standard) to form the basis for developing and implanting good processing practice protocols is again one of the recommendation of the MTR incorporated in the fourth year plan. Finally the MTE team also recommends broadening the use of SLIP for policy dialogue to all relevant sector specialists at the embassy and if possible other donors.

Organize Peer to Peer evaluation

Peer- to- peer evaluation aimed to exchange experiences among the PM&E teams, cooperative managements, small holders and extension providers of the three woredas is held from September 16, 2009 up to September 20, 2009. This activity was conducted with merging with activity 2.3.2.5. ‘Organize experience sharing visit’ in which 60 persons from three woredas representing PM&E teams, cooperative management members, small holders and extension providers participated. For detailed of the places visited please refer section 2.3.2.5.of this report. The peer-to-peer evaluation enabled PM&E teams, cooperatives and government extension providers in different woredas working on similar business evaluate each other work and share valuable experiences. This process of learning about the strengths and weaknesses of those working on similar activities helped the participants to cross-fertilizing learning and experiences.

3. Summary of Innovative Accomplishments

The innovativeness of the project accomplishments have emanates from the pioneering and well designed pro-poor integrated Value Cain Development approach which enables producers and other value chain actors to identify solutions to market chain issues, regulatory constraints and service needs. This approach governed by unambiguous principles which form the basis for decision and action in a consistent way. These principles are:

A. High Impact: The intervention reaches many “under-served” smallholders and helps them to increase their incomes as they grow, prosper and reach markets;

B. Focused: the intervention focuses on removing constraints that prohibit smallholders from participating in higher value markets and also strengthens support markets;

C. Market Driven: intervention focuses on the ‘demand’ of end consumers of value chain products and on value chain that reach high value markets for the smallholder to participate;

D. Sustainability: intervention designed in such a way that market actors continue working together when the fund finish and support markets provide needed services to strengthen market systems.
Some of the major innovative accomplishments of the project are mentioned here under:

i. **Supply Chain Development**: The project has established private input supply chains for micro-irrigation technologies and agricultural inputs, including provision of embedded services;

ii. **Product Development**: The project supported the cooperative to develop quality standard and recipe for different grades of pepper products, which is a breakthrough in the processing and marketing of pepper products and a major contribution to food safety, nutrition and national food standard.

iii. **Value Addition, Packing and Diversified Bees Products**: The support of the project enabled farmer’s business organizations to process, add value and sell diversified agricultural products.

iv. **Introduction Affordable and Appropriate of New Technologies**: The project support created access to irrigation technologies that are low-cost and afforded by different socio-economic groups (individual and groups), bee products and pepper processing technologies and appropriate bee hives.

v. **Introduced The Concept of Fair Trade Within The Country**: lobbying policy makers and institutional value chain to be part of fair trade practice so as they encourage ethical trade practice within the country.

vi. **Establishing functional Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation Team (PME Team)**: The project facilitated the establishment of functional PM&E teams in each woreda comprising elders, PA leaders, cooperative leaders, relevant governments line offices and SOS Sahel Development Facilitator, which monitor the overall project interventions on regular basis and recommend corrective measures.

vii. **Promoted An Innovative Public Private Partnership (PPP)**: The project is a collaborative initiative involving two NGOs, Research and Academic institutions, government extension and regulatory bodies, private sector, farmers business organizations, rural micro-financing institutions, each with distinct, but value added, complementary role.

viii. **Promoted Rural Entrepreneurship**: that is based on the principles of market driven, focused interventions, equity, inclusiveness, sustainability and high impact.

4. Key Lessons and Major Challenges

The primary lesson that has been illuminated by the experienced of this Project so far is the essential need for external support to producer driven enterprise in the rural poor environment is very apparent. However, the challenge remains as to how to balance this need against the equally important need to stimulate and mobilize the producers own responsibility and resources to bring about sustainable, self-reliant development. Others like establishing participatory planning; monitoring and evaluation systems are non-replaceable approach in developing trust, transparency about the project among stakeholders and project clients is noble lesson that need to be used by other development actors too.

Specific lesson goes to of this semester learning is the project development approach which promote sustainable service provision to the needy farmers and their business organization has facilitated smooth and early scale-up of the project successful experiences by the government service provider. To cite as example during this reporting period small scale irrigation development is expanded to additional seven kebeles outside the project intervention areas by the Woredas ARD via adopting the project irrigation scheme development approach i.e. organizing farmers into legal water users cooperative, train them in cooperative management, irrigation and improved agronomic practices and create access to subsidized irrigation equipment for the cooperatives. To this end, twenty four (24) water pumps are distributed with 50% subsidy to 264 organized individuals into seven WUCs by Woredas ARD as scale-up best experience of SLIP.
The efforts exerted by the project staff to establish workable partnership with different stakeholders to engage them actively to implement different project interventions in sustainable manner has showed fruit to the greater extant during this semester. Two research centers and one university have already developed a proposal to include the project interventions as their own plan. This is a great lesson for the project staff, since such partnership level is only reached if a person or institution highly committed to pass severally obstacles emerged in due process.

The more deep seated challenges concerns the chronic lack of rural finance mechanism, the lack of public institutional facilitation for value chain development (pro-poor or otherwise), the presiding national challenge of weak market linkages, poorly evolved market structures and a lack of quality standards and consumer quality awareness/demand. Particularly drought occurred during this semester due to delay of rain in the project intervention woredas negatively contributed to some of the project intervention like forage development for sheep fattening and rain feed pepper production.

5. Benefits and Impacts

The Benefits and impacts of the project interventions on the value chain actors and extension providers in enhancing the service provision capacity are presented as follows:

**Economic**

The economic impact of this Programme on the participating producers is a measurable indicator of the success of the Programme interventions and the way they were implemented and managed by the SLIP team. The price received for a kilo of unprocessed honey prior the project intervention was 10 Birr by individual farmers, while with 65-70 % extrication rate the price received by the Beekeepers Development and marketing cooperative facilitated to be established by the project is 32 Birr per kilo of processed and packed honey. The main reasons for the price increment were quality improvement and value addition assistance provide by the project. The introduction of appropriate processing technology equipments and product development initiatives taken by the project contributed a lot to the quality improvement and enables the farmers cooperative to add value for the first time on their members produces and also helped them to diversify their produce to three namely honey, wax and honey wine.

As of the honey the value addition on raw pepper produces of the farmers by their cooperative significantly increased the befit they got from their produced. Since their value added produce has good quality and produced based on the developed standard they are selling on the market with 30-35% increased price differences with competitors. 612 women engaged in sheep and goat fattening intervention on average gained a net profit of 500 Birr each. From the benefit they got from this intervention some of the women diversified their business to other form of activity like dairy. The economic benefit created by the project for those involved in sheep fattening activity of the project justified by the case study of one of the women project client indicated in the next chapter of this report.

The economic benefit created by the project specifically for about 403 farmers those are a member of water user's cooperatives and individually involved in off-season vegetable production (potato, tomato, cabbage, carrot, pepper etc.) by the assistance of the project is significant. Those farmers were not involved in such activity before the project intervention. So the average additional net gain received plus expected from this year off-session production per individual farmer was/ will 2000 and 2500 Birr respectively.
Productivity improvement, which also contributes positively to the increment of monetary gain received by the farmers also registered this reporting period too. To cite as example average yield of comb honey harvested from the improved hive increased more than 200%. Productivity improvement of other sub sectors will be surveyed and disclosed at the end of this reporting period. Improved input and treating seed with chemical and biological methods, technical trainings and credit provided to the produces believed to be contributed to productivity improvement.

Social
Organizing farmers into cooperatives and income generating groups to solve their problems in organized manner and integrating these farmers’ business institutions to local economic and social development processes is noticed due to the project support. The PM&E roles in monitoring the project accomplishments play a leading role in enhancing the project monitoring skill of those participated in the team and also created the environment of trust and transparency in the project implementation process.

The work of the SLIP creation of new source of income (livelihood diversification) through off-season vegetable production, sale of pepper seed and wax has increased in the breadth of the impact by more than 50% from the last year implementation.

Institutional
In addition of further strengthening 10 cooperatives and 69 women income generating groups the establishment of 2 new irrigation cooperatives and 24 new income generating women groups facilitated to be established within this reporting period. The total number of members of the cooperative and income generating groups supported by the project rose from 1715 of last year to 2371 (32.5% increment).

Attitudinal/psychological
The number of farmers supported to engage in new agricultural practice (off-season farming) in the project area was 118. Due to the positive change in attitude and psychology towards adopting this new agricultural practice this semester alone the number of farmers engage in similar activity are 403, which is 260.5% increment. The land irrigated by these farmers this semester is about 96.25 hectares.

The horizontal diffusion of improved agricultural practices and technologies to other farmers and kebeles has already started. To cite as example last year the farmers participated in method demonstration given to show how to carry out a new practice like chemical and Biological treatment of pepper seed, which help to control soil boron diseases were only 354 pepper growers while those assisted by this reporting semester alone is 1527 pepper growers (331% increment)

Strategical
The major positive effect of the project imparted was the creation of new public-private partnership in the areas of monitoring project implementation, service provision, product development, and marketing.

All in all, Individual smallholder assisted especially in facilitating the two markets, inputs, credit and services are indicated in chart -1 indicated below which may illustrate the breadth of the impact. The services, credit and inputs delivered contributed to the improvement of production and engage them into new practices like off-season production, fattening of sheep and goat, uses improved seed and so on.
In addition to the total individual farmers benefited the 12 cooperatives have also benefited through accessing credit from Omo MF Share Company, Processing technology (Peeper mill), and vegetable transporting crate, promoting their value added products, constructing milling house and cooperative management capacity building training etc., please refer in the chart-2 indicted below for detailed of the service offered to the cooperatives.

Two case studies also presented below to substantiate impacts the project brought on the clients. The first case study is about one of the sheep client women, while the second is about one irrigation cooperative.

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**Case study of W/ro Zenash Tekle**

W/ro Zenash is one of the sheep fattening group member living in Bamo Kebele, Meskan woreda. With 1000 credit money she got from Omo MFI and training on animal husbandry, health care and forage preparation she engaged in fattening three sheep she bought by 840 Birr. After she fattened the sheep for four months she sold them for 2000 Birr on local market.

Since the credit term is one year, she used the money to purchase 5 quintals of maize by 1800 Birr and she re-sell with profit of 250 Birr after one month. Currently she is re-engaged in fattening oxen by the money she took from Omo and profit she earned from the two businesses, sheep fattening and cereal trading.

Apart from the profit she earned so far, she also saved 100 birr in Omo and also gained confidence and experience to do business and improve her livelihood and decision making role in household. She planed to sell the fattened ox the coming June and re-pay the loan to Omo.

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Case Study of Yetebaberut Tadagi Water User irrigation Cooperative (WUIC)

Yetebaberut Tadagi WUIC is one of Water user Cooperative of Mareko Woreda out of the seven similar cooperatives initiated by the project. Formerly, these farmers are initiated as a cooperative with ten persons. After they get one motor pump with 50% subsidy from the project, they started to irrigate on 1.5 hectares of land and produce vegetable for the first time.

Moreover, SOS Sahel Ethiopia-SLIP facilitates 30,000 birr credit and they bought 10 oxen for the ten members by 20,000 birr and they leased 4.5 ha of land for wheat production with the remaining credit money during last year and able to harvest 116 quintals of wheat. The sells of vegetable and wheat enabled them to re-pay the entire loan they took from Omo and they also earned additional net income of 2000 Birr each.

During this semester they increased their member to 30 and also increased the land they irrigated to 3.75 ha. With the assistance of the project like 2 additional water pump, 20,000 credit, technical training and advises. In this land they planted lettuce, cabbage, tomatoes, pepper, potato and carrot. The net profit they expected from this year harvest of vegetable alone is estimated to be 38,173 Birr. Further more, the cooperative is ready to lease land and plant cereals during the coming summer production with 20,000 birr the got from Omo.
2.3.3. Value Chain Empowerment through Women Led Initiatives In Pastoral Communities of Borana

1 Background and Project Rationale
SOS Sahel Ethiopia has been addressing women’s livelihood and economic needs within many of its programs and projects. In a like manner, it has got a grant from Oxfam Canada for the “Value Chain Empowerment through Women-Led Initiative of Pastoral Community of Borana” Project are the poor households and women in Ade-Galchat, El-waye and Diid Yabelo villages in Yabelo District where highest concentration of the gum and incense source trees and aloe plant is found in abundance. About 700 households (with about 3500 household members) in the three villages are directly targeted for this intervention. The proposed intervention also target, private sector (local merchants and exporters), market cooperatives and local government staff that have been directly involved in non-timber forest products (NTFPs) harvesting and marketing including aloe soap, incense and gum/resin products. Thus, indirectly some potential members and other value chain actors like traders, inputs suppliers and potential co-operative members indirectly benefit from this project.

Though many of these pastoralists would have been more transhumant in nature in the past, today they are settled or semi-settled and base their transhumance from a permanent household. Usually the husband will still travel with the livestock to find water and grazing, whilst the wife stays at home. Furthermore, the household is likely to include an extended family and kin system, many of whom are dependent on the income of the main household providers.

The major challenges facing pastoral women to enter into income generation activities and diversify their sources of livelihood that include limited or no entrepreneurial skills and knowledge, poor access to credit, unfavorable legal and regulatory environment, lack of market/producer organization, lack of access to appropriate technology, markets and market information (quantity and quality of products demanded, prices, etc). Despite these challenges constraining the diversification of livelihoods through alternative income generation activities, many women in pastoral areas were observed engaging in diverse commercial activities and establishing businesses and enterprises.

By identifying and recognizing these potential/opportunities, SOS Sahel Ethiopia has secured a financial assistance for the three year (Birr 2,200,000) from Oxfam Canada to implement a project which lasts for three years referred as "Value chain empowerment through women led initiatives in pastoral communities of Borana". The purpose of this project is therefore to contribute to the poverty reduction, economic empowerment and social wellbeing of pastoralists, particularly women, in Yabello District through value chain development of NTFPs.

2 Descriptions of the Project
The purpose of the project is to improve the livelihoods of the pastoral women and men by enabling them for marketing value added natural products and raising their skills and abilities to compete in the national and international markets. This includes;

- Diversifying women's income generation and improve their economic independence
- Increasing women’s participation in decision making and improve the social status of women in the pastoralist communities
- Bringing about attitudinal and behavioural change among the pastoral communities on gender equity
- Improve the gender sensitivity of value chain actors
- Improve gender responsiveness within SOS Sahel

The overall goal of project is to enhance participation and presentation of women in household economy through value chain development initiatives of natural resources based products. In Borana improved advanced through women-led value chain development of natural resources based products

The overall goal of project is to improve the livelihoods and socio-economic position of pastoral women in Borena Zone.

3. Accomplishment of the project

3.1 Organizational Transformation

To ensure that the project meet its target various measures has been taken and systematic approaches used to ensures women empowerment. The first and foremost thing is the organization set its gender policy which can be used by all projects and programs as a guide in addressing and mainstreaming gender issues. In order to implement the gender policy, initial action plan has been designed which later be carried out into action by the head office and project coordination offices. In addition, the project hired women as a project manager, provide various leadership and skill training to the targeted women group, formal and informal conversation has been made with the Gada institution to create awareness on gender issues.

3.2 Accomplishments of outcomes

Outcome 1: Women pastoral Natural producer groups’ income diversified and their livelihood improved

Output 1: Women natural harvesters/Producers groups’ production and productivity improved

Activity: 1.1.1. Review The Previous Conditions Of Women Natural Producers Groups And Establish Baseline Data To Evaluate Future Project Impact

The review visits was made to all the three already existing women cooperatives which was formed during first phase of the project from August 25 to September 6th 2009.

The visit objective was:

• To see the progress of cooperatives
• Check the Financial status of the cooperatives
• Discussion on the construction of processing center
• Clarification on number of members of the cooperatives
• Business plan development for the cooperatives

A team consisting of project manager, SOS Sahel Yabelo field office coordinator, and government partners that is head of district cooperative and pastoral development office head visited the three cooperatives which were formed during the first phase of the project.

As the objective of the visit indicated above, the team gained the progress of the cooperative as follows:

1.1.1.1 Urga Dakara Gum and Incense of El-waye PA
- The cooperative have got members totaling to 118 of which 74 are female.
- They have opened their bank account and saved their share fee of 100 birr and Registration fee 50.
- The cooperatives have have got their business plan and started producing, buying and selling of
Natural Gum and incense with their own saved money.
- The regular meeting of the cooperatives members is going on since its formation
- The cooperative official with the collaboration from the cooperative office and SOS Sahel field office managed to print all necessary receipts with their cooperative name and produced an official stamp.

1.1.1.2 Gum and Incense cooperative of Ade-Galchat PA
- The cooperative have got members totaling to 123 of which 73 is female.
- They have opened their bank account and saved their share fee and Registration fee.
- The cooperatives have already produced their business plan and started producing, buying and selling of Natural Gum and incense.
- The cooperative official with the collaboration from the cooperative office and SOS Sahel field office managed to print all necessary receipts with their cooperative name and produced an official stamp.

1.1.1.3 Nagaya Aloe Soap Cooperative of Diid Yabello PA
- The cooperative have got members totaling to 196 of which 146 are female.
- They have opened their bank account and saved their share fee which is 30 birr for share and 5 birr for registration per each member.
- The cooperative in collaboration with the office of cooperative promotion and SOS Sahel field office managed to print all necessary receipts with their cooperative name and produced an official stamp.
- In addition, Baseline data was established for the cooperatives and the result of the assessment is attached to this report.

**Activity: 1.1.5. Facilitate For The Legal Certification Of Women Producer Cooperatives And The Umbrella Commercial Entity By The Concerned Government Body.**

The process of the legalization of the three cooperative was finalized. After submission of the essential documents to zonal cooperative office, the legal certificate has been offered for the three cooperatives during their general meeting.

**Act: 1.1.2: Establishment Of Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation System**
The indicator for monitoring was established and the participatory monitoring system is on the process of establishment. It is expected to be finalized in the coming quarter.

Output 2: Capacity Of Women Natural Producers Groups Strengthened And All Groups Supplied Value Added /Processed Natural Products To Sustainable National And Niche Market.

**Activity: 1.2.2: Provide Training For Producer Groups On Quality Standard, Processing, Packaging, Labeling And Handling Of Natural Products.**

1.2.2.1 Soap Making Training For Aloe Cooperative At Diid Yabelo Pa
Starting from September 28th 2009 to 1st October 2009, the project provided a five consecutive days training on soap making at Yabelo Field Office. The training was given to thirty nine (39) of which twenty (20) are female beneficiaries selected by all members from all the 6 clusters existing in Diid Yabelo PA. The other six trainees were invited from government line department. The main aim of the skill training was to enable the Aloe cooperatives members on how to make soap from Aloe using other ingredients.
1.2.2.2 Training For Gum and Incense Cooperative of Ade Galchat Pa
The training was conducted for all members of the cooperatives, that is 123 members of which seventy three were female (73). The training was given for two consecutive days on 6th and 7th November 2009.

The training was focused on:
• Awareness creation on the importance of Gum and Incense trees
• How to Improve the management of Gum and Incense trees species
• How to improve quantity and quality of gum and incense products
• How to improve gum and incense collecting methods
• How to contribute on environmental conservation of Borana Low land

Support The Establishment Of Natural Products Collection Centers
The construction of natural products collection center almost finalized and the few finishing works will be completed over the next quarter of year 2010. All members of the cooperatives contributed local materials such as stone, soil, sand and their labour for the construction of the store. The interest and high level commitment by the cooperatives members helped to finish the work of the construction on time.

Dida Yabello Aloe soap processing center and office
Negotiation among the local government, the community and project is underway in order to provide support for the construction of Gum and Incense stores for Ade Galchat and El-waye cooperatives

Support the Construction of Central Processing Center
The construction of central processing, storage and shopping facility at Yabello town is in a good progress. Above 50% of the construction work is completed until this reporting period and its progress is as per the contract agreement period. We believe that the construction of the centre will be completed fully in this last quarter of first year of the project period and will start giving service for the cooperatives union. The center will serve as storage for natural products, Training Center and as retailer Shopping center.

Organized Busiens Skills Training
The proeject provided training for leaders of women natural products producer groups and the umbrella commercial entity on cooperative business management, accounting and bookkeeping. The purpose of this training is to improve the skills of the cooperatives members to enable them carry out their activities efficiently and effectively. The training specifically aimed at;
• To create awareness for the members on the benefit of the cooperatives
• To teach the members how can a cooperative is organized and success and failure of a cooperative association.
• To train on Business development skills and plans development
• To train on cooperative management, book keeping and financial management

Fig 2.3.3.2 business skills training organized for coops members

The participants of this training program were those who came from the management body of the 3 cooperatives (Urga Dakara Gum and incense cooperatives, Latu Hamphe Galchat cooperative, Nagaya samuna Argessa cooperative) of which 27 are women and 21 men.

4. Results Achieved

The fact that the project start date is too short (agreement was signed in June, July and August the inception phase and the actual project implementation period was only 4 months) it could be difficult to talk about the impact at this stage. However, it is proved that there is high chance of meeting our objectives and seeing the project impact at the end. This is due to the appropriateness of our project plan which is highly supported by the beneficiaries and all other stakeholders including the government. With regard to Organizational Transformation, short term plan which mainly focuses on creating awareness on gender policy issues prepared to be implemented shortly.

5. Lessons learnt

• Working in partnership with appropriate line departments is crucial to easily implement project activities (facilitation of certification for three cooperatives can be a best example)
• Harmonization of traditional skills with the modern concept in the pastoralist context is crucial to reach at the desired goal.

6. Challenges encountered

• Delay of the project start up
• high prices of construction materials which bring high pressure in implementation of processing center constructions
• Warehouses takes more time and budget for rehabilitation at Ade-Galchat and El-waye.
• Absence of clean water that to be used for aloe soap production (unless water reservoirs like roto with enough capacity installed or constructed the problem will continue)
Part III. Other Non-Programmatic Achievements of SOS Sahel Ethiopia in the Fiscal Year 2009

The organization has accomplished the following non-programmatic activities apart from designing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating the project mentored elsewhere. These are;

- Finalized SOS Sahel Gender Policy - Developed with technical support from Oxfam Canada. The policy guides engendering –structures, systems, projects etc.
- Revision and endorsement of the Staff charter which is assumed will be instrumental to retain and attract experienced and competent individuals from outside and retain staff with the right caliber,
- Initiated and successfully secured grants for three new projects that will be implemented in three of the SOS Sahel Ethiopia Operational areas. These projects are
  - Rural Agricultural Productivity Improvement and Development (RAPID) funded by EU that will be implemented in SNNPR in collaboration with IDE
  - Building Resilient Pastorial Communities (BRPC) is funded by EU and it will be implemented in Oromia jointly with AfD
  - PFM and Sustainable Livelihoods that will be implemented in Oromia and Amahara regions jointly with FARM Africa funded EU and SOS Sahel will lead the implementation in Oromia and Amahara regions

Part IV. The Status of Financial Utilization and Major Funding Partners

In the fiscal year 2009 about 34,781,948.05 has been utilized to execute the 9 projects indicated elsewhere. The detail financial report and statement is presented in annex 1.

The completed and ongoing projects implemented over the fiscal year 2009 are funded by The Royal Netherlands Embassy, Embassy of Ireland, Norwegian Embassy, European Union (EU), Christian Aid, NPA, Comic Relief, Trocaire/Cafod, ECHO, Cordaid and Oxfam Canada.
Annex 2. Audit Report