

# Oromo Self Reliance Association (OSRA)

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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 2014, 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 eleven community based water supply sources along with sanitation facilities such as communal washing basins and shower rooms. As a result, about 925 people in the target areas have accessed safe water supply sources and sanitation during the year. Moreover, about **862** 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, 105 water & sanitation committees, 45 community water technicians or care takers, 165 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 four schools in Ilu and Becho districts. Besides, water distribution point and storage tanks were constructed for one school in Becho district. Moreover, 10 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 32 women self help groups that comprised of 319 women in different kebeles of woliso, Tole and Ada'a berga districts. Besides, 195 are women were organized into 32 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 group's principles and management, business management, small ruminant fattening using zero grazing, feed preparation, etc. they were also provided with three small ruminants (sheep or goat) per head.

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
- Environmental protection

### **1.4. Operational Regions**

OSRA operates in various zones and districts in Oromia Region. Currently, the organization is undertaking development interventions in four zones and six districts in Oromia National Regional State. Specifically, it is currently operating in Akaki District (Special Zone Surrounding Finfinne), Ada'a district (East Shewa Zone), Becho, Ilu, Tole and woliso 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 eleven community based water supply and sanitation projects and four school based water supply and sanitation projects in the year 2014. The projects comprises of three components such as development of water supply sources, sanitation facilities, and hygiene and sanitation promotion.

The sanitation facilities such as washing basins and shower rooms were planned to be constructed along with the water wells in selected villages of woliso and Tole Woredas. It was planned to train about 770 households on hygiene and sanitation issues. Moreover, it was planned to train 105 water and sanitation committees; 165 hygiene and sanitation communicators, 45 community water technicians on water management, operation, hygiene education and maintenance.

The financial support to implement these projects was obtained from Water Can Canada, CCFD, and CAFOD/TROICARE and WSM. 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 925 households in the target areas.

### **B. Construction of Sanitation facilities**

It was planned to construct community managed eleven 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 862 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, 862 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, 105 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, 165 individuals drawn from the eleven 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 for selected community members. During the year 45 care takers/ community technicians selected from the target villages were trained on operation and maintenance of hand pumps.

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 Becho woreda and two are found in Ilu woreda.

Some of the main activities planned include:

- Development of three shallow water wells,
- Construction of water distribution points with elevated wellhead
- 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**

Four water wells were developed in three targeted schools namely, Karagengi, Waserbi Nado and Gudina primary school in Becho district & Roge in Ilu district. The depth of the water wells ranges from 55 meters 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.

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, 28 WATSAN committees and 12 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 **five** of the target schools, namely **Kara Genji, Kule Gerfersa, Waserbi Nado, Roge and Gudina primary schools**. In four 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 and in one school only one block of latrine was constructed out of the planned two latrine blocks due to budget constraint. 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, **250 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. In four targeted schools namely Kara Genji, Waserbi Nado, Kule Gefersa, Gudina and Roge school community sensitizations and various

events have been conducted during the reporting period. About **3,267** 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** 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:

- 40 health club members (**M=20 F= 20**) 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 **999** households. Among the visited households the majority 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, **231** households have constructed their own latrine and **4010** households have improved their hygiene and sanitation practices by using their existing latrines.

## **2.2. Promotion of Farmers Marketing Organizations/value chain**

It was planned to strengthen the Cereal Banks or farmers marketing organization operating in four Woreds 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. Tailor made 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 **779** 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 two days consultative and discussion forum in Becho (Tulubolo), to facilitate market linkages at local level between producers, local traders and supporters. 54 participants drawn from FMOs, field office coordinators, Zonal cooperative office, district cooperative offices of 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 28 representatives of FMOs, Consumers Cooperatives Unions from Addis Ababa, 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. 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 other consortium members. The leaders have got a chance to learn from Ada'a Lume farmers' cooperative union about income diversification, 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 Illu 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.

#### **viii. Rewarding the Best Performing FMOs and Field workers**

In order to motivate the best performing FMOs, it was planned to reward FMOs which have shown better performance during the fiscal year. To undertake the evaluation process, a committee comprising of 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, eleven FMOs which has performed better have been awarded from birr 2000 to birr 8000 based on their ranks.

### **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, **426 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 **Dire duleti, bukassa keta 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.
- **112,000 tree seedlings**, which were purchased from other **suppliers and 1600 fruit tree seedlings such as Apple**, were distributed to a total of **415 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.

### **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.

#### **Training women in vegetable production and Marketing**

During the reporting period, training of women in vegetable production was conducted in collaboration with district office of agriculture and rural development. The training was conducted for two days at their respective villages on topics like importance of home stead vegetable production, land and seedbed preparation, improved agronomic practices and major crop pests affecting different vegetables and protection methods against the major pest etc.

Accordingly, 112 women were received the training on the above-mentioned topics. The trained women have also received vegetable seeds such as onion, cabbage, pepper, tomato to be planted at their own backyards areas (homesteads) based on the knowledge from the training they received. Accordingly, a total of **15 kg of vegetable** seeds has been provided for the women who have participated on the training. The main purpose of the vegetable production is for household consumption and also some portion of it will be

sold to generate income for the women. The village level development agents provide technical support and make close follow up during the production of the vegetables.

## **2.4. Self Help Groups (SHG)**

The main purpose of establishing women self help groups is to bring about women social and economic empowerment and enable them to solve social and economic problems they are facing in their daily life. So as to make this a reality, **seven SHGs** have been organized in **Dire Duleti and Bukassa Keta villages having 145 members**. The groups have developed their own bylaws and started voluntary saving on fortnightly basis currently. The groups save 2-5 birr on the average based on the decision and agreement of each group. Accordingly, the groups have successfully saved **4,263** birr to date which will help them to access small loans from their groups to run different income generation activities in their villages.

### **2.4.1 Training women in small business management and entrepreneurship skills**

During the reporting period, **140** women beneficiaries who are the members of seven SHGs have received two days training on small business management, record keeping and entrepreneurship skills at village level in collaboration with district women and children affairs office. The training helps the women to effectively deal with small/petty trading in their respective villages to generate income for themselves which in turn helps them to be economically empowered and actively involved in development activities of their communities. The entrepreneurship skill will help in opening up new jobs and helps to increase their income levels which in turn improve their livelihoods.

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:

## **2.5. Zero Grazing and Improved Dairy Production**

### **Training of Farmers on Zero Grazing and Dairy Improvement**

During the reporting period, **3214 (M=2360 /F=854)** farmers have received the training on the above mentioned topics for two consecutive days in collaboration with livestock development and health office experts at district level.

## **Facilitate Experience Exchange Visits for Farmers and Experts**

During the reporting period farmers experience exchange visit was conducted involving **475** farmers (M/F=375/100) **The farmers** have shared the best practices from each other on how to grow fodder plants and feed their cows to get the best return out of them. During the visit farmers have realized that by feeding their cows with improved forage plants like oats and vetch they have been able to increase the milk yield and earn more money as compared to the previous years. In addition, **31** farmers (M/F =28/3) have also visited Genesis farm and ILRI and learned about dairy cattle management systems, improved feeding, milk processing and bio gas technology.

Added to this, experience exchange visit was also arranged for experts and development agents working in both districts to Genesis farm and ILRI. Accordingly 44 experts and Development agents have taken part in the visit and learned from milk processing and handling, dairy cattle management systems, bio gas technology, poultry farm management etc.

### **Provision of Improved Forage Seeds**

After training the community on improved livestock management and zero grazing systems improved livestock feed such as oats and vetch has been distributed to the farmers. Based on this, 69 quintals of oats and 8 quintals vetch seeds have been distributed to **875** (M=612 F=263) farmers. The seeds distributed are to be sown on individual farmers' plots which are allocated for the production of the forage plants and feed their animals through the cut and carry system.

### **Training Farmers in Feed Preparation**

During the reporting period, **480** (M=422/F= 69) farmers have received training on feed preparation and feeding systems at their respective villages in collaboration with experts and development agents from the government line office at district level. The training has focused on straw treatment using molasses and urea to improve the palatability and nutritive value of agricultural by products. The training involves both theoretical and practical aspects in livestock feed preparation from agricultural by products mainly teff straw. For the demonstration purpose during the practical training session 960 kg urea, 563 kg molasses and 1440 meter plastic sheets were used by the trainees.

### **Support homestead forage and Multipurpose trees Development**

During the reporting period 49,000 animal fodder seedlings (**Sesbania** and **Lucenia**) have been distributed to **2126** Farmers (M/F=1439//687). The fodder seedlings have been planted on homestead and farm boundaries to be used for livestock feed through the cut and carry systems.

### **Establishment of Milk collection and Processing Groups**

One of the activities accomplished during the reporting period was establishment of **eight milk collection** and processing groups having **116 members** living in eight kebeles. The



groups have developed their own bylaws and started monthly saving up to **10-20 birr** in their groups. During the reporting period, **116 farmers (M/F=87/36)** have received training on basic cooperative principles, milk handling and marketing. The groups have not yet started milk collection and marketing. In addition to this discussion forum has been conducted among stakeholders located in the vicinity.

The discussion forum has involved project beneficiaries, Ada'a farmers milk cooperative, Holland dairy, Genesis farm, WASASA micro finance, Oromia saving and credit association, district level livestock development offices and district level cooperative offices. The main purpose of the meeting was to establish linkages and sustainable working relationship among the stakeholders so as to bring positive impact in the dairy development sub sector in the project area.

### **Distribution of Improved Heifers for Selected Farmers**

During the reporting period, **114 improved heifers** were distributed for **114 (M/F=78/36)** selected farmers from 20 target kebeles on cost sharing basis. Target farmers were selected based on their capacity and experience to manage improved heifers through provision of good housing, feeding and better health care. Before the provision of the heifers improved heifer source assessment was conducted in collaboration with livestock development and health office, the beneficiary representatives and OSRA.

After identification of heifer suppliers the price of the heifers was also negotiated involving the beneficiary representatives from each kebele. Accordingly, OSRA covered 55% of the cost of the heifers plus transportation cost where as the beneficiaries covered 45% of the cost of the price of the heifers. On top of this, some of the heifers which were distributed last year have given birth to calves and started giving up to 12 liters of milk per day. Among the distributed heifers 20 heifers have given calf crop and giving 8-12 liters of milk per day. Farmers residing in Insilale kebele sold processed milk such as batter and cheese and generate income up to **3400 birr** per month. Yatu and Wajitu kebele beneficiaries have sold whole milk and obtained birr **3240** per month. Similarly Kaxila and Hiddi farmers supplied whole milk to SOLE agro milk processing during the reporting period.

### **Support the existing AI service Provision at District Level**

To build the capacity of district level AI service provision to farmers different AI equipments have been purchased and provided to Akaki and Ada'a livestock development offices. The types of AI equipments include AI kit, gloves and sheath, overall, sleeping bags and thermostats. On top of this, efforts have been made to strengthen community based AI service provision. In line with this, eight bull stations were established and eight improved bull breeds were supplied to the station from Debrezeit Agricultural research center. The bull handlers have received training by the experts from the research center on bull management system before they receive the bulls.

## **Installations of house hold Bio-gas Technology**

During the reporting period, **152 (M/F=74/78)** target farmers from the two districts have received training on the importance of household biogas technology, installation system and utilization in collaboration with Oromia Region Water Mineral and Energy Bureau experts for one day for the selected farmers. The selection criteria for bio gas beneficiaries was those who are nearer water point, have at least eight cattle and being volunteer to contribute free labor and construction materials for the bio gas construction. Added to this, MOU was signed between OSRA and Oromia water mineral and energy bureau which states the role and responsibilities of the two parties on the training, material provision and installation of bio gas for the project beneficiaries.

During the reporting period, the installation of bio gas plant for 47 households have, got access to bio gas in collaboration with National biogas promotion office. The biogas installation is on cost sharing basis whereby OSRA supplies cement and gravel the beneficiaries provide UN skilled labor, stone and sand. The National bio gas promotion office also provides bio gas accessories and cover costs for masonry works.

## **2.6. Ensuring food security through promotion of income generation opportunities**

The implementation of the project is its year one where it was carried out in two kebeles. In this regard, different activities of the project components were executed as illustrated hereunder.

### ***3.1. Planning and selection of target groups***

3.1.1. Organizing launching and planning workshop - In order to familiarize the project's objectives and share responsibilities in the project implementation processes as usual project launching was conducted at district level where 9 (7 men & 2 women) people from the district administration office and concerned sector offices, including respective kebele administrators and representatives from the target communities participated. Of course, it was to ensure transparency and accountability.

3.1.2. Conducting Community meetings - community sensitization and introduction of eligibility criteria were carried for better identification and selection of target groups that exactly fitted the set criteria with the involvement of community at large. Consequently, 1, 163 persons (692 men and 471 women) from both kebeles participated in the communities meeting. After carrying out the meeting communities 250 people were selected to obtain different services and goods provided by the project.

### ***3.2. Promoting Self-Help Groups (SHGs)***

This project component is to initiate and support target community members to get organized in primary saving and credit association at their neighborhood level in a way by creating financial sources to engage in small business that would fit their local condition. In this regard, 250 people (142 men and 108 women) organized into 16 SHGs, eight in each kebeles , and the group members started saving where they so far have saved Birr 8,602.00 (eight thousands six hundred two). The members are using this saving for capital to start business, which some of the group members have already started. This process would make free from money lends that the amount of interest rate 480%, which is Birr 10% for a week, and 40% for a month. Now they are using with less interest rate that amounted to 5% in a moth, and to used collectively this interest further for business startup capital. Furthermore, printed pass book for SGH members, and stationeries and register books were provide for each group.

The groups were supported form two clusters one in respective kebele to have more voice and say in the community such that promoting their interests, and to have the attention of government and non-government to get the necessary assistances as need be.

To enable the group members to learn from each and scale up the practices in the kebeles at large biannual experience exchange events among the SHGs were carried where 50 (44 men and 6 women) members of leadership participated.

### ***3.3. Vegetable Production***

The purpose is to allow the target groups to obtain more knowledge and skills for both improved vegetable production and mechanisms of variety food preparation from vegetable. Meanwhile, it was intended to promote balanced diet at farmers' household level for improved health and enhanced brain capacity building of the generation. The remaining vegetable agro products were used for marketing for the purpose of diversifying income generation..

Accordingly, it was possible to distribute different variety of improved vegetable seeds 250 target group members during the reporting fiscal year.

### ***3.4. Small Ruminants Fattening and Marketing***

During the reporting the reporting it planned to engage 100 poor resources less from target community members specially focusing on women and land youths. So we were able to reach 99 (37 men and 62 women) community members from the two targeted kebeles 198 sheep/goats were purchased and distributed to start the business of small ruminants fattening and marketing in order to obtain money by selling to the local markets for better prices since they have been oriented how to access to market information and marketing their fattened shoats.

Besides, 100 (65 men and 35 women) target group members were provided seedlings of multipurpose trees to develop forage at their respective homestead. On top of this they also provided fodder plant seeds.

### ***3.5. Bee keeping***

Another project component planned and implemented to diversify the income sources of rural households/ communities during the reporting period was bee keeping. As a matter of fact, 50 households from those organized in SHG were provided modern beehives, including the necessary accessories/inputs like honey wax and bee friendly flower seeds.

### ***3.6. Facilitation Trainings***

For better supporting the implementation, adaptation and ensuring sustainability of different project components essential trainings were provided during this fiscal year.

#### ***3.6.1. Organize training for local government sector offices/partners staff***

This to capacitate village level development agents assigned by government to support the farmers in close follow up and mentoring in adaptation appropriate technologies to improve their production and productivity.

The experts from the District Agriculture and Women and Children also participated in the training to allow them to be familiarized with project activities and provide technical assistances to the village level development agents as well to assist them for follow responsibilities.

Hence, during this reporting 12 (10 male and 2 female) village level development and experts from district level sector offices were trained

#### ***3.6.2. Self-Help Group Training***

a) Facilitation of training for the SHGs' group leaders to capacitate them to bring attitudinal changes in their members towards business engagement in a way to take seed capital from their saving and run their business that each individual has experienced on. Accordingly, the training was planned to provide for 100 SHG leaders, but it was provide for 121 (74 male and 47 female) SHG leaders on: leadership, development, financial procedures and management.

**b) Facilitation SHG members training** - In this same reporting period, training of 250 SHG members at large was planned for women and youth groups to carried out on: practical skills of small business development and management, entrepreneurship skills, saving and credit, and provided for 124 (66 male and 58 female) members.

c) Networking and linkage with financial institutions operating in the district were also carried where respective institutions introduced their eligibility criteria for loan for those individuals who have intention to increase the volume of their business in relative terms with guarantee of the group and/or for those groups who are to do so in the future in the due course of their development.

#### ***3.6.3. Vegetable production training***

To equip with improved methods and technology of vegetables production *training* was facilitated and carried out where 85 (44 male and 41 female) participated. The training was more focused on sowing, raising and transferring seedlings for proper growth and productivity.

#### ***3.6.4. Small ruminant fattening and marketing training***

a) Training was facilitated and carried out for target group members on small ruminant fattening marketing using zero grazing approach. The approach is to minimize the risks being affected by different kinds of livestock diseases retarding the speed fattening of those shoats for marketing and obtaining profits. Thus, 342 (177 male and 165 female) farmers were trained during the reporting period.

b) Training on livestock feed preparation was also carried out where 140 (61 male and 79 female) participated in the training.

**c) Facilitation of experience exchange among the target group members** – this is to allow the group members to learn from each other and adapt the best practices more productive. Consequently, 100 (65 male and 35 female) target group members participated in the event facilitated during the year.

#### ***3.6.5. Bee keeping training***

50 (42 male and 8 female) targeted group members were trained on: bee keeping, honey production and marketing. This is to shift from the traditional type of bee keeping, which is less productive to modern bee keeping and honey production that is more productive and highly contributing to livelihood of rural households.

#### ***3.7. Monitoring of the project implementation in participatory approach***

In order to take timely action on the factors deterring the smooth implementation of the project and enhancing the pace of execution as required quarterly review meetings were planned for the fiscal year. Therefore, quarterly review meetings were carried out as scheduled, and thus, the implementation was undertaken as planned.

### **3. Community Participation and Contribution**

OSRA believes that it is hardly possible to bring about development without the active involvement of the user communities. Hence, it 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. Livestock as a business project proposal which set to be implemented in 2015 and 2016 funded by Learn for work.
2. Woliso community and school water supply, sanitation and hygiene promotion project was developed and presented to potential donors
3. Meta Robi and Goro Community based water supply sanitation and hygiene promotion
4. Disaster Risk Award,2015
5. Horticulture crops production and marketing through value chain

## 5. Outcomes 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 and living conditions of the user communities as a result of various interventions.

- ⊙ **925** Households (HHs) M/F= **760/165** have started using safe water supply sources
- ⊙ **3342** Students and teachers M/F=**1713/1626** have started using safe water supply sources
- ⊙ **105** WATASAN committee members M/F=60/45 have started managing the water supply schemes
- ⊙ **45** Water technicians have started maintenance of the water supply schemes
- ⊙ **3267** Students M/F= **1670/1597** have started using VIP latrine
- ⊙ **165** HEC have started educating their peers on hygiene and sanitation issues
- ⊙ **862** Community members M/F= **518/344** have started practicing personal and environmental hygiene
- ⊙ **41** School club members have started educating their peer friends on environmental sanitation
- ⊙ **37** Students have started practicing menstrual hygiene
- ⊙ **999** Community members have reached through school outreach activities
- ⊙ **426** Farmers have acquired knowledge on Watershed management and environmental protection and climate change
- ⊙ **10625** Farmers have planted multipurpose tree seedlings and fruit trees on degraded areas and their homestead
- ⊙ **132** Farmers have acquired knowledge on improved bee keeping
- ⊙ **102** Farmers have got improved bee hives

- ⊙ **425** Women have started producing different kinds of vegetables for home consumption and generate income
- ⊙ **99** Farmers have started fattening and marketing small ruminants (Sheep and goats) and generate income
- ⊙ **3214** Farmers have started practicing zero grazing, livestock production, management and health
- ⊙ **1885** Farmers have started producing improved forage seeds and seedlings and feeding their animals
- ⊙ **480** Farmers have started practicing improved feed preparation
- ⊙ **114** Farmers have got improved heifers and some them have started producing milk
- ⊙ **116** Farmers have acquired knowledge on milk processing and marketing
- ⊙ **47** Farmers have started using biogas for cooking and light for their households
- ⊙ **779** Farmers have started managing their FMOs based on basic cooperative principles grain marketing and quality product systems
- ⊙ **195** Women have started saving and access small amount of loans for petty trading

## 6. Challenges Encountered and Lessons Learned

### Challenges:

The challenges encountered during the reporting period were as follows:

- Late signing of some of the projects has created un necessary delay in project implementation and has affected the implementation time table.
- 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;
- Staff turnover especially the finance section staff has negatively affected the financial reporting time and quality of report.

### Lessons Learned:???

## 7. Annex

### *Summary of plan versus Accomplishment of some key activities*

Activities	Unit	Annual Plan	Achievement	%	Beneficiaries		
					M	F	Total
<b>Community and School Water Supply Sanitation and Hygiene</b>							
Develop community water wells	No	11	11	100	760	165	925
Shower rooms and washing basins	No	11	8	72.7	560	110	670
School water supply	No	4	4	100	1713	1626	3342
School latrine blocks for boys	No	4	3	75	1670	-	1670
School latrine blocks for girls	NO	4	3	75	-	1597	1597
School latrine blocks for teachers	NO	4	3	75	36	28	64
Training WASAN committee	No com members	105	105	100	60	45	105
Training water technicians	No	45	45	100	45	-	45
Training HEC	No	165	165	100	82	76	158
Training community members in hygiene and sanitation	No	770	862	111.9	518	344	862
Training school health club members	No	40	41	102	20	21	41
TOT on menstrual Hygiene	No	40	37	92.5	19	18	37
Conduct ToT on child to child	No	40	40	100	20	20	40
Facilitate outreach program by school health club members	No HHs	800	999	125	642	357	999
<b>Total Beneficiaries</b>					<b>6145</b>	<b>4407</b>	<b>10552</b>
<b>Food Security and Livelihood Program</b>							
Train farmers on Watershed management and environmental protection	Farmers		426		323	103	426



Train development agents, field staff and line offices on environment	Das	32	24	75	20	4	24
Support community based physical soil and water conservation activities	Village	4	1	50			
Support famers to plant multipurpose tree seedlings and fruit trees	Seedlings	120,000	112,000	93.3	5313	5312	10625
Training farmers in improved bee keeping	Farmers		132		53	79	132
Provide improved bee hives	Bee hive		102		66	36	102
Facilitate training on vegetable production	Farmers		425		-	425	425
Training on small ruminant fattening and marketing using zero grazing approach	Farmers	150	342	114	177	165	342
Purchase and distribute small ruminants( Sheep and goats)	Farmers	100	99	99	37	62	99
Training Farmers on zero grazing, livestock production, management and health	Farmers	3214	3214	100	2360	854	3214
Facilitate experience exchanges and field days among farmers	Farmers	212	506	238.7	429	77	506
Support homestead forage & multipurpose trees development	Farmers	2172	1885	86.8			

Provide access to seeds of fodder plants	Farmers	2344	875	37.3	612	263	875
Provide training on improved feed preparation	Farmers	500	480	96	422	58	480
Introduction of improved heifers for selected households	Farmers	132	114	86.4	78	36	114
Establish and support farmers milk collection and processing groups	Groups	17	8	47			
Training of farmers on milk processing and marketing Support milk processing groups/cooperative with necessary facilities	Farmers	120	116	96.7	87	29	116
Facilitate linkages with markets	Session	2	-	-	-	-	-
Facilitate linkage of farmers, farmers groups, cooperatives with buyers, technical and financial service providers	Session	2	1	50			
facilitate access to market information	Event	2	1	50			
Strengthening the existing AI service provision	District	2	2	100			
Provide bull service	No	10	8	80			
Promotion of household level bio gas technology	Farmers	106	47	44.3	38	9	47

Training of farmers in installation of bio-gas technology	Farmers	128	124	96.9	80	44	124
Tailor made training	Farmers	979	779	79.8	564	215	779
Conduct bi annual dev meeting	session	4	3	75			
Conduct linkage workshop	session	4	2	50			
Award best performing FMOs		3	11				
Award best performing Filed worker	FMO	1	1	100			
Support rural BDS/ processing service providers	Ins	1	1	100			
Organize women into SHGs	Groups	32	30			350	350
Provide women groups with management and entrepreneurial skill training	women	250	195			195	195
Facilitate experience exchange among the target groups	SHG members	50	45			45	45
Facilitate review meetings with key stakeholders and target groups	Event	4	1	25			
<b>Total beneficiaries</b>					<b>10659</b>	<b>8361</b>	<b>19,020</b>