

Oromo Self Reliance Association(OSRA)

Annual Report for the Year 2006

Addis Ababa

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I. Introduction

Oromo self reliance association (OSRA) has been implementing various development projects comprising of Water supply and sanitation, cereal bank promotion, environmental protection, and community orientations and trainings relevant to all project components and cross cutting issues.

Supply of potable water to the rural farming community was one of the major activities performed by the organization in the reporting year. Drilling of the last deep well of Food Security and Water Development project, financed by WSM/BSF, and a number of shallow wells financed by different donors were among the accomplishments of the year. Like the pervious years, all the drilled water wells were accompanied by different sanitation facilities like washing basins, shower rooms and private pit latrines. Attention was given to community awareness creation on the management of the developed schemes, environmental sanitation and personal hygiene. It was the year in which School Water Supply project was submitted to WaterCan Canada for Abusera Primary and Junior Secondary School of Aqaqi District and Soyama Primary School of Bacho district.

Establishment of new CBs, implementation of pre-consolidation works for existing CB, grain marketing activities and capacity building trainings were among the major performed activities of the component. The established CB engaged in grain marketing activities and consequently the amount of grain purchased in the year increased by 27% over year 2005. CBs those already established have been competing with the local grain traders; those were the only gates of market for the farmers, in favor of the farming community. The benefits CBs currently rendering is not only to members but also to non-members including small grain traders through provision of fair price, freedom to negotiate the price during sale-purchase process and also serving as locally accessible market center. It reduced the workload of many of the surrounding farmers, especially women those, otherwise, forced to travel long distance carrying grain on their back and may be child on their chest. The presence of CB as a local market enabled the farmers to save their time, money and reduced risks those could be encountered, like lose of transport animals in the town. Therefore, the interest farmers have on CBs is increasing from time to time, those the work is tiresome and needs commitment to secure its sustainability.

Problems related to protection of environment are global issues in general and specific to Oromiya, where most of the forest coverage of the country and high population pressure are not in harmony. To combat the challenges, OSRA started implementation of environmental protection related

activities in Aqaqi districts of east Shoa Zone, since some years ago. The activities implemented under this component include raising of different trees seedlings, to be planted as homestead and woodlot by farmers. Since few years, these tree seedlings are diversified to include fruit trees targeting income diversification of the users and also forage legumes to serves as animal feed, as cut and carry system, and to contribute to the improvements of soil fertility. During the year, additional one central tree nursery was established in Bacho district, financed by SIDA/CRDA, and this increased the number of tree seedlings raised by about 81% as compared to that of year 2005.

The details of component wise achievements of the reporting year versus plan are described as follows.

II. Plan versus Achievements of the Year

1. *Water Supply and Sanitation*

Deep Well

In the year 2006, it was planned to develop deep water well along with distribution structures in Akaki District. Though most of the villages suffer from lack of potable water, it could not be possible to alleviate the problem of all at once. This necessitates the prioritization of the villages with the most severe problems. Accordingly, OSRA and the District water office together identified Dawara Tino as the village where the community suffers from lack of potable water and forced to use the sewage of Addis Ababa for human as well as domestic animal consumption.

Following the selection of the village, the beneficiary community was sensitized on implementation of the project and assisted in election of water and sanitation (WATSAN) committee. Including committee members training was given for 587 beneficiaries. The committee made effort to raise the awareness of the beneficiary on what is expected of them and mobilized birr 7,000.00 (seven thousand birr) cash and deposited in a joint account opened by the name of the beneficiary at WASASA MFI.

After all these ground works has been done, the drilling was subcontracted to a drilling company. Accordingly, the well was drilled to a depth of 170 meters. The discharge rate of the well is 5liters per second and it was tested that the water was potable. However, the construction of the remaining distribution structures (Reservoir, water point, cattle troughs, and swashing basin and shower rooms) and generator house was not completed as planned due to the onset of the rainy

season. But, they were contracted out to a contractor and the construction will commence soon. When completed, the water well is expected to give service for about 585 households.

Shallow Well

Based on the need assessment made so far in Becho district, it was planned to develop 9 shallow wells with sanitation facilities in 6 Kebele administrations of the district for the year 2006. However, ten shallow wells with hand pumps were developed in the reporting year. These water projects were financially supported by different donors namely, Oxfam America, Europe Third World (ETW), SIDA/CRDA and CCFD. On average about 540 households are being served by these projects.

Furthermore, sanitation structures (washing basins, shower rooms and private pit latrines) were constructed along with every water well. More specifically, 10 washing basins, 10 showers (each with two compartment), and 36 private pit latrines were constructed.

Orientation/sensitization and trainings was also conducted to about 784 community members, WATSAN committees and technicians. The trainings and sensitization focused on personal hygiene and environmental sanitation, water management, sustainability of the water schemes.

Table1. Summary of Water Projects

SN	Name of the project	Location	Donor	Type & quantity of well	Beneficiaries
1	Food security & water Development	Akaki	WSM	1 deep well	3,500
2	Sodoliben water supply & sanitation	Becho	Oxfam America	7 shallow well	2,500
3	Creation of CB & water supply	Becho	CCFD	1 shallow well	300
4	Mende water supply & sanitation	Becho	ETW	1 shallow well	300
5	Becho water supply & Env'l protection	Becho	CRDA/SIDA	1 shallow well	300
Total				11 wells	6,500

2. Cereal bank Promotion

Introduction

A Cereal Bank association refers to a group of farm households having similar concern and organized on voluntary basis. This institution is believed to create an alternative market outlet to safeguard the farming communities from improper market exploitation and serve the members in supplying seed and/or food grain during lean period. Hence, it ensures food security as well as social capital. It also creates a forum where members discuss on their common social and economic issues.

Besides, the profit generated in the process of purchase and sales of agricultural produces enables members to accumulate capital and hence creates a base for self-initiative development.

Establishment of New Cereal Bank Associations (CBAs)

It is in this year that OSRA started to implement for the first time cereal bank promotion through matching fund modality in which member farm households are required to contribute certain amount and the project will then match same amount as a donation. This approach differs from the revolving fund modality in which some amount is allocated as a revolving fund.

In the year 2006, it was planned to establish 5 cereal bank associations. But, only 3 cereal banks were established in Becho/illu, and Akaki districts. More specifically, one CB with revolving fund was established in Akaki district, with financial support from WSM and the other two CBs were established in Becho and Illu districts with matching fund modality and financial support from ICCO.

Specific activities undertaken in establishments of these new CBs include: mobilization and sensitization of communities in selected villages; conducting election of executives committees; developing bylaws internal directives of the association; mobilization members' contribution and registration, and opening joint account by the name of a CBA at WASASA MFI. General orientation and sensitization and specific trainings were also given to members and executive committees, respectively.

Table 2. New CBAs established during the year

No	Cereal bank associations (CBAs)			Member size		
	Name	Location	Donor	Male	Female	Total
1	Abdiboru	Awashbune	ICCO	17	1	18
2	Gudinaboru	waserbi Abati	ICCO	27	0	27
3	Insilale	Akaki	WSM	82	18	100
Total				126	19	145

Construction Activities

In addition to organization of farmers into a cereal bank association, it was planned to construct three warehouses and nine offices for the associations. Accordingly, two warehouses and seven offices were constructed. The offices were also furnished with essential office furniture such as chairs, tables, benches, shelves and cash safes

Grain Purchase and sales performance

2.3.1. Cereal Banks in Akaki Districts

There are three CBAs in Akaki district established in past years with financial support of WSM. These CBAs purchased a total of 1,851.77 quintals of different types of grains during the reporting period. The general assembly of the respective associations instructed the executive committees to undertake sale campaign in a way that maximize their profit. Accordingly, the CBAs sold 1,851.77 quintals of grain and generated a total of birr 149,113.41 as profit. Table 3 indicates the details of the purchase and sales activities.

Table 3. Purchase and sales activities of Cereal Bank associations in Akaki Districts

SN	Name of CBAs	Donor/yr established	Purchased 2006		Sale 2006		Expenses	Profit
			Qt	Birr	Qt	Birr	Birr	Birr
1	Bekelcha	Wsm/1999	840.70	261,149.00	840.70	346,855.51	5030.00	80,675.51
2	Guddissa	Wsm/2004	497.16	118,854.70	497.16	164,890.80	4,837.25	41,198.85
3	Geda	Wsm/2004	513.91	109,818.00	513.91	141,731.55	4,674.50	27,239.05
Total			1851.77	489,821.70	1851.77	653,477.86	14,541.75	149,113.41

2.3.2. Cereal Banks in Becho Districts

In the reporting year, four CBAs were engaged in grain purchase and sales campaign, out of which two are those operating under matching fund modality. In general, the four CBAs purchased 1,069 quintals of different types of grain during the season. As always is the case, the sales campaign was conducted through bidding procedure. The detail of the purchase and sales activities is shown in table 4 bellow.

Table 4. Purchase and Sales activities of cereal bank associations in Becho Districts

SN	Name of CBAs	Donor/Yr established	Purchased 2006		Sale 2006		Expenses	Profit
			Qt	Birr	Qt	Birr	Birr	Birr
1	Sedek	WSM/2001	580	171,902.00	580	226,200.00	3,651.00	50,647.00
2	Gudina aleqore	CCFD/2005	387	112,446.00	387	151,557.00	2,004.00	37,107.00
3	Abdi boru	ICCO/2006	58	18,609.00	58	22,849.00	492.00	4,240.00
4	Gudina boru	ICCO/2006	44	15,184.00	44	18,178.00	503.00	2,994.00
Total			1,069	323,796	1,069	418,784	6,650.00	94,988.00

2.3.3. Cereal Banks in Ada'a berga Districts

Five cereal banks were involved in purchase and sales campaign of which two CBAs are exclusively women CBs. In total, the five CBAs purchased 1,212.7 quintals of grain. Because of problems related to rain fall, grain harvested by farmers surrounding Borofa CB was poor. As a result, a number of members of this CB asked for seed borrowing and by the decision of the general assembly, 48 quintals of wheat was borrowed for members of CB which will be repaid in

cash (an amount equal to purchase price) after harvest. The detail on purchase and sales activities is given in table 5 bellow.

Table 5. Purchase and sales activities of cereal bank associations in Ada'a berga Districts

SN	Name of CBAs	Donor/Yr established	Purchased 2006		Sale 2006		Expenses	Profit
			Qt	Birr	Qt	Birr	Birr	Birr
1	Borofa	WSM/2000	417.0	91,829.00	369.0	107,035.00	4696.50	15,206.00
2	Worobo	French Embassy/2005	348.4	100,013.3	348.4	120,801.10	2616.00	20,787.9
3	Hunde Gudina	French Embassy/2005	326.3	69,121.75	326.3	91,052.00	4249.00	21,930.05
4	Qubse	Oxfam America/2005	109.4	24,470.00	109.4	33,177.00	1678.00	8,707.00
5	Gudetu	Oxfam America/2005	11.6	2,693.00	11.6	4,333.00	303.50	1,640.00
Total			1,212.7	288,127.1	1,164.7	356,398.1	13,543	68,270.95

3. Environmental Protection

3.1. Seedlings raised and distributed

Under this component, it was planned to raise 387,500 tree seedlings of different varieties (*Eucalyptus spp*, different fruit trees, *Gravelia*, *Coffee*, *R. prinoides* etc) at two different districts, Akaki and Becho, in the reporting period. However, a total of 337487 seedlings were raised of which 132,487 were raised at Akaki nursery sites and the other 205,000 seedlings at Becho nursery site. These Seedlings were distributed to the beneficiary and surrounding communities on free and sales basis. The trees planted on individuals' homestead and woodlots plantations.

The unit price of the seedlings sold was set by the respective district's natural resources offices. Accordingly, birr 15,487.62 was obtained from the sales of different types of the seedlings and will be used to promote similar projects in the future.

4. Trainings and community sensitization

Building the capacity of the beneficiary communities through sensitization or orientation and specific trainings has been integrated in all projects OSRA is being implementing. In this regard, a number of activities have been accomplished. The major once have been explained here under the subtitle indicated bellow.

Water Management, hygiene and Sanitation

The water schemes developed and sanitation facilities constructed have to be managed by the communities themselves. It is believed that this will contribute to the sustainability of the schemes in particular and the project in general. To meet this objective, a management committee (known as WATSAN committee) consisting of seven members of which two are women was established in each village where the schemes were developed. Then, these committees were given specific training on topics such as management of the schemes, hygiene and sanitation, and sustainability

of the schemes. Besides, a total of 1,371 community members got training on various occasions. Similar training was also provided to 59 hygiene and sanitation education communicators separately with 71 members of the WATSAN committee.

Environmental Health & Sanitation

Community members from six kebele administrations of Akaki district were given orientation and training on effects of deforestation, soil degradation, and environmental pollution, personal hygiene and sanitation.

Furthermore, improved stoves were distributed to ten selected model farm households with the objective of demonstrating alternative source of energy, which minimizes volume of wood materials used as sources of energy, to contribute positively to healthy environment.

Horticulture Development

Promotion of horticultural crop production is one of the components of 'Food security and water development project' in Akaki district. The objective is to minimize the extent of vitamin deficiency and create alternative source of income especially for women in the project areas. In this regard, 50 women were organized into four horticulture producing groups; theoretical and practical training on use of vegetables, land preparation, and methods of planting the crops; different horticulture seeds such as beetroot, carrot, Swiss chard, tomato, and cabbage were distributed for the members; agricultural tools such as stubble hoes, digging hoes and rakes were distributed to the group members and demonstration on food preparation from vegetables was undertaken. Besides, orientation and trainings on modern agricultural technologies and some agricultural extension methodologies was given to 177 different community representatives.

Family planning and HIV/AIDS

In order to combat the problem that the ever-increasing population growth creates on development, orientations and trainings on family planning and HIV/AIDS was incorporated in project and provided to 127 communities in the project areas in Akaki districts.

Moreover, along with the district health center, six days trainings was organized and provided for traditional birth attendants and village health workers so that the trainee will be able to provide improved family planning, reproductive health information and services of delivery to the beneficiary community especially in rural areas where there is no health services and/or facilities.

Gender Sensitization Workshops

Bacho district is one of the districts of Southwest Shoa Administrative Zone of Oromia Regional State. To combat gender related harmful practices, a project with overall goal of "Enhanced women's socio-economic status in the community" was prepared and submitted to CNCD for financial support. The course of implementation of the project was through different steps at different levels. During the preceding year, linkage established and reconnaissance study, in collaboration with government stakeholders, was made and planning was made for activities to be implemented. Important issues identified, on male and female separate and joint workshop by 576 participants, were further summarized and presented to the Gada leaders for cultural law making processes during the reporting year. After many times discussion and consultation made among about 35 Aba Gadas, two main events were conducted:

The first event was community conference conducted at Awash Bal'o, the event was made to coincide with celebration of Gada ceremony, where the Aba Gadas disclosed the bylaw to about 2,000 community members participated on the ceremony.

The next event was district level consolidation workshop on which total of 28 Women's Right Advocacy Committee (WRAC) elected and made to get further two days training on the identified harmful practices, constitutional rights of women and the newly enacted family code of the regional state inline with the law of the land. On this training, district law enforcing bodies and women affairs representative served as resource personnel on the training. Generally, 55 government representatives participated from planning to consolidation workshops and 19 Ganda chair persons made at district level,

Table 6 Summary of physical Plan versus achievements of the year 2005 & 2006 and achievement variation of the two years

No.	Project	Unit	2005				2006				Yr 2006 achievement over yr 2005	
			Plan	Achieved	variation	Percentage	Plan	Achieved	Variation	% age	Variation	%
1	Water supply and sanitation											
	Deep well	No.	-	-	-	-	1	1	0	100	1	100
	Shallow well	"	7	8	1	114.3	9	10	1	111	2	25
	Washing basins	"	7	8	1	114.3	9	10	1	111	2	25
	Shower rooms	"	7	8	1	114.3	9	10	1	111	2	25
	Pit latrines	"	14	23	9	164.3	34	36	2		13	56.5
2	Cereal banks establishments											
	New CB	No.	3	3	0	100	5	3	2	60	0	0
	Construction of CBs' offices	"	-	-	-	-	9	8	1	89	8	100
	Construction of CBs' warehouses	"	-	-	-	-	3	2	1	67	2	100
	Grain purchase	"	2,826	2,867	41	101	5,770	4,133.47	1,636.53	72	1266.5	44
3	Environmental protection											
	Seedling raised & distributed	No.	137,500	120,000	15,500	87.3	387,500	337,487	50,013	87	217,487	181
4	Trainings & sensitization											
	Water related	"	1,115	1,075	40	96.41	1,587	1,371	216	86.39	296	27.5
	Horticulture development	"	50	68	18	136	160	177	17	111	109	160.3
	Family planning & HIV/AIDS	"	100	80	20	80	129	127	2	98	47	59
5	Gender sensitization workshops	"	20	20	0	100	2	2	0	100	-18	-90

5. Other Activities

Support to flood victim farmers

In the reporting year, overflow of rivers unusually flooded several areas in the country, of which Oromia National Regional State is one of the regions severely affected. About 2,455 farm households in West Shoa zone, Ejere and Walmera districts, and South West Shoa zone, Illu districts, lost most of their farmland covered with different crops and those farmlands ready for sowing as a result of the flood caused by the overflow of Awash River. Besides, different reserve grains were destroyed and the farmers were left almost with no seed for use.

Based on the request from the regional and zonal food security disaster prevention and preparedness commission (FSDPPC), OSRA, in collaboration with OXFAM AMERICA, has taken the initiative of seed supply to the needy farmers of Illu, Walmera and Ejere districts. Since the support for the affected farmers in Illu and Ejere districts was taken up by another NGO, OSRA ultimately provided the support to farmers in Walmera district. Activities accomplished in this respect include: ad hoc committee constituting participants from OSRA, administration, agriculture and FSDPP offices was established; similar committees was established at kebele level so as to identify the households who deserve the support and 200 quintals of chickpea was purchased and distributed to 681 households selected from five kebeles. The total expenses incurred for this intervention was birr 104,160.91 (one hundred four thousand one hundred sixty and 91/100 birr) and was totally financed by OXFAM AMERICA. Table 7 indicates the detail on farmers provided with seed support.

Table 7. Seed distribution details for flood affected communities of Walmara district

No.	Name of the Gandas	Seed in quintal	Beneficiaries HHs			Land to be covered (ha)
			M	F	Total	
1	Fale Tulu Rada	30	101	19	120	30
2	Gaba Kamisa	38	106	8	114	38
3	Tulu Wato Dalacha	24	62	15	77	24
4	Nano Qarsa	60	148	30	178	60
5	Gole Liban	48	142	50	192	48
Total		200	559	122	681	200

6. Problems Encountered and Lessons Learned

6.1. Problems Encountered

The following were some of the challenges encountered during the year.

- ❖ As the rule of the land, it is mandatory to pay value added tax (VAT) while conducting purchase materials as well as on works contracted out. But most of our donors are no willing to accept costs related to this. This affected the budged allocated for the implementation of main activities and as a consequence created negative impact on the performance of projects.
- ❖ After an agreement of given project is signed with the financing partner, unexpected rate inflation of material cost was another areas of challenge encountered during the year.
- ❖ In most cases, besides time taken by their regular activity, farmers occupied by different meetings organized by different bodies. This affected timely commencement as well as smooth running of project activities as per the plan.

6.2. Lessons Learned

Some of the issues we learnt include:

- ❖ It was observed that within the community, there are huge resources these are too useful for community based development activities. However, it seeks appropriate facilitation to mobilize these resources.
- ❖ Networking is one of the strategies for mutual learning and decision making power. Therefore, three CB network areas (Aqaqi network, Bacho network and A/Barga network) which will give them an opportunity to exchange experiences and also to have joint power for mutual benefit.
- ❖ OSRA has been a member of steering group of CB promoting NGOs, namely; Hundee, FCE, ERSHA, CDI and OSRA. The organization has learnt a lot from these partnership and synergy among sister organizations like Hundee. It was learned that a concerted effort can help bring a bout significant changes in terms achieving the intended objectives.