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Date (16/11/2020)

Vision of Community Development Association

Finfinne

Subject:-Feed-back Report on Mid Term Evaluation of "Natural Resource Conservation through Community Participation Implemented in: Dugda districts of east shewa zone in Oromiya National Regional State"

It is to be recalled that the Midterm evaluation of your Project entitled "Natural Resource Conservation through Community Participation Implemented in Dugda districts of East Shewa Zone in Oromiya National Regional State" which had been implemented in East Shoa Zone had been conducted by a team of experts drawn from the co-signatory of Region & sector government line offices and representatives, the beneficiary families' & CBOs representatives at the project sites were participated during field observation & discussions held at the project sites.

As realized from the evaluation report the organization has greatly promoted natural resource management and halt land degradation and soil erosion, through tracing/gully protection and promotion of private and communal closure areas.

As regards budget, the total budget planned to be utilized for the whole project period was ETB 16,130,215; while the total expenditure was ETB 8,185,046.80 showing 50.7%. Out of this the amount of program cost is ETB 6,526,046.80 (79.7%) and Administration cost ETB 1,659,000 (20.3%). This Shows proper utilization of planned budget.

Therefore, we are grateful to the donor agency & your good Organization's benevolent contributions towards social & economic wellbeing of targeted communities in the targeted project area at the project areas. Nevertheless, owing to the nature of the project & to address the issues under recommendations for the realization of the set objectives, further extension of the project entails strong due considerations.

C.C

- ☞ Oromia Women Children, Youth Bureau
- ☞ Oromia Agriculture and Natural Resource Bureau
- Finfinne
- ☞ East Shoa Zone Finance & Economic Cooperation Office (Adama)



With Regards,

Fekadu Dehissa Dimu
Director, NGOs Affairs Directorate

OROMIA BUREAU OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

&

Oromia Women Children, Youth Bureau

Oromia Agriculture and Natural Resource Bureau

Mid Term Evaluation on:

Natural Resource Conservation through Community Participation

**Implemented in: Dugda districts of East Shewa Zone in Oromiya National
Regional State**

Implemented By:

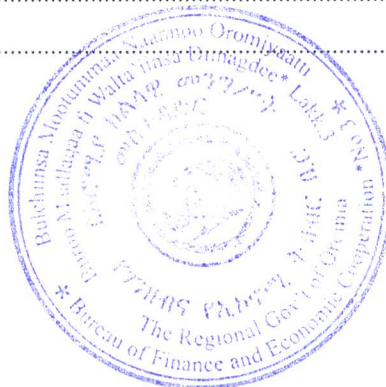
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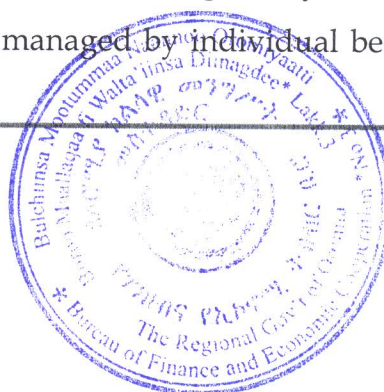
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1. Executive summary

During the reporting period, a baseline has been completed towards meeting the projects' result area of improving client's capacity by having a better understanding of the existing situation. Through the baseline study, all relevant data has been collected and collated to be used as a reference against which the effects of the project could be compared up on completion.

Thus far, the project managed to establish 22 enterprises this include (5 fuel saving stove (100 all females), 5vegetables(148member122 male&26 female) and 11 beekeepingenterprise608 member(582male&26female) one moringa soap production with 10 members all female in 10 project intervention kabales with a total of 866(162 female and 704 male) members in the targeted woreda. Beside the enterprise the non-enterprise beneficiary income generating groups 1,759 female formed under85 groups, 811 forest model and fruit beneficiary organized. In terms of training, 608(26 female and 582male) beekeepers took part in several rounds of training conducted by the project, in the meantime 100 fuel efficient enterprise members and 148 vegetable members acquired skill training This makes the total number of beneficiaries who took part in the training starting from the binging of the project 3,582 (1914 female and 1668 male). As a result of the training, the enterprise members were able to produce 1889 Kg poor honey and got additional income of birr 377,800, produced 2585 fuel saving stoves and gained 646,250 birr additional income. The adoption rate of this technology showed promising results, with 98% of the modern hives occupied by the colony and the community are produced traditional hives managed by individual beekeepers at their



own backyard apiaries. Moreover, with the active participation of beneficiaries and other stakeholders from the kebeles 420 hectares land enclosed from any interference and able to regenerate. One community managed nursery site formed at oda-bokota and about 600,000 seedlings germinated and planted at enclosure area and individual home stead. In addition to forest trees different edible fruit like 3900 grafted mango, 7500 red leady papaya were provided to 872 household.

Towards promoting hive products in the project woredas and facilitating the establishment of business relationships between actors in the sub-sector, beneficiaries participated in farmers forest day celebration event, value chain actors work shop. They also organized and took part in events such as honey show day, experience sharing visits and national multi-stakeholders Platform (MSPs) which provided a forum to learn from each other and become aware of the main issues in the sub-sector. Facilitating modern hives availability several sample equipment used in bee keeping such as honey extractor, honey presser, honey strain, casting mould, be

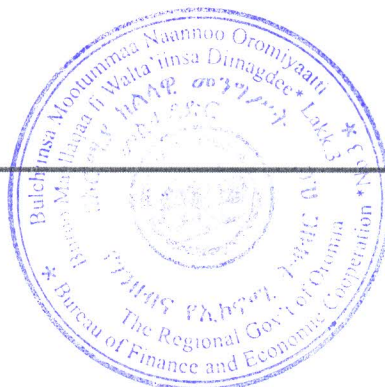
the brush etc. were distributed to established enterprise for demonstration and start up assuming that the community will scale up the result gained after testing how much it is sweet.



2. Background of the Project

The project has been implemented initially in seven kebeles and lately included three and expanded to ten kables of Dugda district East Shewa zone, Oromia region. The project area was selected mainly on the basis of vulnerability to drought, food shortage and energy crisis due to excessive deforestation, soil erosion exacerbated by poor farming system, leading to decline in agricultural productivity and highly contribute for the siltation of maki rivers and lake Zeway currently lake zeway and Maki rivers are found at very severe risk due to siltation of run of water from the upper side of gurage highland and un wise utilization of irrigation. To this effect so as to tackle these problems almost all the selected project kabales are adjacent to Maki Rivers and upper parts of Lake Zeway.

Lack of skills and access to various technology options, lack of knowledge to conserve, develop natural resources and adapt alternative income generation schemes are also the major limitations that led the community to absolute poverty. The project was, thus, expected to provide packages of support to the target communities to address these chronic environmental issues. The overall development purpose of the project was to contribute to the environmental rehabilitation and restoration endeavor of the country, the project areas in particular, by protecting the natural resources from further degradation and destruction through introducing innovative technologies for land rehabilitation, restoration, conservation and; ultimately reducing the pressure on the remaining forests; ensuring the sustainable livelihood of the beneficiary communities, and promoting the wise utilization and management system of the natural resources.



3. Objectives of Project

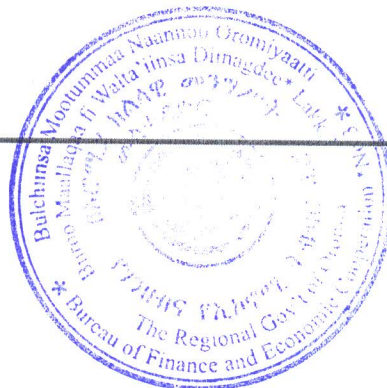
The project aims to achieve the following specific objectives at the end of five years:

- To promote natural resource management and halt land degradation and soil erosion, through tracing/gully protection and promotion of private and communal closure areas,
- To promote alternative energy/bio-mass saving technology through fire woods saving technology supply and awareness creation;
- To strengthen local community organizations and indigenous institutions through formation of CBO in 10 kebeles at least, to enhance Participation and ownership in natural resources management and conservation,
- To enhance local people alternative income schemes through introducing of environmental friendly technology like modern beehives for honey production and organizing the women and men into different income generating groups,

4. Implementing strategies

As the project was jointly identified with the full involvement of all stakeholders, the implementation of the program also repeats the same reality. Adhering to the principle of active participation of the stakeholders VoCDA has planned to follow the following strategies:

- Close collaboration with all concerned stakeholders,
- Create food and income alternative sources, which assist the beneficiary members to be food self-sufficient & stop them from interfering on natural forest depletion,



- Creating strong linkages with woreda Agriculture, Natural resources and Land administration and other related government offices for future management and follow ups,
- Recruiting project expert who have experiences in managing rural livelihoods income generating and agricultural projects, who show devotion to work with rural marginalized community groups, have good knowledge of the area, language and culture of the community,
- Organizing the beneficiary into association/groups at respective kebeles levels, and micro and small enterprises formation for the future management of the project out puts,

➤ *Table 1- List of the Evaluation Team*

S/N	Name of the Participants	Bureau/Office	Responsibility
1	Mr.Tesfaye Kenassa	OBoFED	Team Leader
2	Mr. Abebe	OANRB	Expert
3	Mr. Usman Ibrahim	OWCAB	Expert
4	Mr.Bona Shako	VoCDA	Manager RAPID
5	Ms.Naga'o Dambo	VoCDA	Expert



5. Plan Vs Accomplishment

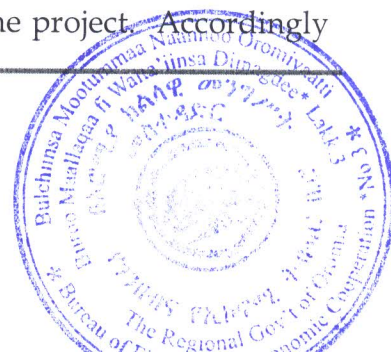
The target areas of the project have been vulnerable to drought, food shortage, decline trend in agricultural productivity and energy crisis mainly due to excessive deforestation, soil erosion and poor farming practices. Limited access to improved knowledge and skills of conservation and alternative income generation schemes have been exacerbating the level of vulnerability to natural and manmade undesired phenomena in the target areas. To address the stated socioeconomic and environmental issues, the project was launched in 10 kebeles, of Dugda district. The project has accomplished needs based interventions in accordance of the planned package of support. The discussion below indicates the accomplishment of planned activities over the two and half years among the five years of project period.

5.1 Skill training and community mobilization

Awareness creation program was one of the strategic interventions with the aim to raise the awareness of the community on the overall program interventions and enhance active engagement of target groups in the performance of planned activities. To this end the project was officially launched as of March 2017 following the mass mobilization and awareness creation workshop skill training were provided for enterprise in related to their specific task.

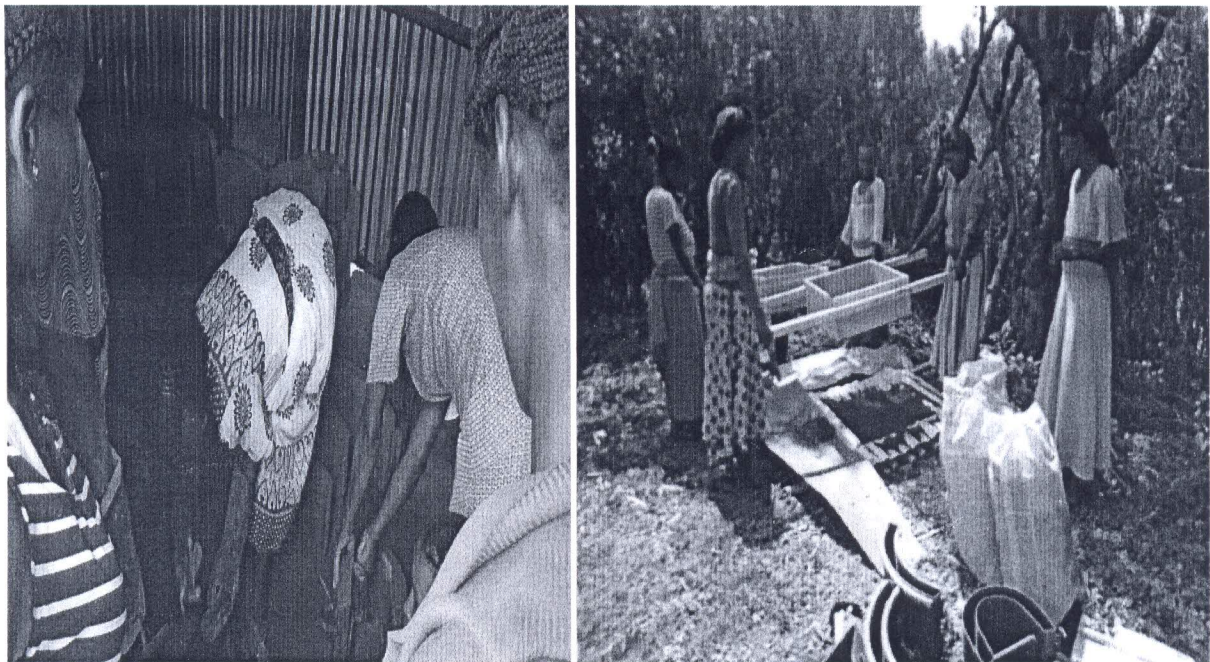
5.2 Training on utilization and production of fuel saving stoves

Energy efficient stoves producing enterprises formation was parts of project objectives to reduce pressure on natural forests and easing women workload at household chores. As of this about 100 members of the 5 energy efficient stoves enterprises were taken skill trainings for 6 days from (May 24 to 29) by the professional hired from water, mineral and energy development offices of the Woreda. This was followed by inputs/equipment supply and 5 shelter constructions that were planned in the project proposals like moulders, hand carts, different hand-utensils used for the productions of the stoves were supplied to the five groups as per the plan of the project. Accordingly



the energy saving stove producing enterprises have started to produce the energy saving stoves.

Right after training and to date the enterprises were able to produce energy saving stove. Currently the enterprises produced 2585 and gained 646250 birr as additional incomes which has significant impact on changing of their family lively hood and reduced the appearance of utilization of forest for fire wood by 50% apart of the reduction women health problem due to heat and fire released to women while using the traditional stove.



5.3 Basic modern beekeeping skill training,

To enhance conservation based IGA in the target area; basic beekeeping training was provided for about 608(582male and 26 female) area closure groups /honey enterprise formed in natural resources preservations of project intervention kabales at different rounds. The training was provided through mobilizing experts who has got professional training from holeta bee research center from Admitulujidokombolcha(ATJK) district Agriculture and livestock promotion agencies. The training topics were focused on manage of bees, honey harvesting techniques, extracting of beeswax and honey, production of transitional beehives from locally available materials and beekeeping and safety management, behaves protection and utilization of protective/safety clothes, site selection, colony management and transfer, supply of additional bee forage from locally available grains/feeds, external and internal colony inspection to check whether the honey is approaching, and promotion of environment responsive beekeeping management. Following the provision of training VoCDA was delivered 380modern hive with accessories for the enterprise members. In the meantime follow up and support was provided by VoCDA project office staffs and the entire hive were placed on selected apiary site.

Parallel with this, to enhance the honey harvesting schemes of the enterprise members as this technology is not common in the locality provision of advanced level skill training is the most viable. Hence the intermediate beekeeping training for area closure/enterprise groups were provided in two round sessions for about 420 participants (408male & 12 female) that were selected from hate leman,bimogusa, mukiyele man and serawokalearea closure groups. In the meanwhile the second round intermediate training were provided for 176(170 male &6female) that were selected among the enterprise members of Tuchidembal, Tephochoroke and dodotadembel. Exploiting various training as an input the enterprise members were harvested 1889



poor and organic honey which added birr377,800 in their live and assure their family lively hood.



Fig- 2-Hive placed on apiary site training on the process of honey harvesting & honey harvested

5.4 Skill training on utilization of irrigation schemes for vegetable enterprise

Among the livelihood enhancement component of the project activity organize the vegetable group through enterprise is the most popular. On top of this VoCDA was able to organize 5 vegetable enterprise with the total members of 169 in five project intervention kabales (Girabakorkeadi, Odabokota, sera wokale, Hate leman and dongorotagusa) which has the facility of access to water. Subsequent to organizing the enterprise members' skill training on how to manage the irrigation site, how to utilize the irrigation materials, pesticide management, how to install the water pump, proper harvesting and post harvesting management and marketing training were provided for 169 members for five consecutive days by the resource person invited from dugda woreda irrigation office. Beside the provision of the training VoCDA was supplied different input like water derailing motor, water pump with accessories, seeds, and initial or startup capital which enables the enterprise members to produce the first round product by the assumption of revolving the income gained for the next season harvesting period. In this regards based on their capacity so far the enterprise members were collected birr 406,439 through selling of different product like onion, tomato and cabbage. More over apart of getting income the enterprise members has acquired a new



knowledge that supports them and lasts long with them to produce more products even after the life of project end.



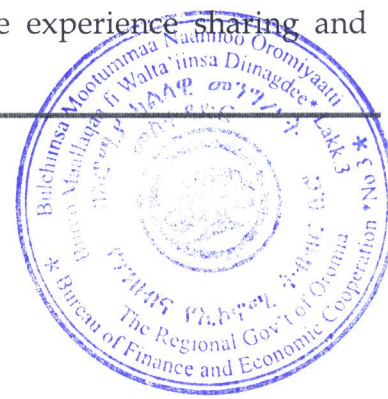
Fig -3- shows product harvested and get ready for market

5.5. Organizing Income generating group and enhancing capacity through business training

One of the project objectives is empowering the women through organizing in an Income generating group (IGA). Centered on this fact during the reporting period VoCDA was able to establish 85 IGA group which encompass 1759 women among the 10 project intervention kabaes. The primary objective of organizing these women group is to empower women through internal saving, handing discussion to raise their problem and sharing the unexploited experience that compacted among each members due to un accessibility of the opportunity. In this regards so far women groups were undertaken different discussion that enabled them to solve various internal and external socio-cultural and economic problems, enhanced their leadership skills in their weekly base rotationally leading the meeting.

5.6 Business development skill training

To enhance the capacity of IGA women groups, training programs were undertaken on the areas of business plan development, income and expense handling, networking and information sharing, identification of market opportunities/threat and business profitability. The training enabled to participated 1759 women that were organized under 85 IGA group in the ten target Kebeles. To enhance experience sharing and



knowledge transfer among the participants, the training was facilitated through encouraging active discussion. The training session enhanced the understanding of participants in the areas of business diversification, market share & networking, quality improvement and access to credit and credit management initiatives.

5.7 Bookkeeping and leadership skill training

To strengthen institutional capacity of IGA groups, a training session focusing on leadership skills were organized and provided for 425 group leaders. The training also focused on issues related to record keeping and rotational approach of group leading strategy. To strengthen partnership and facilitate on-going professional support from pertinent government experts, the training was facilitated through mobilizing relevant experts from woreda line offices. Apart of this the training was adhere the concept of bookkeeping how to record their revenue and expanse financial management strategy at their levels, loan revolving systems, effective planning and cash flow management were also addressed during the training.



Fig- 4-shows business skill training



5.8 Rehabilitation and natural resource conservation (NRM) Activities

Natural resource conservation is one of the core components of this project. To this end the project was strive to restoration this through biological and physical natural resource conservation activities that are accompanied with enhancing the capacity of beneficiary through provision of training and equipment meant to use for soil and water conservation activities. Along the biological and physical soil and water conservation activities during the reporting period about 420 hectors were enclosed as area closure from any interference as part of natural resource rehabilitation. The closed area is managed by the area closure group who has the legal right and land owned certificate from the local authority. For their lively hood augment the project support those area closure groups with environment friendly income generating activity, like beekeeping, irrigation and fuel efficient stoves.

5.8 Soil and water conservation, gulley protection training

To enhance the capacity of the community in the areas of environmental conservation in general and soil and water protection in particular, capacity building training was provided for selected community members from the ten target kebeles. The training had been conducted in two sessions including the refreshment by invited experts from respective woreda natural resource conservation units. The training was mainly focused on forest management, soil and water conservation strategy, and gulley management. Throughout the program, 1497 persons (1337 male and 160 female) were participated in the training program and conservation of the soil erosion works.



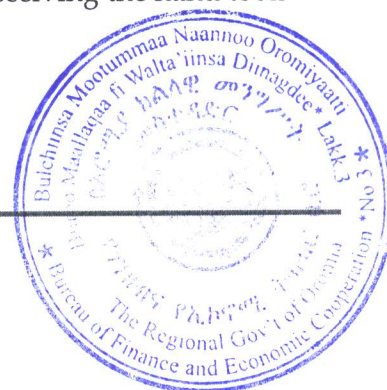
5.9 Physical soil and water conservation activity

One of the natural resource conservation activities that have been undertaken during the reporting period is undertaking different physical stature for the rehabilitation of degraded land. On top of this through this reporting period about 157.3Km soil bund and trench were executed by the active participation of the community to treat gulley, run off water pressure and silt reduction that contribute at large volume for decreasing of the water volume of maki rivers and lake zeway. While excavating these works about 2047(590 female &1457male) were actively engaged. Alongside to these to enhance the efficiency of the work different hand tools were provided for the enclosure groups these counts1000 shovels and 700pick axes.



Fig-5- Photo shows when soil and water conservation undertake and receiving the hand tools

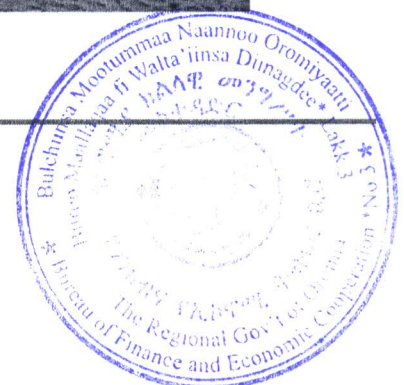
6. Biological soil and water conservation activity



Beside undertaking different physical soil and water conservation activities and keeping the area from interference for naturally regeneration, it is correspondingly essential to carry out the biological natural resource conservation activity. As part of this intervention the project has established one nursery site at odabokotakabale. The primary intention of establishing nursery site is to germinate different seedling that is meant to be planted in closed area and supplied for local community to plant it at their home stead. In this regards within this reporting period about 625,000 different trees that has forest and commercial values have been germinated in nursery site located in odabokota and planted in area closure, private lands, churches, government institution and schools. Besides the germination of seedling establishing nursery site has created job opportunity for 25 daily base laborers in the locality. In addition to the forest trees germinated on nursery site VoCDA has supplied different fruit through purchase so as to enable the beneficiary to get additional income from non-timber product. In line with until this report compiled 3950 grafted mango, 7500 red-leady papaya were supplied for 872 selected household. This contributed multi effect for soil and water conservation, for shading and income gain. even if the growth of mango getting instant duet to the effect of soil type and environment, red-leady papayas have started giving production for many house hold and many house hold started to make income and changing their dietary system.



Fig 6-Seedling on nursery site



7. Value chain actors work shop

Value chain actors work shop is one the tool that is used to link the actors and create common understanding among the business stake holders. To this end the value chain actors work shop was conducted in maki town as of march 11/2020. In this work shop about 100 enterprise leaders where 27 female, 73 male and different stake holders from government office, makibatu union and honey traders were participated. During the training the presentation about overview of the value chain, the concept of value chain , the role of each value chain actors ,elements of the value chain, how value chain actors mapping and the importance of value chain business were presented the expert. While the training was conducting each participants were actively participated and raised their concern and different question in relation to value chain. Finally the participants were reacting on raised questions and indicate way forward future engagement and playing their role on acting in value chain.

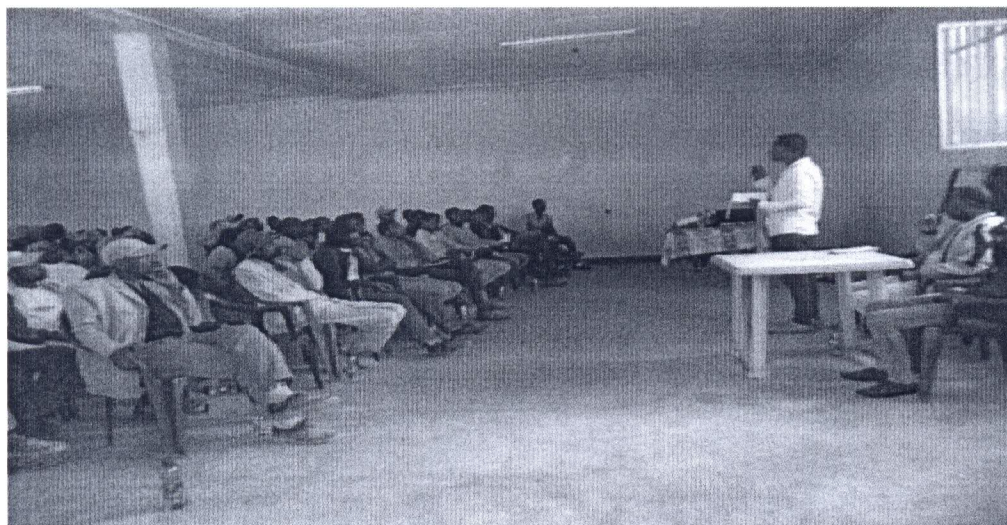
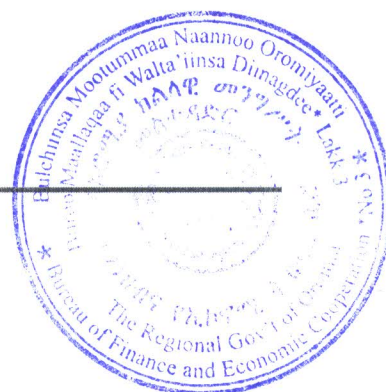


Fig -6-Photo shows when value chain work shop conducted



8. Experience sharing events for Beekeeping enterprise members,

One of the capacity enhancement and lesson learning tool is the experience sharing event among the community members. Ideally people believe what they observe than what they perceive. Based on this fact VoCDA has arranged the experience sharing and lesson learning event among the beekeeping members found in BayimoGusakebele with the beekeeping members from different project intervention kabaes .

On this experience sharing event the BimoGusa beekeeping enterprise members explain their best achievement in the areas of beekeeping, colony management and business diversification especially how they engaged in side business and how they diversify their business, how they were expanding even their hives both traditional and modern, how they strength their team work and group management. Furthermore members of model apiary(Kurfa Apiary) manifested the way of their success, what challenge they were faced & what types of technique they used to overcame the challenge, their future plan and many question raised by visitors and answered by Kurfa apiary members. And finally the participants visited the apiary site appreciated the cleanness of the apiary, the modern hive bought for expansion and traditional hives and side business of poultry production and gave feedback together with the invited experts of Woreda Agriculture & Natural resource office and Livestock agency.

8.1. Farmers Forests Day (FFD) celebrated at locality level,

To promote sharing of best practices among community members, the celebration of FFD was planned as one component of the project that has essential contribution for mas' community mobilization. To facilitate the evolvment of key stakeholders and provide rooms for effective exchange of ideas among community members and development practitioners on the conservation practices, the FFD was celebrated in Dugda district in 2017, 2018 and 2019 by the moto of **forest is life, save tree-save life**

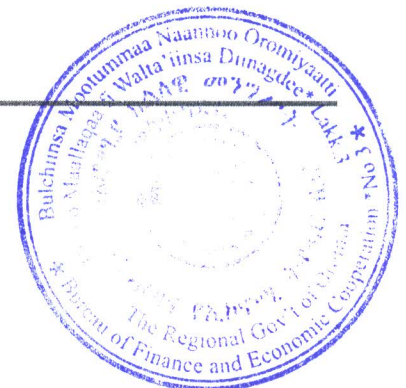


and **plant tree-plant newlife** through all the event celebrated for three years consequently at different kabales about 2000 people in total were engaged.

The participants of the FFD event were comprises of community members, school community, model farmers, development agents, kebele managers, and woreda level experts and leaders of pertinent offices as well as representatives from the implementing and donor agencies: VoCDA and Tree aid. In this regard, adequate efforts were made to make the event participatory and inspiring through facilitating the presentation of motivational messages, best experiences and lessons learned accompanied by social drama, poems and cultural music shows. As motivational initiation, such event were concluded through providing achievement reward for model farmers from the target 10 kebeles and best performing schools from 4 kebeles. Alongside of mass community mobilization celebrations of (FFD) were served as the center where the enterprise members sell and display their product. In this regards, during the (FFD) event the beekeeping and moringa sop production enterprise were able to sell their product for people attend the event.



Fig -7-Photo shows partial views of farmer forest day celebration event



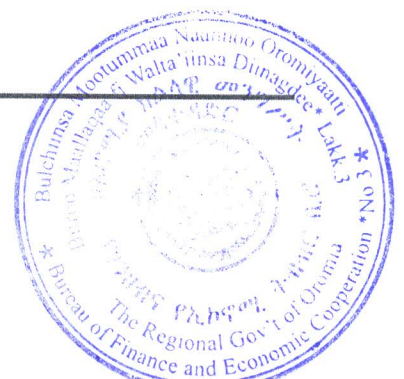
9. Financial Utilization

The total budget planned to be utilized for the whole project period was ETB 16,130,215. Out of this, the total budget utilized/expended was ETB 8,185,046.80 showing 50.7 % utilization during implementation of the project. Out of this the amount program cost is 6,526,046.80 and administration cost 165,900 during implementation period.

10. Project Impact and Sustainability

10.1 Project Impact

- There is fully participatory during project implementation. The community has contributed to a lot through in plantation of seedling and growing spatially in all communal land.
- Agro-forestry plots were established in different kebele of the wereda. Beside it enable to generating additional income to the targeted HH this plot will be used on educational tools to create awareness on agro-forestry practice. In addition improved nursery and Agro-forestry production.
- There is improved selected tree species are planted in agro-forestry plots to provide shade for other. Accordingly more HH are having established agro-forester tree.
- Due to more capacity building and awareness creation for farmers individual plantation of seedling planted by farmers like gravillia, sesbania and lucinia in more Ha of land.
- Different plantation strategies have been also practice during the operational year with different species of tree. These methods were adopted to contribute towards the set objective and the goal of the overall objective.
- There is improvement of seedling production and nursery management: this was designed to enhance the vegetation coverage of the project area and to give



alternative solution via production of tree seedling and plantation on several degraded hill side area.

- ☛ The capacity of farmers improved in Honey production and Productivity. In addition there is an improved income of farmers in Honey Production.

10.2 Sustainability

Most of the project actions have generally supported the government plans, programmes and strategies which contribute to ensure sustainability of the project intervention. The project was socially and technically viable as it was designed and implemented within the existing tradition, knowledge and skills. On the other hand, it seems that the sustainable use of improved plantation of seedling.

As a strategy to enhance the feasible and sustainable of project accomplishments are participatory for all. In addition plantation of seedling on communal area and on their farm has been done with full free community participation at grass root level.

11. Lessons Learnt

Major Key lessons learned while implementing the Natural Resource Conservation through Community Participation Implemented in: Dugda districts of east shewa zone in Oromia National Regional State:

The model farmer approach of rural livelihood building (creation of community learning centers): with ever shrinking resources, globalization of poverty and the time bounded nature of externally funded projects; it is difficult to reach each individual members of the community. Unless we create model farmers that have the capabilities of transferring knowledge and skills of the project to other fellow farmers, if we focus the whole community, our effort will be just a drop in an ocean. Therefore, VoCDA approach of model farmer “creation of community learning center” needs to be further scaled-up as a sustainable community development approach.

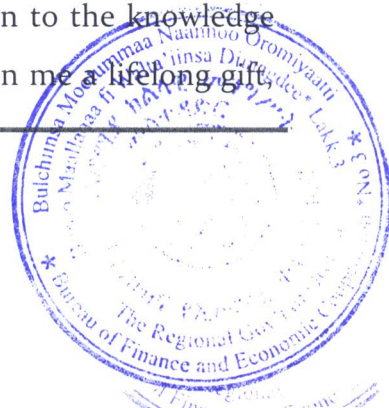
The individual farmer approach of forest promotion: the successes achieved in relation to forest coverage and survival rate of seedlings were not just a mere happening.



Now-a-days, tree planting is becoming a culture in most parts of the country, yet the success rates of seedlings planted are low. Most of the tree planting initiatives is undertaken on communal lands and as such relevant follow up and care (hoeing, watering and protection) is not given for the proper growth of the trees. However, when it comes to the individual on-farm approach of forest promotion, technical capacity of farmers is improved, ownership is much ensured, proper care and follow-up of the seedlings is high and survival rate of seedlings planted is higher. Moreover, forest promotions through such approach looks sustainable than forest promotions on communal lands.

The particular focus on women development: the literal saying that “educate women and educate the society” is clearly witnessed in the SHG promotion of the project component. The SHG approach empowers poor women socially, economically and politically to gradually develop their own capacities to meet the challenges of poverty. The approach is also observed having far-reaching effects than the other components. Unlike the other beneficiaries, the impacts observed among the women beneficiaries were seen more transcending to their offspring, families, institutions and the community in general. This is also the other learning point that we draw from the intervention of this NRM and livelihood project.

Focus on knowledge and skill transfer: due to free hand-outs in terms of project materials and cash to the community in development interventions, many community development interventions were left unsuccessful and unsustainable in the country. This mainly emanates from our development approach that leaves the community being expectant “dependency syndrome”. In the implantation of this project we have learned that farmers were not provided per-diems during the various capacity building trainings and many of such trainings were given in the community setting than holding trainings at the woreda principals which is a customary practice. At the beginning many farmers were offended by the project’s approach but gradually all of them get familiar and developed trust in the project approach. A beekeeper farmer has said in relation to the knowledge and skills he has obtained on improved apiculture, “VoCDA has given me a lifelong gift.”



what should I expect more than this?" The project has broken the dependency mentality and here we can share key lesson from the project in our future development thinking and endeavor.

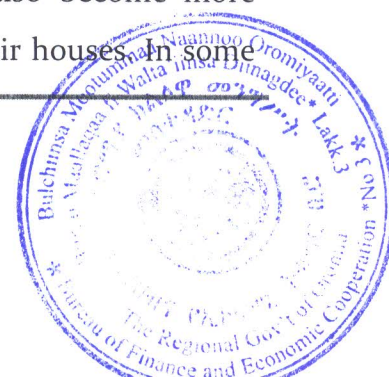
12. Conclusion and Recommendation

12. 1 Conclusion

The reforestation and agro-forestry promotions by the project have shown significant results among the target beneficiaries. Further strengthening the horizontal dissemination of knowledge and skill from the contact farmers to other fellow farmers and non-beneficiary communities is valuable. On-farm forestry management and forestry products market linkages are also benevolent for sustainable agro forestry development and livelihood source in the areas. Within the last two years, instead of blanket tree planting approach, VoCDA special attention was given to involve beekeepers so as to make them aware of the importance of planting trees (especially bee fodder varieties and agro forestry types which could enhance bee flora in the area) that contributes for the success of the farmer when fully engaged in apiculture.

The beekeeping sub-sector of the project areas needs special attention, as it is environment friendly livelihood potential that needs transformation from current subsistence production to semi-commercial level with short-term. Only limited beekeepers are currently entering into improved beekeeping practices. Yet many more beekeepers are still unaddressed with improved apiculture practices and the issue of market linkage is at its primitive stage. Thus, there are pressing needs for focused engagement with the improved apiculture production and marketing through value chain development promotions.

The SHG approach has been tested in changing the lives of significant portion of poor women in the project localities and it contributed in expanding their social horizon from just their houses to different levels of friendship, sisterhood, social support system as well as gaining awareness on issues that matter for them. They have also become more assertive, more active in decision making both inside-and-outside their houses. In some



cases they have also found new ways of collaborating with their community such as doing things in groups and benefiting from economies of scale where the tradition used to be working alone. Through social savings they are now able to take part in social occasions using their social funds without which they were not able to do so, hence, were marginalized from the rest of the community.

12.2 Recommendation

- Careful stakeholders analysis & inclusion of relevant partners to discharge their roles and responsibilities requires strong emphasis to ensure future sustainability of project interventions
- For close follow up and monitoring system, it would be more appreciated and useful if the program participate locally available human resource as NRM and extension workers during program implementation. This in return creates sense of ownership and ensures the sustainability of impact created for community.
- To assure the sustainability of the impact created and to be more effective for future similar interventions, it is more sustainable and effective it is better to link with wereda agriculture office.
- There is a need of scale up of the project of NRM at both kebele during implementation of the project
- The escalation demand for fuel and for cropping and grazing triggered by the rising population are the main cause for deforestation. Therefore to improve VoCDA has establish more nursery sites and rising various tree seedling for plantation.
- Training of farmers are the best means to deliver extension service to the farmer so as to equip and improve their level of understanding to various new technologies especially for farmers who are engaged on NRM.
- Finally the evaluation team strongly advise your Organization better to amend the Project / Extension of the project.

