

**OROMO SELF RELIANCE ASSOCIATION (OSRA)**

**ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2011**

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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 2011, 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 six community based water supply sources along with sanitation facilities such as communal washing basins and shower rooms. As a result, about 1,960 people in the target areas have accessed safe water supply sources and sanitation during the year. Moreover, about 1,006 target communities 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, 84 water & sanitation committees, 72 community water technicians or care takers, 72 hygiene and sanitation education communicators were trained during the year.*

*Provision of water supply sources, sanitation and hygiene education was one of the activities implemented during the year. Accordingly, three water wells along with water distribution points were constructed for three schools in Ilu and Tole districts. Besides, water distribution point and storage tanks were constructed for one school in Becho district. Moreover, six blocks of ventilated improved latrines with urinals and hand washing facilities were constructed for students and teachers in two of the four target schools during the year. 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 water supply sources, sanitation and hygiene promotion for both target community and schools were obtained from two our partners/donors, namely watercan Canada, CCFD, 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 18 women self help groups that comprised of 319 women in different kebeles of Ilu and Tole districts. Besides, 96 farmers of which 51 are women 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.*

*Promotion of anit harmful traditional practices was one of the activities planned and implemented during the year. School community sensitization, training and strengthening of girls' clubs in schools, training government line offices, and establishing and strengthening various committees at kebele and district level were some of the main achievement during the year. 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 860 farmers and development agents on live stock production and management, health and artificial insemination, zero grazing, and feed development. Artificial insemination services provision to farmers were strengthened through training development agents on AI, construction of crush for cattle at ten target kebeles, and provision of AI equipments including two motor cycles for Akaki and Ada districts. 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 considers the followings as its focus program areas that contribute for the improvement of livelihoods of rural communities and reduce poverty:

- Rural water supply, hygiene and Sanitation
- Food security, nutrition and livelihood improvement
- Promotion of cereal banks, farmers marketing organizations and value chains
- Promotion of zero grazing & improved livestock production and management
- Promotion of anti harmful traditional practices
- 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 and Tole districts (South West Shewa Zone) and Adaberga District (West Shewa Zone).

## **2. Activities and Results Achieved**

This section of the report briefly presents activities planned and implemented, and results achieved during the reporting year.

### **2.1. Water Supply and Sanitation**

#### **2.1.1. Community based water supply and sanitation**

It was planned to develop six community based water supply and sanitation projects in the year 2011. The projects comprises of three components such as development of water supply sources, sanitation facilities, and hygiene and sanitation education.

The sanitation facilities such as washing basins and shower rooms were planned to be constructed along with the water wells in selected villages of Ilu and Tole Woredas. It was planned to sensitize about 420 households on hygiene and sanitation issues. Moreover, it was planned to train 43 water and sanitation committees; 90 hygiene and sanitation communicators, 18 community water technicians on water management, operation, hygiene education and maintenance.

The financial support to implement these projects was obtained from WaterCan Canada, CCFD, and CAFOD/TROICARE. The activities implemented and results are presented in

line with the three components: water development, sanitation, Training on Hygiene & sanitation, and operation and management.

### A. Water Well development

Following target community sensitization, 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 Woredas. The water wells were developed at an average depth of 62 meters; with minimum and maximum depth are 53 and 77 meters, respectively. Casings and hand pumps have been installed; wellhead construction, pump test, installations and fencing around the water points were also completed during the reporting period. The discharge rate of the water wells ranges from 1.5 to 3 liter/second and has started providing service for about 392 households in the target areas.

*Table: Community based water supply sources developed in 2011*

S/ N	District	kebele	Village Name	Donor	Beneficiary households			Some specification of the water wells		
								depth (m)	Pump type	dischar ge rate (lit/sec)
					M	F	Total			
1	Ilu	Kule gefersa	Foka	Watercan	51	6	57	62	Afridv	3
2	Ilu	Kulegefersa	Chalalaka		41	12	53	66.75	"	3
3	Ilu	Buti Telgo	Talgo		44	13	57	58	"	2.5
4	Tole	Abukeku	Hada	Cafod/Troica re/Sciaf	36	8	44	53	"	2.5
5	Tole	Dawa Bise	Awash	CCFD	61	13	79	77	Indian Mark II	2.5
6	Tole	Dawa Bise	Guto		82	20	102	55	Afridv	1.5
Total					315	72	392			

### B. Construction of Sanitation facilities

It was planned to construct community managed six blocks of shower with two rooms, and washing basins near the water wells developed in the above mentioned villages in the reporting period. Accordingly, the planned numbers of sanitation facilities have been constructed with the participation of target communities 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 OSRA.

### **C. Hygiene 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, several training sessions were organized and facilitated for members of WATSAN committees and target beneficiaries in the reporting period.

#### **i. Community Sensitization and Training**

Prior to commencing any project activities, various community meetings were organized at each target villages to sensitize the beneficiaries about the project and its essentiality as well as the roles and responsibilities of stakeholders including the beneficiaries. Along with this, community sensitizations on water management, sanitation and hygiene issues were undertaken where 488 community members from the target villages were sensitized on hygiene and sanitation. Some of the main topics addressed in promotion of hygiene and sanitation include: personal and environmental hygiene, safe disposal of human excreta, latrine construction and utilization, water hygiene and management, and food hygiene

Besides, 518 selected community members from the target villages were provided with in-depth training at the Woreda level on hygiene and sanitation.

#### **ii. WATSAN committees and hygiene and sanitation education**

##### **Communicators**

Besides, establishing WATSAN committees, building their capacity through training is so important. To this end, 49 committee members drawn from the target communities were trained on water supply system management, operation, maintenance and on personal and environmental hygiene and sanitation.

Training of selected users as hygiene and sanitation education communicators has been one of the activities implemented in the reporting period. Accordingly, 72 individuals drawn from the six villages were trained on various relevant topics related to water management, hygiene, and sanitation. The trainings were delivered in collaboration with experts from the respective woreda water and health offices, health extension agents in the kebeles in the same period.

#### **iii. Community Technicians**

The water supply facilities are expected to be operated and maintained by the user communities. To ensure proper operation and maintenance of the facilities, it was planned to train three individuals from each village where the water supply developed. Accordingly, training sessions were organized in two rounds for selected community members. During the first round, 23 (M=21 F= 2) care takers/ community technicians selected from the target villages were trained on operation and maintenance of hand



pumps. In the second round, 34 individuals drawn from different villages including the one targeted in the previous years were attended a two days training on operation and maintenance. The practical session was conducted on the selected nearby water point to learn practically how pumps are installed, dismantled and conducting minor operation and maintenance activities. The training sessions were organized in such a way that the community technicians received theoretical background about the hand pumps and its parts, and practical sessions where they are given opportunity to practice the skills gained through theory.

The training sessions were facilitated in collaboration with pump technicians from the zone and district water office.

### **2.1.2. Clean Water Supply and Sanitation for schools**

During the reporting period, four rural public schools were targeted for provision of safe water supply sources and sanitation facilities, and hygiene education. Two of the schools are found in Tole woreda and one each in Becho and Ilu woredas.

Some of the main activities planned include:

- Development of three shallow water wells,
- Construction of water distribution points with elevated wellhead
- Construction and installation of water storage tanker, rehabilitation of existing water point
- Construction of separate VIP latrine blocks for girls and boys, and teachers with hand washing facilities and urinals
- Promotion of hygiene and sanitation education both in the target schools and the surrounding communities.

#### **A. Water development**

Three water wells were developed in three targeted schools namely, Dera Boku in Ilu District and, Waserbi Guto & Abukeyu schools in Tole District. The depth of the water wells ranges from 55 meters in Waserbi Guto to 62 in Dera Boku with an average discharge rate of 2.7liters/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. In addition to developing new water supply sources, it was planned to construct and install water storage tanker and rehabilitate the existing water point in Awashbune School. Accordingly, construction and installation of water tanker with 3000 liters holding capacity was completed. Furthermore, the existing water point in the school compound was maintained and started providing services to the school communities.

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. In total, 35 WATSAN committees and 15 technicians were trained during the reporting period.

## **B. Construction of sanitation facilities**

The construction of gender and child friendly sanitation facilities was carried out in two of the target schools, namely Dera Boku and Awash Bune schools. In both schools, three blocks of VIP latrines (1 for boys with urinals, 1 for girls with washing room, and 1 for teachers) has been completed and put into service. The latrine blocks for boys and girls have eight stances, of which one room is allocated for students with disabilities. It was planned to install elevated seat with supporting rails in the rooms allocated for students with disabilities. Accordingly, the seats<sup>1</sup> were installed with the supporting rails. Besides, one room is allocated for wash room from the eight room latrine block for girls to make the learning environment easy and attractive for them in a way to do away with the cultural negative impact on girls during menstrual cycle. To make complete the sanitation facilities in the respective schools, 500 liters water storage capacity tanker fitted on hand washing basin constructed along with each latrine block. The hand washing facilities were constructed in such a way that students collect water from the distribution point and fill in the tankers so that they will access water for washing hands after visiting toilets. The latrine block for teachers has got four stance and hand washing basin. The schools and communities have been actively involved in provision of locally available materials for the construction of latrines.

Construction of sanitation facilities in the two target schools in Ilu and Tole were not completed in the reporting period. However, construction materials such as stone, sand and gravel have been purchased and delivered to the sites. Construction couldn't be commenced due to the onset of rain, which made accessibility to the schools difficult.

## **C. Hygiene and sanitation education**

### **i. School Community Sensitization**

To improve the hygiene and sanitation practices of students, parents and teachers', school and community based hygiene and sanitation sensitization activities have been undertaken in the target areas. Particularly, in two of the target schools (Dera Boku and Awash Bune) school community sensitizations and various events have been conducted in the reporting period. About 5,239 students and teachers in the four target schools were sensitized on the hygiene and sanitation, including personal and environmental sanitation.

### **ii. Training and Strengthening of school health club members**

To improve the knowledge, attitude and practices of school health club members on good hygiene and sanitation practices, training of trainers (TOT) on participatory hygiene and sanitation transformation (PHAST) and child to child approaches were provided for 46

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<sup>1</sup> These are basically ceramic seats made for flush toilets. However, they were installed with little modifications such that the excreta and urines directly go into manhole.

health club members drawn from four target schools. The main topics covered during the training include, but not limited to,

- Hygiene and sanitation in general and their distinction
- Importance of integrating three components (water, hygiene and sanitation) and the relevance of school WASH
- The key hygiene Domains
- WASH related disease and prevention methods
- Participatory hygiene and sanitation tools specifically key principles and approaches of participatory hygiene and sanitation transformation (PHAST)
- Operation and maintenance (O&M) of WASH facilities and
- Role and responsibility of school health clubs in O & M, and dissemination of best practices regarding hygiene and sanitation

Besides the aforementioned activities, training and strengthening of school health clubs members was undertaken. In this regard, the following activities were performed:

- 56 health club members (M=34 F= 22) have been trained to conduct outreach activities to the surrounding community members on basic hygiene and sanitation practices.
- Based on this students from both schools have conducted home visits to **527** households. Among the visited households **176** do not have latrine, lack awareness about hygiene and sanitation, lack hand washing facilities, waste disposal pit and using water from un protected sources.
- After raising the awareness of the community on hygiene and sanitation for two consecutive months, **144** households have constructed their own latrine and **383** households have improved their hygiene and sanitation practices by using their existing latrines.

## 2.2. Farmers Marketing Organizations/value chain

It was planned to strengthen the Cereal Banks or farmers marketing organization operating in four Woredas of OSRA's operational, namely; Akaki, Adaberga, Becho and Illu. 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

One of the activities planned to build the capacities of farmers marketing organizations was facilitation of various trainings, particularly in connection with business management. In this regard, three days training program has been organized for 95 FMO leaders drawn from different farmers marketing organizations. The specific topics covered include: cooperative management, marketing, financial management and

business plan development, small business management, grain marketing activities. The training was facilitated in collaboration with cooperative promotion offices of the respective districts.

Moreover, assessment of the capacity building needs was also undertaken during the reporting period. Accordingly, the need assessment of FMOs established in Becho, Ilu, Ade'aberga and Akaki districts was undertaken. In the assessment processes, 44 male and 7 female from 16 FMOs participated on group discussion. In this regard, focus group discussions were conducted with the FMOs leaders and farmers participated in seed multiplication. The diagnosis of the FMOs took place based on the following issues: FMOs Management related issues; financial management; Training Needs; and technical Assistancess required.

## **ii. Facilitation of Discussion Forum on Market Linkage with buyers and Chain Actors**

OSRA in collaboration with zonal and district cooperative offices has facilitated one day consultative and discussion forum in Becho (Tulubolo), to facilitate market linkages at local level between producers, local traders and supporters. 27 participants drawn from FMOs, field office coordinators, Zonal cooperative office, district cooperative offices of Becho and Ilu, Becho and Ilu district agriculture office, WASASA MFI, Cooperative bank of Oromia, Unions and traders. The concepts and the principles of value chain has been highlighted for the participants and the work done so far by OSRA and in collaboration with its partners on the promotion and marketing of agricultural commodity (teff), challenges and lessons learned was highlighted on the forum.

Besides, OSRA has organized a day long discussion forum at Alemgena and a total of 24 representatives of FMOs, Consumers Cooperatives Unions from Addis Ababa, and WASASA Micro Finance Institution and staff of OSRA participated on the forum. The aim of the discussion was mainly based on the future facilitation of market linkages between FMOs and potential buyers and supporters.

During the discussion, the following challenges were raised and discussed: market fluctuations, lack of reliable market information, low commitment and lack of self initiations from FMO leaders, lack of experience and capacity on how to utilize the existing market information and lack of confidence, lack of trust between FMOs and local traders and very low decision making process of the FMO committees.

Finally, the participants agree to mitigate the above mentioned problems and market constraints by working closely together and share reliable and up to date market information to benefit all actors along the value chain. In general, the forum has brought together many of the value chain actors and supporters to identify major market constraints along the chain at local market level and at the same time helped to propose possible working solutions. That is, the FMOs and the Consumers Cooperatives unions agreed to link to gather for the mutual benefit of their members.

Moreover, a one day panel discussion forum was organized at district level in Ada'a Berga involving 22 participants drawn from cooperative and agriculture office, FMO leaders, merchants and micro finance institutions. The objective of the panel discussion was to create linkage and collaboration among chain actors. The meeting was facilitated by FFARM where brief highlight about the concept of value chain, marketing and market constraints in local context. In light of this, discussion was made among the workshop participants regarding the existing commodities, market challenges, market information, networking etc. Following the discussion consensus has been reached to work collaboratively together on marketing issues, information sharing and networking among all actors in the district and in the zone.

### **iii. Promotion of FMO's Products**

Trade fair Exhibition was held at Oromia Agricultural Output Marketing Enterprise from May13-18, 2011 being organized by Oromia Agricultural Outputs Marketing and Trade bureau. FMOs operating in four districts and three administrative zones have participated through their representatives to advertise and promote their major commodities. The products promoted by the FMOs were mainly Teff and Wheat.

At the exhibition FMOs displayed their quality products to a wide range of buyers, traders, whole sellers, exporters, consumers and consumer associations to promote the products in order to establish market linkage on permanent basis. On the occasions FMOs have exchanged contact address, business cards etc to establish regular contact and linkages in the future. Different buyers, consumers and consumer associations have appreciated the quality of the products displayed by the FMOs and showed greater interest to establish permanent linkages and contact with the FMOs to buy their product at fair market prices. The FMOs have also promised to provide quality products that can satisfy the needs of the consumers. The FMOs leaders participated on the exhibition also learned from other exhibition participants about the promotion, advertisement and marketing of products.

### **iv. Experience Exchange Visits**

Experience exchange visit and training program were facilitated/organized aiming at enhancing the technical capacity of the FMO leaders. A total of 36 FMOs leaders two from each FMO have taken part in the exchange visit. The experience exchange visit was external which was conducted in consultation with CDI one of the consortium member NGOs operating in Shashemane district. The leaders have got a chance to learn from fellow cooperative members about the market linkages established by the cooperatives so that their members can be benefitted on sustainable basis. They have also learned about business diversification, coordination among committee members, good sense of ownership and establishment of union etc.

Furthermore, internal exchange visits for FMO leaders have been conducted to share best experience among the FMOs. The experience exchange program was organized within the same networks of FMOs that OSRA targeted. Accordingly, one FMO and a primary

multipurpose cooperative in ilu district have been visited. A total of 34 participants drawn from FMO representatives have taken part in the exchange visit. Maintaining good documentation/record; income diversification, coordination among committee members, transparency and accountability, and linkage with service providers were given due considerations during the experience exchange program.

Apart from FMO representatives, experience exchange program was organized for relevant government line offices. Accordingly, 26 representatives of government sectors offices drawn from three administrative zones such as south west Shewa, west Shoa and Special zone surrounding Finfinne and four districts such as Becho, Ilu, Ade'aberga and Akaki have participated in the experience exchange forum organized at Becho district. Experts working in cooperative office of the four districts presented their major achievements, lessons learned and challenges faced at the forum.

It was organized to allow the government sector offices to share their best practices in offering supports for the Farmers Marketing Organizations to achieve their set objectives in improving their livelihoods.

#### **v. Facilitate Discussion Forum on Union Formation**

Through various meetings and discussions, FMOs have shown interest in establishing a union of farmers marketing organizations. Consequently, a panel discussion was organized for FMO representatives, zonal and district cooperative offices, and OSRA's staff. Issues such as how to establish union and its advantage, requirements to establish union, and role of stakeholders in union establishment etc. were raised and discussed, and finally consensus has been reached to give awareness to members of each FMOs on this matter. In total, 41 individuals have attended the panel discussion.

Feasibility study was another activity conducted in relation to union formation. In this regard, technical committee for the formation of union has been established and organized data on FMOs in different villages and districts. OSRA has also facilitated financial audit of FMOs' accounts by experts from district cooperative offices. Furthermore, OSRA facilitated general assembly meetings of each FMO to discuss on Union formation and decide on the amount of share to be purchased for the establishment of the union.

#### **xi. Union Establishment and Legalization**

Prior to undertaking the establishment of union ground works were accomplished. In this regard, different discussion forums were facilitated. Hence, panel discussion in which different sectors took part was organized where cooperatives promotion of at zonal level and the four district cooperatives office namely: Becho, Ilu, Dawo and Saden-Sodo woredas and FMOs leaders participated. The discussion focused on: the general concept of union, advantages of union and the need for union formation, requirement for union formation, the roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders in union establishment.

Finally, the participants have reached consensus and developed action plan on how to proceed for the establishment of union, which includes awareness creation across the members, preparing FMOs data, establish technical committee/steering committee, facilitate feasibility study. The participants attended the panel discussion were two representatives from south west Shewa cooperatives promotion office, eight (8) representatives from four district cooperatives offices, thirty (30) FMOs leaders and seven (7) OSRA's staffs totally 41. At the end, technical committee constituted 9 members (four promoters from four district cooperatives promotion offices, two from zonal level cooperatives promoters, and one promoter from Oromia cooperatives promotion offices and two from FMOs representatives) was established.

As per the action plan, the FMOs leaders conducted general assembly at their respective FMO and create awareness on union establishment, and FMOs data was collected and organized for feasibility study. All the FMOs decided the establishment union by their general assembly. According to the data obtained from FMOs, in general assembly meetings 490 male and 91 female members participated and made the decision of union establishment.

Finally the establishment of the union was declared in the presence of government officials from Oromia Regional cooperatives promotion office, Zone administration office, Zonal cooperative office head and expert, Becho district administrator, Cooperative promotion of Becho, Dawo ,Ilu and Sadden Sodo and Tulu Bolo. On the same day, the general assembly approved the bylaw of the union, three year strategic plan, and elected the board of directors consisting of 7 members, who will take the leadership for the coming three years.

Furthermore, the general assembly discussed and approved the three years strategic plan of the union. Consequently, the general assembly elected different board members who will lead the union for the coming three years. The FMO union is named "*Hadhura Becho*" Farmers Marketing cooperatives Union and has initial working capital of 770,000 ETB.

#### **viii. Review Seed Multiplication Activities**

This activity was performed in Adaberga district and the objective of the review meeting was to reflect on the seed multiplication activities conducted the previous year in collaboration with district office of agriculture, cooperative office and FMOs in the district. A total of 12 Participants drawn from cooperative office, office agriculture, FMOs and OSRA staff have participated in the half day review meeting. Achievements in seed multiplication activities, challenges and lessons learned were presented by OSRA.

Following this, discussions were made among the participants on the modality of seed multiplication activity, constraints and future directions. The main problems mentioned were lack of coordination among stakeholders, lack of quality of seed, farmer and site selection, disease problem inflicted on wheat and lack of monitoring and follow up

especially by office of agriculture and FMOs. At the end the workshop, participants have learned from the limitations during implementation of the seed multiplication activity and decided to work together in coordinated manner in the future to bring about positive results.

#### **ix. Rewarding the Best Performing FMOs**

In order to motivate the best performing FMOs, it was planned to reward FMOs which ranked from first to third in their overall performances. To undertake the evaluation process, a committee comprising of four experts has been established from the respective cooperatives offices from the four districts where the value chain project is operating. The teams of experts have developed evaluation criteria such as implementing business plan, tangible performance as result of various capacity building efforts, efforts made to improve the livelihood of their members, participation of women as members and decision making, mobilization of resource, efforts made to overcome various challenges, conflict resolution mechanisms, income diversification, efforts to establish market linkages with buyers are some of the criteria used to evaluate the performance each FMO in the four districts. The evaluation involved 18 farmers marketing organizations established and operating in the four districts. After thorough evaluation using the criteria set for evaluation three best performing FMOs were identified being ranked from first to third. Accordingly, Badhadha Boru, Bakalcha and Qubse ranked from first to third respectively. Consequently, they were granted with birr 22,000.00, 16,500.00 and 11,000.00 in their respective rankings.

### **2.3. Environmental Protection & Vegetable production**

#### **i. Environmental Protection**

During the reporting period, community awareness raising and sensitization, farmers' training on environmental protection and check dam construction, raising tree seedlings to be planted on degraded areas are some of the activities that have been carried out with the main objective of improving the production and productivity of the soil, reducing the magnitude and effects of climate change resulted from deforestation.

In line with this, general awareness rising session on the significance of environmental protection has been conducted for 147 community members (115 men and 32 women). In addition to this, 91 farmers have been trained in environmental protection focusing on the negative impact of soil erosion on production and productivity, importance of gully rehabilitation through check dam construction and the importance of planting tree seedlings to protect soil erosion and gully formation etc. After conducting the training and awareness rising on environmental protection, the community has fully participated by contributing free labor and wood used in the construction of about 4850 meters long check dam in selected degraded areas of Hada, Dugda Kore, and Abukeku villages in the target kebele. The experts in the district Agriculture office and village development agents have significantly involved in provision of training, identification of the sites, and mobilization of the communities in the construction of the check dams.



One of the activities planned under this component was raising tree seedlings that would contribute to environmental protection at a central nursery sites. Accordingly, various tree and fruit seedlings have been raised on the nursery site established by the district agriculture office. The district agriculture has provided for OSRA about 45 square meters plot from its nursery site for tree seedlings. The type of tree and fruit seedlings include: acacia, Sesbania, gravilia, avocado and papaya. Apart from providing plots of land from its nursery site, the agriculture office has been providing technical supports, follow up and training the beneficiaries.

Some of the main activities implemented under this component include the following:

- Community training and awareness creation on environmental protection and rehabilitation of degraded areas has been conducted for about 92 people (M=66 F= 26). On top of this, tree and fruit seedlings were distributed for the target beneficiaries in the target kebele and have been planted during the quarter.
- 54,500 tree seedlings, which were raised at the central nursery site, 5,954 various tree seedlings purchased from other suppliers, and 5,076 fruit tree seedlings such as Mango, Avocado, Papaya, Banana and Apple were distributed to a total of 626 households. Consequently, the trees were planted on degraded areas and backyards of the beneficiaries. The seedlings were distributed to the target households with training and orientations on the management of the seedlings. The following tables illustrate the type of tree seedlings and fruit trees distributed to the communities.

**Table1. Types of seedlings distributed to target communities**

Tree Seedlings			Fruit tree seedlings					
SN	Type	Quantity	SN	Type	qty	male	female	Total
1	Acacia Saligna	30,200	1	Avocado	2166	74	3	77
2	Acacia Decerence	5800	2	Mango	1611	74	3	77
3	Alaltu	3450	3	Papaya	2304	74	3	77
4	Sesbania	5500	4	Banana	185	25	-	25
5	Jakaranda	4200	5	Apple	360	66	26	92
6	Gravilia	2200						
7	Nim tree	2200						
8	Treelucerene	200						
9	Shuwashuwe	4323						
10	Koshim	331						
11	Flower tree	200						
12	Bottle brush	300						
	<b>Total</b>	<b>58,904</b>			<b>5076</b>	<b>313</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>348</b>

## **ii. Vegetable Production**

Promotion of vegetable production at household level is one of the activities integrated with environmental protection and water supply projects. Accordingly, the following main activities were implemented during the reporting period.

- 149 people, particularly women have been given theoretical and practical skill training on vegetable production around their homestead. In addition, farmers have been supplied with 142.5 kg of different vegetable seeds such as carrot, beetroot, lettuce (costa) and cabbage. The vegetable seeds have been provided for 164 women farmers including those who receive the training on vegetable production.
- 23 farmers were selected in collaboration with development agents and district agriculture office. The farmers were then received training on drip irrigation systems and online drip irrigation sets. Furthermore, the drip irrigation sets were installed for the target farmers involving development agents and the farmers themselves.

## **2.4. Self help groups (SHG)**

Promotion of women self help groups is integrated into three projects implemented in the reporting period. In this respect, the following activities were accomplished during the year:

### **i. Community mobilization and identification of target women**

Community sensitization and awareness creation on the need and relevance of self help group formation was undertaken in Ilu and Tole districts. Following these sensitizations, a total of 319 women who are poor and marginalized were organized into 18 self help groups with 15-20 members.

### **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. The topics of the training include: the general concept of development; the role of women in development; the conceptual issue of SHG; objectives and functions of SHGs; characteristics of SHG; governing rules & regulation and bylaws. Moreover, training on leadership and entrepreneurial skills, business planning and saving and credit were provided to the target women.

## 2.5. Promotion of Anti Harmful Traditional Practices

### i. School Community Sensitization

Series of sensitization activities on harmful traditional practices were conducted in public schools in Tole district during the reporting period. A total of 3526 students (m/f = 1966/1560) and 98 teachers (m/f = 69/29) in 18 schools were sensitized on harmful traditional practices. Moreover, since predominantly girls in the schools are the victims of such traditional practices like early marriage quitting their education thus they need to be forerunner of anti harmful practices so strengthening gender clubs in 24 public schools in rural kebeles were undertaken. Therefore, 228 girls' club members in 24 schools in the woreda were trained on harmful traditional practices and the roles that the schools and club members can play to mitigate these problems.

### ii. Participatory Monitoring & Evaluation

Apart from deliberation on various meetings and workshops on the results of the project, a participatory evaluation of the project outcomes have been undertaken during the project period. The evaluation team was composed of OSRA field and head office staff and women and children affairs office at district level. The methodology of the evaluation was focused group discussion and individual interview with the representatives of the community and the schools based on the checklist prepared by OSRA. The findings of the assessment has been analyzed and compiled in the form of evaluation report. Moreover, the findings were verified and enriched after the report was presented to representatives drawn from beneficiaries and other stakeholders at workshop held at Bantu. Some of the findings include:

- Enhancing the awareness of the community on HTP and gender equality
- There is significant changes in gender related issues in the community with respect to attitude, division of labour (sharing jobs equally), household level decision making on common properties etc
- Awareness is created among students and teachers on gender issues and HTPs; reduced girl's school dropout due to early marriage
- Reduced harmful traditional practices such as FGM, early marriage, rape, etc

### iii. Facilitating Workshop with Stakeholders

During the fiscal year, it was planned to conduct a series training workshops for government functionaries and other stakeholders on HTP. Based on this, a training workshop for government functionaries' and other stakeholders has been taken place at Bantu town involving 46 participants out of which 11 were women. After the workshop conducted at district level, similar workshop has been organized at different centers involving participants from 24 kebeles. Accordingly, 133 (73 men and 60 women) people participated in the workshop conducted at kebele level in different centers such as Kusaye, Golole and Bantu in the form of panel discussion.

#### **iv. Institutionalization of the Achievements of the project**

In order to ensure the sustainability of the achievement of the project changes institutionalization is imperative. Accordingly, the activity stipulated in the project for the purpose, which is establishing a committee to fight against harmful traditional practice in the 24 kebele administrations of the district was undertaken during the reporting period. Consequently, in consultation with the local authorities strengthening of the already established “Legal Advisory Committee” at respective kebele administration taken and strengthened. The committee primarily established to take care of child issues, and accountable to the District Women & Children Affairs Office.

The legal Advisory committee comprises of seven members drawn from kebele level government authorities like Vice chairman of the kebele (head of the advisory committee), Health Extension worker of the Kebele (secretary of the Advisory committee), Chair person of the Kebele (member of the Advisory committee), Chair person of woman affairs in kebeles (member of the committee), girls Club in schools (member of the committee), manager of the kebele (member of the committee) and Influential elders in the community (Member of the committee).

In order to enable the committees to shoulder the responsibilities entrusted to them a training workshop was organized and undertaken. Thus, a total of 133 members (73 women) of the legal advisory committee drawn from the 24 kebeles located in the district have taken part on the institutionalization workshop held at district level. The main focus of the discussion during the institutionalization workshop was how to sustain the project achievements in the future and defining the roles and responsibilities of the Advisory committee established at each kebele level as well as the relationship of the committee with district level government line offices such as women and children affairs office and prosecutors office and the court at district level.

The participation of the high level district authorities in the workshop was to solicit the necessary support from these concerned local authorities and key stakeholders. In this training/ workshop a total of 253 people participated. Along with this also, to strengthen schools’ gender club and Legal Advisory committees materials supports like books (Family Law, Federal Constitution and Women As Decision Makers In The Society) to be used for references and stationery materials (flip charts, recording keeping books pens, pencils, etc), including distribution of ICE materials in order to give more strength the promotional work of the project intervention during the reporting fiscal year on the closing ceremony of the project was done.

## **2.6. Zero Grazing and Improved Heifer Production**

Some of the main activities implemented and results accomplished under this project/component are briefly discussed in the following section.

### **i. Training of development agents**

As part of capacity building for government line offices, front line staff training is of paramount importance for the smooth implementation of the project. Accordingly, 30 development agents drawn from the ten peasant associations located in both districts and 9 district level experts and supervisors have been trained for three days during the reporting period.

### **ii. Community sensitization and Training**

This one of the activities implemented after the inception of the project. Several community meetings and community sensitizations were undertaken in the ten selected kebeles in Akaki and Ada'a woredas. In total 1,857 people (m/f = 1629/228) participated on these meetings.

Then various training sessions were organized for the target farmers in the project areas. The training covers both practical and theoretical aspects so that the community able to acquire basic knowledge in improved livestock production and management in the perspectives of zero grazing system. In light of this, it was possible to successfully train 831 farmers out of which 192 are women farmers and the rest 639 are men from both districts. During the training, informal groups consisting of about 10-15 farmers have been organized to facilitate networking and information sharing during the implementation of the project.

### **iii. 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. After receiving appropriate training in improved livestock feed production, management and utilization, about 21 quintals of oats and 3.28 quintals of vetch seeds have been distributed to 233 farmers (190 men and 43 women) in both districts.

On top of this, seedlings of Sesbania, Lucenia and elephant grass cutting were also distributed to the target beneficiary farmers to be planted around the home stead (backyard) and feed to the animals through cut and carry systems. Accordingly 38,900 Sesbania, 22,550 Lucenia and 10,880 elephant grass cuttings have been distributed to 819 target beneficiaries in both districts.

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.

#### **iv. Strengthening Artificial Insemination Service Provision**

Different activities have been planned and implemented to support AI service provision by the target districts.

##### **A. Crush Construction**

This is one of the activities planned to strengthen the provision of AI services to the target farm households. The intention is to increase access to AI services for the farmers in the target areas. Consequently, it was initially planned to construct one cattle crush per kebele which used to restrain cows during artificial insemination. Accordingly, the construction of two crushes in each kebele has been accomplished with active participation of the community. The community provided local construction materials like wood and labor where as OSRA has provided industrial products like cement, nail, and skilled labor for the crush construction. In light of this, 20 AI crushes used for restraining cows during artificial insemination have been constructed (two in each village) in central locations with the target kebeles. One cattle crush can serve from 100-150 farmers residing in the surrounding villages.

##### **B. Provision of various AI materials & Motor bikes**

During the reporting period, OSRA has purchased and provided various AI materials such as hydrogen container, insemination gun, thermometer, AI Kit bag, etc for the AI unity of Live stock development, health and Marketing Agency of the two districts. Furthermore, two motor bikes (one for each district), which can be used by AI technicians to effectively render AI services to the community were purchased and donated to the districts. Before handing over the motor bikes, a kind of memorandum of understanding (MOU) has been signed between OSRA and the respective district livestock development, health and marketing agencies on how to use the motor bikes. It was agreed to use the motor bikes only for the intended purpose to achieve the set objectives of the project.

#### **v. Facilitate Linkages with Service Providers**

A day long workshop has been conducted at district level involving all service providers such as EMDTI (Ethiopian Meat and Dairy Technology Institute), private AI service providers, International Livestock Research Institute, WASASA MFI, Oromia Credit and Saving Association, district level Livestock Development, Health and Marketing Agency, Office of agriculture, development agents and the representatives of the community from 10 project target kebeles. Accordingly, about 31 participants have taken part in the joint

discussion and linkage facilitation workshop drawn from the above mentioned organizations.

#### **vi. Annual review workshop**

Annual review meeting workshop has been conducted with district level stakeholders such as livestock agency, office of agriculture, development agents, the community representative's, district level finance and economic development office to discuss the project implementation status, identify challenges and lessons learned, to strengthen collaboration among stakeholders and draw action plan for un accomplished activities. About 33 participants from both districts have taken part in the review meeting workshop.

Accordingly OSRA has presented the status of project implementation, challenges and lessons learned so far to the participants and in depth discussions have been made on the major challenges encountered and how to solve them for the future giving major emphasis to in AI service provision, fodder development and community training. After thorough discussions participants agree to work so closely together in a well coordinated manner to rectify the problems encountered and draw action plan on the roles and responsibilities of each stakeholder to accomplish the rest of the activities planned for the fiscal year.

### **2.7. Small Ruminant Fattening and Marketing**

This project is being implemented in Ade'aberga woreda and targets resource poor households with the objective of ensuring food security and livelihood improvement. For this year, two target kebeles were identified along with relevant stakeholders. Some of the main activities planned and implemented during the year include the following:

#### **i. Community sensitization**

With the aim of familiarizing the communities on the project objectives, strategy, implementation modality (approaches), and roles of the beneficiary, various community meetings were organized in the reporting period. Accordingly, 159 community members (139 men and 20 women) have attended the sensitization meeting undertaken in the target villages.

Next to the sensitization of the community, selection of project beneficiaries was undertaken based on the criterion which has been set jointly with Livestock development health and marketing agency, development agents, kebele administration, elders and the representative of the community. Being poor and vulnerable community member, willingness to engage in small ruminant fattening and marketing, and gender were some of the criteria developed and used in the selection of the target groups.

## **ii. Organize Target Farmers into Self Help Groups (SHGs)**

The target beneficiaries in the two kebeles have been organized in to 10 Self Help Groups comprising of 96 community members out of which 51 are women. They have developed their own bylaws that can help them to 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. Being organized in to groups will also contributes greatly to the sustainability of the project out comes in the future.

## **iii. Train village level Development Agents (DAs) and district level Experts**

A two days training on the production and management of small ruminant has been delivered for six experts and five DAs. The training session specifically focused on production of improved forage plants, improved feeding, housing and maintaining the health conditions of sheep and goats to get the best benefit out of them. The training was delivered in collaboration with professionals from Holeta Agricultural Research Center. The training is envisaged to refresh the knowledge of development agents and district level experts on the production, fattening and marketing of shoats to enhance household income with in short period of time by using zero grazing systems. The experts and DAs have in turn trained the target beneficiaries in the same manner before purchasing and distributing sheep/goats to be fattened by the target farmers.

## **iv. Farmers Training on small ruminant fattening, Management and Marketing system**

The target community members were trained in the provision of better shed/housing, proper feeding and watering, introduction of high yielding multipurpose fodder plants and health aspects o f the animals so as to fatten them with in short period of time to generate better income. To this end, 93 farmers out of which 47 are women, selected from Haroleman and Ilu-Keteba villages, were trained for three consecutive days at Farmers Training Center (FTC).

The training of the target farmers was conducted in collaboration with Ade'aberga District Livestock Development, Health and Marketing Agency. Development agents based at the kebele level that actively participated in selection of the target farmers and has the mandate of making continuous follow up and monitoring the progress of the project activities throughout the project implementation period. The district based experts of the livestock development agency play a facilitation role during the training of the target farmers.

The same number of target beneficiaries of farmers has been trained in the production and feeding of improved forage plants that can be used to feed the shoats using cut and carry system. During the training session the farmers have received both theoretical and practical training on the production, feed preparation and feeding of sheep and goats to get the best return with in short period of time. In line with this, the farmers have acquainted with improved forage plants such as sesbania, lucenia, vetch and wild oats. They have acquired



knowledge on how to produce the above mentioned forage plants and feed the animals using cut and carry system intensively to fatten them within three months period. On top of this, they have been provided with 100kg of vetch seed, 100 kg of wild oats, 25 kg of Sesbania and 25 kg of lucenia to be planted in their back yard areas, farm boundaries etc.

#### **v. Purchase and Distribution of sheep/goats to the Beneficiaries**

After selection, training of the target beneficiaries on management, feeding and housing of shoats, the purchase and distribution of shoats has been undertaken. In line with this, a total of 288 sheep/goats purchased and distributed to 96 households. Among the purchased small ruminants 162 were sheep and the remaining 126 were goats. Each of the 96 households has been provided with 3 sheep/goats to be fattened using improved management and zero grazing system. 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.

#### **vii. Training Target Farmers in Forage Development**

During the quarter the 93 target farmers out of which 50 were women have been trained in forage development, management and feeding shoats using cut and carry system. The training was given to 20-25 farmers in four rounds for one day at district level due to inaccessibility of the roads to the target kebeles because of the rainy season. The training was delivered by experts from Ada'a berga district livestock, Development, Health and Marketing agency. The training has focused on the production and feeding of the type of forage seeds previously distributed to the target farmers such as vetch, oats, Sesbania and lucenia.

#### **viii. Conduct Review meeting with stakeholders**

Stakeholders review meeting was conducted to discuss on major accomplishment of the project during the last six months, challenges and future directions. Based on this, representatives from zonal finance and economic development office, livestock development, health marketing agency, district finance and economic development, district livestock and marketing agency, district administration, development agents, kebele chairpersons and representatives of the community have participated. The major points of discussions were major project accomplishments, beneficiary selection, issue related to breeding and fattening and the significance of close monitoring and follow up.

The monitoring of the outcomes at household levels revealed that out of the total 96 households which have engaged small ruminants fattening & marketing, 12 undertaken three rounds purchases & sales, while the rest 78 households done two rounds sales and purchases, 6 beneficiaries have carried out only one time. This clearly shows that the activities have brought significant changes in asset building of the target community.

### 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, identification of specific location to place some of the facilities, participated in planning, monitoring and review of the status of planned activities.

### 4. New Project proposal developed in the Year

In addition to implementing ongoing projects, the office has tried to solicit funding through developing project proposals for donors. Accordingly, the following project proposals were prepared and submitted to donors and funds were secured for most of the proposals:

1. **“Promotion of farmers marketing organizations Competitiveness on agricultural commodity value chains”** project. This is a continuation of the current programs or the second phase of value chain development program financed by ICCO and being implemented by the consortium of NGOs, OSRA included. In this phase, the project activities will be implemented from August 2011 – July 2014 with a total budget of birr **5,055,922.70**. The proposal was developed by the technical team in the consortium with technical and mentoring support from local and external consultant. Some of the main activities proposed include: facilitation of farmers union establishment, capacity building training and coaching for FMOs, union and chain actors; facilitation of linkages and Value chain development forums; and support in production of market driven products.
2. **“Integration of Information and Communication technologies on farmers’ competitiveness on value chain” (July 2011- Dec.2013)**. This project proposal was also developed at consortium level and the approval of the funding by the donor (iicd &/or ICCO) is at its final stage. It is expected to secure a total sum of birr 2.3 million for the whole project period. The project will involve, among others, equipping the implementing NGOs, FMOs and farmers’ union with ICTs, training and developing social Medias, establishing information desks, and creating awareness on the role of ICT in development and value chains.
3. **School Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene Project (Sept 2011 – Sept 2012)**. This project targets one of the public schools in Becho woreda and is

financed by **Elisabeth and Amellie Fund of the “King Baudouin Foundation”** in Belgium. The project comprises of developing water well, construction of two latrine blocks and promotion of hygiene education. The funds approved for this project is **15,800 Euros** and HELP OSRA Belgium interfaces with the donor. This project has been under implementation

4. **Economic Empowerment of Women and Environmental Protection Project.** This proposal was submitted to ETW via HELP OSRA Belgium. However, we were informed that ETW could not approve the funds to implement the proposed activities.
5. **Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene Education for Schools Project in selected Districts of Oromia Region (January 2012 – December 2016).** This proposal was developed and submitted to WaterCan Canada, which in turn submit to CIDA for funding. The project targets 15 public schools located in Becho, Tole and Woliso Woredas. It comprises of water well development, construction of gender and child friendly latrine blocks, and hygiene education. The total estimated budget of the project is **500,000 Canadian dollars (equivalent to birr 8,963,968 over five years)**. We were informed that the proposal has been approved and the project implementation will be launched in April next year (2012).
6. **Humanitarian Assistance, Rehabilitation and Disaster risk Management project in Oromia regional state (October 2011 – June 2012).** This project proposal was developed by the consortium of six NGOs and will be implemented in about seven districts in Oromia. OSRA is going to implement the planned activities in Adaberga district. The total estimated budget of OSRA for the whole project period, which is about **ten months**, is **2, 459,625 birr**. The donor, ICCO, has already **released 100,000 Euros** and the project **agreement has been finalized, and the operation has been already started.**
7. **Livelihood Improvement and Environment Protection (January – December 2012):** This project proposal has two components: livelihood particularly focusing on poor women and environmental protection, and will be implemented in selected kebeles of Akaki district. The project period is one year with a total estimated budget of birr **663,316.25 (equivalent to euro 29,181)**. The proposal was submitted to CCFD and it was subsequently approved.

## 5. Outcomes/Impacts Achieved

As explained in the aforementioned sections, various activities have been implemented under different projects during the reporting year. These 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.

- People have accessed clean water sources and sanitation facilities; obtained knowledge on improved hygiene & sanitation practices, which improved their health that enhanced their production and productivity;
- Conducive teaching and learning environment 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 teachers turn over, and improved community participation in school affairs.
- Farmers marketing organizations and their leaders have been more 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;
- Enhanced awareness on harmful traditional practices such as Female genital mutilation, abduction and rape in the target areas.
- Consequently, the incidences of harmful traditional practices such as abduction, rape, female genital mutilation, and widow inheritance etc, which endanger the lives of women and girls, have reported to reduce in all the intervention kebeles.

## 6. Challenges Encountered and Lessons Learned

### Challenges:

The challenges encountered during the reporting period were as follows:

- Frequent meetings organized by the local administrations to deliberate on the five year Growth and Transformation Plan have somehow affected implementation of project activities as planned with community participation. However, through discussion and closely working with the local administrations, efforts were made to re plan and implement the planned activities;
- Early onset of rain has made accessibility to most of the project sites very difficult, as there are no access roads to these target project areas;
- In accessibility of intervention areas deterred provision of timely technical assistances for the target communities in some areas.

### 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:

- Involvement of all stakeholders from the inception of the project till phasing out will ensure smooth program implementation; resource sharing, build sense of ownership, credibility and trust among stakeholders and finally sustainability of the outcomes;
- Allotting enough time for planning prior to implementation of any activities is relevant for any community based 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.
- If properly mobilized and coordinated, students and schools can be change agents to bring about behaviour changes not only in schools but also in wider communities.
- Working in a consortium helps experience exchange and learning among members and thereby enhance efficiency and effectiveness in planning, implementation, monitoring of development programs. Being a member of the consortium of NGOs promoting FMOs, OSRA has benefited from the synergy and sharing with the staffs of sister organizations.

## 7. Annex

### Annex 1. Summary of Plan versus Accomplishment Main Activities

SN	Description	Unit	Planned	Achieved	%
<b>1</b>	<b>Water Supply and Sanitation</b>				
	Shallow well drilling	No. of wells	9	9	100
	Establishment WATSAN committees	No. of	9	13	144
	Provide training to WATSAN committees	No of persons	70	84	120
	Training of Community technicians	persons	30	72	240
	<b>Sanitation</b>				
	Construction of Washing basins	No	7	7	100
	Construction of Shower rooms	No	7	7	100
	Construction of latrine blocks for students	No of blocks	8	4	50

	Construction of latrine blocks for teachers	No of blocks	2	2	100
	<b>Hygiene Education</b>				
	Community sensitization & training on hygiene and sanitation	No HH	1390	1627	117
	Training of hygiene and sanitation education communicators	No	75	72	96
	Training health and environmental clubs in schools	No	4	4	100
	TOT Training on participatory hygiene and sanitation transformation (PHAST)	No	45	40	89
	TOT Training on community led total sanitation	No	20	64	320
	Facilitate outreach activities by health and environmental clubs	No. of schools	4	2	50
<b>2</b>	<b>CBs and/or FMOs/ Vale chain</b>				
	Train Committee members	No	120	95	79
	Organize and facilitate experience exchange for FMO leaders (external)	No of leaders	36	36	100
	Organize experience exchange for government stakeholders	No	26	26	100
	Rewarding selected FMOs	FMOs	3	3	100
<b>3</b>	<b>Environmental Protection</b>				
	Raising multipurpose tree seedlings, distribution and plantation	No. of seedlings	50,000	65,935	132
<b>4</b>	<b>Support vegetable production</b>				
	Organize women beneficiaries into groups	No	70	70	100
	Provide training on topics such as land preparation and management	No	70	149	213
	Pilot drip irrigation at household level	No			
<b>5</b>	<b>Promotion of Ant-Harmful traditional Practices</b>				
	School community sensitization	schools	18	12	67
	Strengthening gender clubs in schools	No of clubs	24	24	100
	Training/ workshop for government functionaries and other stakeholders	participants	226	253	112
	Institutionalization: establish a committee to fight against harmful traditional practice committee	No of kebeles	24	24	100
<b>6</b>	<b>Food security and asset building</b>				

	Organize women beneficiaries into self help groups	groups	10	10	100
	Train women groups in small business management and entrepreneurship skills	No	100	91	91
	Training of farmers (on zero grazing and improved management of small ruminants, business management skill, book keeping)	No	200	123	61.5
	Training of village level development agents	No	10	12	120
	Purchase and distribution of small ruminants (sheep and goats)	No	350	288	82.29
	Support homestead forage & multipurpose trees development	farmers	100	96	96
	Provide access to seeds of fodder plants	farmers	100	96	96
	Provide training on feed preparation	farmers	350	93	26.57
	Facilitation of experience exchange among farm households	farmers	116		0
<b>7</b>	<b>Zero grazing &amp; improved heifer production</b>				
	Training of experts and DAs	No	30	39	130
	Community Sensitization & target household selection	kebele	10	10	100
	Training of farmers (on zero grazing and improved heifer management, business management skill, book keeping)	farmers	850	831	97.76
	Support homestead forage & multipurpose trees development	farmers	850	819	96.35
	Provide access to seeds of fodder plants	farmers	850	233	27.41
	Provide training on feed preparation	farmers	175	77	44
	Establish AI crash in each Kebele	No	10	20	200

## Annex 2. Summary of Plan and Accomplishment as per the format of CSA