

OROMO SELF RELIANCE ASSOCIATION (OSRA)

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2013

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Executive Summary

Oromo Self Reliance Association (OSRA) is an Ethiopian Resident Charity engaged in various rural development interventions in Oromia region. Its main program focus is water supply, sanitation and hygiene; food security and livelihood improvement; promotion of cereal banks, farmers marketing organizations/cooperatives; environmental protection; and promotion of zero grazing and improved livestock management. OSRA currently operates in four zones and six districts of the region.

In the year 2013, OSRA planned and implemented different projects that have contributed to poverty reduction efforts and thereby bring about better living situation for the communities in the target areas.

It has developed seven community based water supply sources along with sanitation facilities such as communal washing basins and shower rooms. As a result, over 2,700-people in the target areas have accessed safe water supply sources and sanitation during the year. Moreover, over 1,100 target households were sensitized and trained on improved hygiene and sanitation issues such as water management, construction and utilization of latrines, personal and environmental hygiene, hand washing at critical times, etc. With aim of building the capacity of the community to manage and operate the facilities and hygiene promotion water and sanitation committees, community technicians, and hygiene and sanitation education communicators were selected and trained during the year. Specifically, 114 water & sanitation committees, 84 community water technicians or care takers, 230 hygiene and sanitation education communicators were trained during the year. Experience exchange programs for water and sanitation committees and technicians have been organized during the reporting period.

Provision of water supply sources, sanitation and hygiene education for selected schools was one of the activities implemented during the year. Accordingly, five water wells along with water distribution points were constructed for five schools in Woliso and Ilu districts. Moreover, twelve blocks of ventilated improved latrines with urinals and hand washing facilities were constructed for students in six target schools during the year. Moreover, four blocks of latrine with four stances were constructed for teachers in four schools. Water and sanitation committees composed of 7 members drawn from parents; teachers and students were also established and trained in all the target schools. Besides, three water technicians were selected from each school and trained on operation and maintenance of hand pumps. To promote improved hygiene and sanitation practices

within the schools and communities, health and environmental clubs were established and trained in the schools.

The financial support to provide community and school based water supply sources, sanitation and hygiene promotion were obtained from our partners/donors, namely watercan Canada, CCFD, King Bauduin Foudation (KBF) and CAFOD/TROICARE.

Capacity building trainings and experience exchange programs for leaders, linkage facilitation of different value chain actors and stakeholders, promotion of farmers products, and support and facilitation of farmers union establishment were some of the main activities implemented related to farmers marketing organizations.

Environmental protection and support for small scale vegetable production were another activities accomplished during the year. In this regard, various multipurpose tree seedlings were raised and distributed to the target farmers, trainings on relevant topics on environment were organized and provided to farmers, and efforts were made to undertake physical soil and water conservation structure. Moreover, with the aim of diversify the livelihoods of farmers, fruit trees of various types were distributed to farmers in its target areas. In addition to this, support was provided to farmers specially women in production and management of vegetable production. Provision of seeds and training, and supply and installation of family drip irrigation kits were some of the main accomplishment in relation to vegetable production.

In view of improving the livelihoods of resource poor households specially women, different activities were planned and implemented during the year. These, among others, include support organization and training of women self help groups that comprised of over 764 women in different kebeles of Akaki, Ilu and Tole districts. Besides, 150 farmers of were organized into 10 self help groups in two kebeles of Adaberga district. The target groups in Adaberga were particularly provided with various supports such as training on self help groups principles and management, business management, small ruminant fattening using zero grazing, feed preparation, etc. they were also provided with three small ruminant (sheep or goat) per head.

Different activities were planned and implemented in relation to promotion of zero grazing and improved heifer production. Some of the achievements include; training of about 796 farmers and development agents on live stock production and management, health and artificial insemination, zero grazing, and feed development. Furthermore, different varieties of animal fodder and seeds were distributed to the target farmers.

In addition to implementing ongoing projects, the office has tried to solicit funding through developing project proposals for donors. A number of proposals were prepared and submitted to donors and funds were secured for most of the proposals. All relevant stakeholders including the target communities have involved in every aspect of the program implementation, monitoring and evaluation at various levels. Without these concerted efforts, it would not be possible to realize the results achieved during the year.

1. Introduction

1.1. Historical Background of the Organization

Oromo Self Reliance Association (OSRA) is a local nongovernmental, non-political, non-profit making and secular voluntary organization established by a group of interested and dedicated intellectuals, professionals, prominent public and business personnel in 1995. It was registered by the Ministry of Justice and re- registered as Ethiopian Residents Charities in accordance with Charities and Societies Proclamation 621/2009 in October 2009 bearing registration certificate number 0121.

OSRA’ mission is to assist the rural poor and needy community in their effort to bring about sustainable development through building their capacity and implementing community based integrated rural development programs and thereby contributes to national poverty reduction efforts. The general assembly is the supreme organ of its management body with the power to appoint board members, decide on major policy issues and approve annual work program, budget, audit report etc. OSRA’s motto is “help people to help themselves”. OSRA has a firm stand that poverty alleviation could be possible only if the rural communities are mobilized in a coordinated and organized way for their own economic development. OSRA adheres to the following principles: non partisan; transparency; accountability; genuine and mutual partnership; honesty and integrity; self reliance; participation; gender equality and sensitivity; respect for values of its stakeholders.

1.2. Purpose/Objective of the Organization

OSRA entails to achieve the following objectives/purposes:

- A. To assist the poor and needy community so as to engage in their socio economic development; promote sense of self reliance and culture of collaborative efforts and working together
- B. To promote community centered integrated development programs that contribute to improve the livelihoods of the community such as provision of water , health, education and agricultural development services
- C. To promote sustainable use, development and management of natural resources and practices to protect environment and thereby eliminate the consequences of climate change and natural calamities
- D. To support relief and rehabilitation efforts so as to protect the communities from natural calamities

- E. To support and promote anti harmful traditional practices that endangers the health of women and children; and assist the efforts to economic empowerment of women & children
- F. Promote the advancement of the language, arts, culture and heritage of Oromo
- G. Encourage the youth to engage in their socio economic advancement and support their effort.

1.3. Main Program Focus Areas

OSRA's main program areas are:

- Rural Water Supply, Hygiene and Sanitation
- Food security, nutrition and livelihood improvement
- Promote and support farmers marketing organizations and value chains development
- Promotion of zero grazing and improved livestock production and management
- Environmental Protection

1.4. Operational Regions

OSRA operates in various zones and districts in Oromia Region. Currently, the organization is undertaking development interventions in four zones and six districts in Oromia National Regional State. Specifically, it is currently operating in Akaki District (Special Zone Surrounding Finfinne), Ada'a district (East Shewa Zone), Becho, Ilu, Tole and wolisso districts (South West Shewa Zone) and Adaberga District (West Shewa Zone).

2. Activities and Results Achieved

This section briefly presents activities planned and implemented, and results achieved in line with main programs during the year 2013.

2.1. Water Supply and Sanitation

Provision of water sources, sanitation and hygiene education for communities and public schools in rural areas is one of the main programs of OSRA. During the year, efforts were made to create access to water and sanitation for selected communities and schools. There were a total of five projects that focus on provision of water and sanitation during the reporting period.

2.1.1. Community based water supply and sanitation

Water and sanitation projects comprises of three main components, namely; provision of safe water supply sources, sanitation facilities, and promotion of hygiene and sanitation education.

A. Construction of water supply sources

In was planned to construct twelve community based water supply sources such as shallow wells in selected villages of three districts during the year. Accordingly, seven water supply sources-boreholes- were developed at seven different villages in Ilu (3 wells), Tole (2 wells) and Wolisso (2 wells) districts of South West Shewa Zone. The depths of the water wells range from 42 to 66 meters and they were fitted with Afridev hand pumps. The water sources have been serving a total of 457 households, which is about 3200 people in the target project areas. The appropriate sites for location of the water wells were identified in collaboration with water and sanitation committees, community representatives and experts from the Water Resource Office of the respective districts.

B. Construction of Sanitation facilities

It was planned to construct community managed 12 blocks of shower with two rooms, and washing basins along with the water wells in the target villages. Accordingly, the construction of four sanitation facilities has been completed and that of three villages are under construction. The target community participated in mobilizing locally available construction materials such as wood whereas, other construction materials such as stones, sand, and industrial product materials that were purchased and delivered by the projects.

C. Hygiene & Sanitation education and capacity building training

After establishing community management body such as water and sanitation committees, it was followed by capacity building activities, which are integral components of the projects so as to ensure the sustainability of the achievements of the projects under consideration. In this respect, water and sanitation (WATSAN) committees have been established, and several training sessions were organized and facilitated for members of WATSAN committees, community technicians, hygiene and sanitation education communicators, community members, health extension agents and experts of the concerned government line offices in the reporting period.

A total of 1040 people (324 female) from the target villages were sensitized on hygiene and sanitation: personal and environmental hygiene, safe disposal of human excreta, latrine construction and utilization, water hygiene and management, and food hygiene. Besides, 227 people drawn from target villages have been triggered on community led total sanitation. Furthermore, 230 individuals (122 are women) were selected and trained as hygiene and sanitation education communicators.

During the year, twelve community based water and sanitation (WATSAN) committees that consists of 84 people were established. 49 committee members trained on water supply system management, operation, maintenance and on personal and environmental hygiene and sanitation. In addition to this, 65 WATSAN members were provided with refreshment training on water management, hygiene and sanitation. Moreover, experience exchange programs among WATSAN committees have been organized for 50 WATSAN committee members. Besides, 84 individuals drawn from the target villages received

practical training on operation and maintenance of hand pumps so that they will serve as community technicians in their respective villages.

2.1.2. School based Water Supply and Sanitation

A. Construct Water Supply Sources

Five water wells were constructed in five schools namely, Kentero, Gute Godeti, Gambela and Muri from Woliso district, and Keta school from Ilu district. The depth of the water wells ranges from 52 to 74 meters with an average discharge rate of 1.1 liters/second. Elevated wellheads along with 11 water distribution facets were constructed in these schools. Besides, pump installation, and water tankers with 2000 liters holding capacity have been installed in the reporting period. A total of 2760 students and teachers have been using the water supply facilities.

B. Construction of sanitation facilities

It was planned to develop twelve separate blocks of latrines for girls and boys students in six schools and four blocks for teachers in four schools during the reporting year. Accordingly, 4 blocks with hand washing and urinals for boys in four schools, and 5 blocks with hand washing and wash rooms for girls in five schools were constructed. Each VIP latrine block has 8 stances or rooms. In addition to these, 2 blocks of latrine with 4 rooms each were rehabilitated in two schools. Hand washing facilities and urinals have been constructed along with these blocks and put into use for boys students. Moreover, 4 blocks of latrines with four stances and hand washing were constructed for teachers in four of the target schools. The schools and communities have been involved in provision of locally available materials for the construction of latrines.

C. Hygiene and sanitation education and capacity building

A part from provision of water and sanitation facilities, activities that promotes good hygiene and sanitation practices in the schools and communities have been planned and undertaken during the reporting period. Students, teachers and school communities were sensitized on hygiene and sanitation in the target schools. Health and environmental clubs in the target schools were strengthened to promote hygiene and sanitation in their schools and communities. In line with this, 257 club members were trained on hygiene and sanitation promotion approaches such as PHAST, CLTS, and menstrual hygiene management so that they educate and mobilize school communities and parents towards improved hygiene and sanitation practices. The health club members from four schools in Woliso district were also undertaken outreach activities in their respective villages during summer vacation.

Water and sanitation committees composed of seven members drawn from parents; teachers and students were also established and trained in all the target schools. Besides, three water technicians were selected from each school and trained on operation and maintenance of hand pumps.

Table: Community and School for which water supply sources constructed in 2013

S N	District	Vilage/school Name	Beneficiary HHs/students			Donor
			M	F	T	
1	Wolisso	Kentero School	219	178	397	Watercan
2	"	Gute Godeti School	315	200	515	
3	"	Muri School	415	388	803	
4	"	Gambela School	291	252	543	
5	Illu	Keta School	280	222	502	CCFD
8	Illu	Harmufo sole	45	8	53	
9	Illu	Golba	48	17	65	
10	Illu	Girise	30	16	46	
6	Tole	Tulu gujo	65	12	77	CAFOD/TROICARE
7	Tole	Dugda Kore	48	12	60	
11	Woliso	Dire Kiltu	49	14	63	KBF
12	Woliso	Imyo	89	4	93	
		Total				

2.2. Support Farmers Marketing Organizations in Value Chain

2.2.1. Value chain development

OSRA has been supporting farmers' organizations to engage in production and marketing of selected crops. During the reporting year, it was planned to strengthen the farmers marketing organization operating in Akaki, Adaberga, Becho and Illu districts. To this end, different activities were planned and implemented during the reporting year. Some of the main accomplishments are briefly presented in this section.

i. Capacity Building Training

Building the capacity of the line staff, FMOs and their union in terms of training and experience exchange was one of the activities planned and implemented during the reporting period. In this respect, 12 staff members of the cooperative promotion office of the respective districts were trained. Trained 9 FMO union staff on grain quality control

and management, stock and store management, financial management and record keeping and accounting system

Moreover, experience exchange program was organized for nine board members of the FMO union. On top of trainings, FMOs were supported and coached in business plan development, financial management, and entrepreneurship skill development in Becho, Ilu Akaki and Ada' Berga districts. Besides, access to financial resources has been created to FMOs through providing them revolving fund and linking them with WASASA Micro Finance Institution in Becho and Ilu districts.

ii. Strengthening networks among FMOs and their Union

With the aim of strengthening networks among FMOs and their members, various events such as field days, FMO days and experience sharing programs were facilitated during the year. The main issues addressed during these events include: performance of cooperatives, how to increase membership, how to increase their working capital, ways to enhance women participation, and the existing challenges and ways to overcome them. These events have helped FMOs to share their experiences and challenges in their day to day operation. Furthermore, three best performing FMOs were identified and rewarded during the year. Apart from strengthening networks among FMOs and their union, efforts were made to organize a forum in which FMOs link with buyers and other chain actors.

iii. Support FMOs in production of selected crops

With the aim of supporting FMO members to improve their production, it was planned to introduce improved seeds of wheat and teff. Accordingly, 10 quintals of teff and 1 quintal of wheat were provided for 65 farmers who are members of 17 FMOs. Moreover, 79 farmers were trained on agronomic practices and post harvest management of these crops. Furthermore, FMOs were supported to organize field days and were able to learn from best practices.

2.2.2. Integration of ICT in Value chain

During the reporting period, committee members of farmers marketing organizations have been provided with training on SMS texting through cell phone and basic computer skills. Specifically, while 47 FMO leaders were trained on basic computer skills, 139 trained on mobile texting. These training sessions were organized at the ICT center established at the offices of the FMO union, Tulubolo.

Production of a documentary film on cheakpea and teff production and management was one of the activities planned and implemented during the year. Consequently, a total of 256 FMO members, of which women are 84, were trained on agronomic practices of these crops using the documentary film in their respective FMO.

2.3. Food Security and Livelihood Programs

2.3.1. Small Ruminant Fattening and Marketing

This project is being implemented in Ade'aberga woreda and targets resource poor households in six kebeles with the objective of ensuring food security and livelihood improvement. Some of the main activities planned and implemented during the year include the following:

i. Community sensitization and Groups formation

Prior to implementation of any activity, community sensitizations and awareness creation activities were undertaken in two kebeles known as Wore Ilu and Dheku Kersa.. Accordingly, 267 (160 females and 107 males) participated in the sensitization and identification process. Following sensitization of the communities, the target groups were identified and supported to get organized into self help groups. The target groups identified include women, landless youth and men. Accordingly, 150 people (58= males and 92 =females) were organized into 10 Self Help Groups. Out of selected target users, landless youths are: in Dheku-Kersa: 36 (male 27 & female9) , and Worre-Ilu: 32 (male 22 & female 10) and women headed households are: in Dheku-Kersa: 19, and in Worre-Ilu 12.

The groups have developed their bylaws that can help them work together, share knowledge and ideas, discuss individual and common social issues, solve common problems and access small loans to run small business activities in their localities.

ii. Training

Improving the knowledge of target groups in the areas of improved management, fattening and marketing of small ruminant using zero grazing system is essential to enhance household income and build asset. In this respect, 285 people (118 men and 167 women) were trained on provision of better shed/housing, proper feeding and watering, improved health condition like how identify diseases symptoms, timely vaccination and treatment when got sick and symptoms of common disease and how to identify and single out sick animals etc . The trainings were provided incollaboration with Livestock development

Training the target groups on improved forage production and management, and feed preparation was one of the activities planned and implemented in the reporting period. A total of 150 community members received training on these topics and provided with access to lucenia, Sesbania, treelucaren and alfalfa and planted in their back yard areas, farm boundaries etc.

Furthermore, a total of 250 target people (97 males and 153 females) had attended the training on small business management and entrepreneurship skills at various times. Besides, for managing SHGs financial transaction book keeping training was also facilitated for 40 (23 males and 17 females) group leaders.

Capacity building training has also been provided to development agents working in the target kebeles so that they will be able to render technical support to the target groups. The training topics were small ruminant fattening and management, health and feed preparation

iii. Purchase and Distribution of sheep/goats to the Beneficiaries

After selection and training of the target beneficiaries on overall management, feeding and housing of shoats, the purchase and distribution of shoats has been undertaken. In this regard, 450 sheep/goats were purchased and distributed to 150 (58 men and 92 women) households. Each of 150 households has been provided with 3 sheep/goats. The beneficiaries have been provided with either sheep or goat depending on the agro-ecological location they are living in. Those who live on the high land areas were provided with sheep and those living on low land areas were provided with goats.

iv. Facilitation of Experience exchanges

The experience exchange visits were carried out in two environments: (1) Holota Research Center, Berga branch located in the outskirts of Inchini town; and (2) individual model farmers homestead in respective kebeles. A total of 50 individuals (25 men and 25 women) were participated in these exchange programs.

The participants were able to learn how silage is prepared from locally available feed and fodder plantation, best practices in animal fodder development from their visit at Holota Research center and individual farmers.

v. Linkage facilitation

It was planned to facilitate linkages among the different self help groups themselves and SHGs with technical and financial service providers. Accordingly, workshops that brought together representatives from SHGs, district line offices, and micro finance institutions operating in the districts were facilitated during the year. Moreover, review meetings with key stakeholders and target groups were conducted during the year. Representatives from the target groups; Zone & District Livestock Development and Health Agencies, Zone Finance & Economic Development; district Administration Office, Finance & Economic Development Office, Women & Children Affairs Office, and Small & Micro Enterprise Office had participated in the review meetings.

2.3.2. Support Vegetable Production

Promotion of vegetable production at household level is one of the activities integrated with water supply and livelihood projects. Accordingly, various activities were planned and implemented in target kebeles found in Akaki and Tole districts during the reporting period. Training on small scale vegetable production and management has been provided to 456 women drawn from different target kebeles. The training topics include:

land and seedbed preparation, improved agronomic practices and major crop pests and protection methods etc.

In addition, the households have been provided different vegetable seeds such as such as cabbage, carrot, onion and Swiss chard. The vegetable seeds have been provided for the women (184 women in Akaki and 200 in Tole). Though most of the vegetables produced were used for home consumption, some of the beneficiaries have sold the vegetables on local market and generate income ranging from 350- 2000 birr.

Besides, 81 farmers received training on drip irrigation technology. With aim of introducing the technology to the farmers, 10 farmers (M/F=8/2) from Tole district have been provided with family drip irrigation kit on cost sharing basis. The drip irrigation kit is installed and ready for giving service for each target farmers at the moment.

Apart from the training, demonstration of different types of food made from vegetable crops was planned and implemented in the reporting period. The purpose food preparation and nutrition training to equip community members with the knowledge and practicing of preparing variety and balanced diet from the vegetables they are producing at their homestead areas. This helps the rural households to feed economical and nutritious food for their family especially their children less than two years of age from different types of vegetables. A total of 281 women participated in this demonstration and practical training program.

2.3.3. Improving Livelihoods of women through Self help approaches

One of the activities aimed to economically empower women and improve livelihood is supporting and strengthening women self help groups. Self help approach is being integrated in various projects such as water and sanitation and livelihood projects implemented during the year. In this respect, different activities were planned and implemented and some of the activities and results are explained hereunder:

i. Organize women in self help groups

Following sensitization of community members in five selected kebeles in Akaki district, 200 women have been identified as target groups for this intervention. Then, they got organized into 12 self help groups. Each group comprises 15-20 members. Moreover, over one new SHG was organized in Ilu. In total, 13 self help groups were formed during the reporting period. The self help groups were assisted to develop bylaws (internal rules and regulations) which govern them and provided with register books and pass books.

ii. Providing training to target women on management, saving and credit, leadership and entrepreneurial skill

Following group formation, various training sessions were organized and provided for women groups. A total of 528 women received training on self help approach and

management, small business management, and entrepreneurship. The training was given in collaboration with women and children affairs office.

A part from the training, it was planned to provide small grants to women groups in Akaki so that they can start small business. In consultation with the target group and line offices, 249 women drawn from different groups have been provided with a sheep so that they engage in fattening and production activities. Besides, 361 of the women attended training on improved sheep production and management in collaboration with the district Livestock Development and health Agency.

iii. Facilitate Linkages & Experience sharing forums

During the reporting period, linkage facilitation of local women self help groups with local microfinance institutions and concerned government line office has been conducted. Accordingly 263 SHG members drawn from 20 SHGs in Tole district have taken part in the linkage facilitation and experience exchange session. The main discussion agenda was learning from each other on the benefit gained from different SHG members which has provided an excellent learning and sharing among the group members. The other point was support available from local microfinance institutions namely WASASA and Oromia saving and credit Association. The SHG members have gained knowledge and understanding on the kind of support they can obtain from the local microfinance institutions operating at district level.

Moreover, experience exchange program was organized for SHG members drawn from 20 groups involving 43 members in Tole. The visit was conducted to SHGs established by Facilitator for Change (FC) located in Dawo district with best practices and success stories. The SHG members were able to learn about the importance of continuous saving and loans to run small business activities and possible return, rotational group leadership systems, working collaboratively with local microfinance institutions, record keeping and how to avoid defaults etc. Moreover, stationery materials such as record keeping books, printing paper, calculators, carbon paper, pencil, pen etc has been supplied to 42 SHGs having about 500 members as part of capacity building support.

2.4. Zero Grazing and Improved Dairy Production

Phase 2 of Zero grazing and improved diary production and management project was launched during the year and is being under implementation in 20 kebeles in Akaki and Ada'a districts. During the reporting period, different activities were planned and implemented in the target kebeles. In addition to the target groups of the previous phase, 2,006 households (1576 male & 430 female) were identified as new target groups of the project during the year. Some of the main activities implemented and results accomplished under this project are briefly discussed in the following section.

i. Training farmers

During the reporting period 786 farmers (M/F=642/144) have been trained in selection, management, improved feeding, housing and Provision of artificial insemination services. The training was conducted in collaboration with district level experts from livestock development and health office, and development agents in the kebeles.

Furthermore, various experience exchange forums have been organized during the year. Accordingly, 418 farmers (M/F=353/65) have participated on experience exchange visits. The purpose of experience exchange visit was to promote farmers to farmers learning and sharing of good practices. Accordingly, the participants have shared experience for one another especially on the production and management of improved livestock feed.

In addition to farmers, it was planned to provide capacity building training for village level development agents of the governments who are expected to assist the farmers in their respective villages. The purpose of the training is to build their capacity to enable them render the necessary technical support to the farmers at their respective village .In light of this, 33 Development agents have received two days training on improved livestock management through zero grazing system.

i. Livestock feed Development

To improve farmers' access to improved and good quality forage seeds and planting materials that can be produced around homesteads and farm boundaries to be feed to the animals through cut and carry system.

During the year, 6232 kilograms of oats and 650 Kgs of vetch seeds has been provided to 656 farmers (M/F=531/125) to be planted on their own plots of land in order to feed their animals through cut and carry system. Out of this, 20kg oats and 20 kg vetch seed was provided for farmers for seed multiplication purpose. Moreover, various forage seedlings were raised on central nursery site and have been provided to the target farmers. Based on this, 60,200 sesbania and lucenia seedlings has been distributed for 828 (M/F=708/120) target farmers selected from the target kebeles to be planted on their homesteads and farm boundaries so as to feed to their livestock.

There is a positive attitudinal change from the farmer's side towards improved forge development and utilization. They came to realize the fact that it is possible to increase the productivity of their livestock through feeding good quality forage using zero grazing systems. Farmers who have been involved in forage development have benefited a lot from the scheme and share their experience to other farmers who have not been targeted in the project. It is realized that, there is a big demand towards improved forage seeds and planting materials in the project areas. Furthermore, some farmers explained that they benefited from the improved seeds and able to increase their milk yield from 1-1.5 liters.

ii. Access to improved diary breeds created

With the aim of improving the production and productivity, it was planned to create access to improved quality breeds to some target farmers on cost sharing approaches. Accordingly, during the reporting period, 67 heifers were provided to 67 (M/F=56/11) selected farmers drawn from 15 target kebeles. Target farmers were selected based on

their capacity and experience to manage improved heifers through provision of good housing, feeding and better health care. Before the provision of the heifers improved heifer source assessment was conducted in collaboration with livestock development and health office, the beneficiary representatives and OSRA. After identification of heifer suppliers the price of the heifers was also negotiated involving the beneficiary representatives from each kebele.

Accordingly, OSRA covered 60% of the cost of the heifers plus transportation cost where as the beneficiaries covered 40% of the cost of the price of the heifers. The heifers are 60-70% exotic blood levels having high milk production traits. They can give up to 15-20 liters of milk per day under good management systems.

iii. Farmers trained on bio-gas technology and access to the technology created

During the reporting period, 82 (M/F=62/20) target farmers from the two districts have received training on the importance of household biogas technology, installation system and utilization in collaboration with Oromia region water mineral and energy bureau experts for one day for the selected farmers.

Following the training on bio gas technology, installation of biogas at household level is underway for the selected 80 (20) women households from the target kebeles. The installation of biogas is underway and on its last stage of completion as the end of the year. The bio gas installation and training activities are being under implementation in collaboration with Oromia Region Water, Mineral and Energy Bureau the district offices, and the target farm households. Prior to any activity, memorandum of understanding for this specific component has been signed between OSRA and Water, Mineral and Energy Offices (WMEO) of the two districts. The memorandum states the responsibilities and contributions expected from the three parties, namely; the WMEO, OSRA and the target households. Thus, installation is being undertaken on cost sharing basis among these parties. Consequently, the community provides unskilled labor in bio gas pit preparation and provision of sand and stone. OSRA provides cement, gravel and covers labor cost for masons as well as transportation cost of cement and gravel to the specific sites. The Bureau also shares the cost of cement, gravel and labor cost for masons, provides the farmers with utensils and other materials important to use the technology.

2.5. Environmental Protection

Environmental protection has been integrated with water and sanitation project in Tole district and livelihood in Akaki district. The main objective is to enhance the level of awareness of the communities and thereby improve the production and productivity of the soil, reducing the magnitude and effects of climate change resulted from deforestation. During the reporting period, community awareness raising and sensitization, farmers' training, raising and planting tree seedlings and soil physical conservation activities were planned and implemented.

Farmers' training and awareness creation on environmental protection was undertaken during the reporting period. The specific topics addressed in the training include: soil conservation, importance of gully cutting system, check dam construction, tree planting, and the impact of environmental degradation on agricultural production and productivity and ways to protect the environment. The training session was conducted in collaboration with experts from the district Agriculture and Rural Development Office and village level Extension Agents. Accordingly, 505 farmers (of which 262 are women) from Tole (317 people) and Akaki (188 people) districts were trained on environmental protection.

Following the training, farmers were mobilized to work on check dam construction in the village where gully erosion is a problem in Tole district. Consequently, 6000 meters long check dam was constructed through community participation by contributing wood for construction and free labor. In addition to this, in order to rehabilitate the gully formed in the village the physical check dam construction has to be integrated with tree seedling plantation. To this end, different tree seedlings that would contribute to environmental protection had been raised on two central nursery sites in collaboration with Agriculture and rural development offices of the respective districts. Accordingly, 105,000 different tree seedlings such as Acacia Saligna, Gravillia, Nim tree, Koshim, Jacaranda, and Avocado were raised and distributed to the beneficiary community during the reporting period. In addition to this, 1,557 Apple seedlings were distributed for a total of 312 households (74 women) in Tole district during the reporting period.

The other activity planned during the reporting period was strengthening of village level soil and water conservation committee. Accordingly 30 village level conservation committee members (M/F =25/5) have been trained for two days in collaboration with district level office of agriculture experts. The training focused on how to manage the conservation structures in the village and the planed tree and fruit seedlings through active participation of the community.

In addition to this, 64 (M/F=53/11) selected farmers from the target villages have participated in experience exchange visit to farmers managed conservation strictures located in Woliso district. During the visit farmers have seen physical conservation structures in selected areas like check dams, micro basins and contour farming and area closure. The farmers have discussed with the local community and gained good experience on how to manage the conservation structures, tree planted, and how to revive the most degraded land through area closure as well as their strong monitoring and follow up systems.

Reducing soil erosion through check dam construction and planting trees will improve the fertility of the soil. This will in turn increase the production and productivity of the major crops in the area such as teff and wheat. Even though, it is difficult to measure the production and productivity of the major crops at the moment, it is believed that the intervention will have a positive impact on production and productivity in the long run.

2.6 Pilot Activities

OSRA initiated a pilot project at Farmers Training center (FTC) in Wolisso district with the aim of demonstrating modern agricultural practices to farmers in its target communities. The project has two main components: crop production including vegetables and bee keeping. The district agriculture and rural development office (ARDO) has provided 2.75 hectares of land, which is allocated for FTC in Dire Duleti Kebele to use it for this pilot activities. Besides, the office provided us with technical support in training farmers and following up the project.

i. Main activities Implemented:

The following main activities were implemented during the year:

- Sensitized the key stakeholders on the project concept and implementation modality, established management committee that composed of the kebele administration, development agents,
- Prepared about 2.75 hectares of land for crop production and shed for bee hives (125m²) within the FTC's compound
- To demonstrate and train farmers on modern beekeeping practice site was prepared and 10 modern beehives, three transitional and two traditional beehives total 15 beehives and other inputs such as nine bee colony and 30 kg of wax have been supplied to the center.
- Trained selected farmers in modern bee keeping practice
- Planted bee-friendly tree seedlings in the compound of the FTC
- Supplied selected seeds of potato (20quintals), Onion (30kgs), Carrot, and Beat root (0.75kg) and other inputs such as fertilizers
- Demonstrated and provided practical training for about 88 farmers (of which women are 23) in the kebeles on production and management of the selected crops
- Constructed irrigation facility for the farmers in the target kebeles, who are also the users of the FTC's service
- Arrange experience sharing visits for FTC managing committee members, government line staffs and others. The exchange visit was done on; FTC managing approaches and systems, FTC resource mobilization and utilization, training out puts marketing and management and so forth.

3. Community Participation and Contribution

OSRA strongly believes that it is hardly possible to bring about development without the active involvement of the communities targeted. Hence, adopts community participation in all project phases as one of its key strategies to build sense of ownership and sustainability of its interventions.

Accordingly, during the reporting year the target communities have actively involved in various ways directly and through their representatives. They involved in provision of free labour and locally available construction materials such as woods, clearing temporary access roads for trucks during construction. Especially, it was mandatory for

the community to mobilize locally available materials for the construction of sanitation facilities such as washing basins and shower rooms in the villages and latrines in schools. The target communities for WASH have also set up funds as their contribution, which will be used for operation and maintenance of the facilities. The communities also involved in identification of specific location to place some of the facilities, participated in planning, monitoring and review of the status of planned activities.

4. Outcomes/Impacts Achieved

The various activities implemented under different projects during the reporting year, have, obviously, contributed to the betterment of the livelihoods of the target communities in the intervention areas. This section briefly presents, some of the main changes brought to the lives of the target communities as a result of various interventions.

- Improved access to water and sanitation facilities has resulted in reduced water and sanitation related problems, improved knowledge and hygiene and sanitation practices, Increased knowledge, attitude and practices of beneficiaries on water and sanitation facilities management and utilization; strengthened capacities of targeted communities and schools to operate, maintain, manage and sustain the water facilities.
- Better teaching and learning environment has been created in the target schools. This in turn has resulted in improved quality of education, reduced school dropout rate, increased knowledge and practices on hygiene and sanitation, reduced turn over, and improved community participation in school affairs.
- Farmers marketing organizations and their union have been capacitated in terms of business management, documentations, networking, marketing, linkage with value chain actors and various stakeholders;
- Increased asset building opportunities have been created for the poor and vulnerable community members;
- Awareness on environmental the effect of degradation on the livelihoods have been created; Farmers have got good knowledge and awareness on environmental conservation and the negative impact of soil erosion and deforestation on the production and productivity.
- Self help group approaches helped to empower women and enhance their self confidence to fight against poverty and inequality. It has also enabled them strengthened their socio economic relationships with one another. Moreover, SHGs have created access to credit for their members and thereby engage in income generating activities. Some SHGs are started to get legal personality from district level Small & Micro Enterprise Office, which would create an opportunity to ensure the sustainability of the groups.
- Women entrepreneurship skills improved as result of training and awareness creation on business management and entrepreneurship skills. This in turn has led to increased savings and income.

- In addition to diversifying their nutrition, small scale vegetable production on backyards helped the target households especially women to generate some income from the sale of their surplus.

5. Proposal Development, Staff Training and Evaluation

5.1. Proposal Development

Several project proposals have been developed and submitted to donors during the reporting period. The following project proposals were some of them prepared and submitted to donors and funds were secured for most of the proposals:

- i. A five year (2014 – 2018) project concept has been developed and submitted to CAFOD, SCIAF & TROICARE. The project is titled **‘Integrated Community Based Livelihood Improvement Project’** and targeted rural kebeles in Woliso district. The total estimated budget of the project is **6,076,671 birr**.
- ii. A two year project concept has been developed and submitted to Embassy of France in Ethiopia in response to the call for application for Social Fund for Development by the Embassy. The project is titled **‘Ensuring Food Security of resource poor through increasing Income generating Opportunities and Asset building’**. The project targeted two kebeles in Adaberga district with a total budget of 1,695,330 Birr. However, our concept note was not selected.
- iii. Two project proposals were developed and submitted to CCFD. One of the projects is titled **‘Integrated Community Based water supply, sanitation and hygiene project’**. This project is planned for three years and targeted selected kebeles in Woliso and Tole districts. The total budget of the project is about five million Ethiopian birr. Another project concept on livelihood has been developed and submitted to CCFD. This project is for two years and will be implemented in two selected kebeles of Adaberga district with a total estimated budget of 1,446,070 birr. CCFD has reviewed both proposals and approved for funding. The projects shall be commenced in January next year.

5.2. Staff Training

With the aim of building the capacity of both program and administrative staff, short term trainings on relevant topics have been provided to staff members during the year. The training topics include:

- Project cycle management (1 staff member)
- Practical Financial Management for NGOs (2 staff members),
- ICT (SMART – TECH IN DATA COLLECTION)- 1 staff member
- Monitoring sustainable WASH service delivery (1 staff member)
- Gender mainstreaming in WASH (1 staff member)
- Livelihood & Result based management (2 staff members)
- Community managed disaster risk reduction (CMDRR) (3 staff members)
- Leadership & Management (2 staff members)

5.3. Project Evaluation

During the year, both internal and external project evaluations were carried out. The projects evaluated include community and school based water supply and sanitation, Integrated water and sanitation project, promotion of zero grazing and improved diary production. The internal evaluations were conducted with a team of staff and key stakeholders. The results and findings of the evaluations were documented for future planning and reference. The terminal evaluations of the completed projects were undertaken with government line offices at various levels and the projects were formally handed over to the target community and relevant line offices.

6. Challenges Encountered and Lessons Learned

Challenges:

Some of the challenges encountered during the reporting period include lack of access road, mobilization of the target households for the training, and adoption of drip irrigation kits. It was impossible to drive to the villages due to rain, which made accessibility very difficult.

Mobilizing the target households for various trainings was also another challenge. The target households for the training sometimes fail to come to the training venue as expected despite necessary preparation in advance of the training program. This was partly attributed to various meetings and social commitments. Though several households had shown interest in drip irrigation systems, some were reluctant to contribute their share in time for the purchase of the kits. This has hampered timely completion of this particular activity.

Delay in appraising proposal on zero grazing project (phase II) by sector bureaus was also another challenges encountered during the year. Since the project agreement with the sector offices was not signed, the implementation of could not be commenced timely. As a result, some activities were not implemented as planned. Lack of adequate improved heifer sources and the high prices of the heifers was another challenge encountered in

relation to zero grazing project. Besides, target groups selection especially women, mobilization of cash contribution from the target farmers for the purchase of improved heifers, limited coordination & involvement of the district line offices were some of the main challenges that affect timely implementation of planned activities in zero grazing project.

Lessons Learned:

During the course of implementation of different projects in the reporting period, OSRA has learned a lot that could help improve future planning and implementation of various programs. Some of the main lessons include:

- Participatory planning and implementation of any activities is relevant for any community based projects. Joint review of performance with key stakeholders also contributes to attain the intended results of projects. This, among others, has created good understanding of the project and what is expected of whom, facilitated timely implementation and monitoring of project activities as stakeholders involved in the process and helped identify the roles and contribution of key stakeholders including the beneficiaries.
- Integrating potable water supply, hygiene and sanitation with vegetables production, environmental protection and promotion of WSHGs is helps to address various problems of the community and improve their livelihood situation.
- Building the capacity of the community institutions such as WATSAN committee and concerned government line offices at local levels greatly contributes to the sustainability of the project.
- Sanitation and hygiene promotion messages should not focus on health benefits alone there is need to also promote values of self-esteem, recognition and accepted status in the community.
- Regular supervision, follow up and monitoring is essential for proper implementation, operation, maintenance and sustainability.
- Stakeholders commitment established through effective communication and workshops is key to successful implementation of the project.
- Relevant training for SHGs enhances their knowledge and increase their performance
- Experience exchange on to neighboring district on environmental protection has helped farmers to realize the importance of environmental conservation activities

7. Annexes

Annex 1. Summary of Plan versus Accomplishment of Main Activities

