

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; environmental protection; and promotion of zero grazing and improved livestock management. Community based dairy development and marketing through value chain. OSRA currently operates in four zones and six districts of the Oromia region.

During the fiscal year 2015, OSRA has 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 five community based water supply sources along with sanitation facilities such as communal washing basins and shower rooms. As a result, about 360 people in the target areas have accessed safe water supply sources and sanitation during the year. Moreover, about 360 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 the aim of building the capacity of the community to manage and operate the facilities and hygiene promotion water and sanitation committees (WASH), community technicians, and hygiene and sanitation education communicators were selected and trained during the year. Specifically, 56 WASH committees, 24 community water technicians or care takers, 75 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, two water wells along with water distribution points were constructed for two schools in Tole and Becho districts. Besides, water distribution points and storage tanks were constructed for one school in Becho district. In addition to this, 2.5 km long spring extension work has been done for Yaya primary school located in Tole district. As a result the school has solved its safe water supply problem which has persisted for many years before the project. Moreover, 14 blocks of ventilated improved latrines with urinals and hand washing facilities were constructed for students and teachers in three 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 targeted schools.

The financial support to provide water supply sources, sanitation and hygiene promotion for both community and schools were obtained from our three partners/donors, namely Water Aid Canada, CCFD, and CAFOD/TROICARE.

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 the farmers, and efforts were made to construct physical soil and water conservation structures. Moreover, with the aim of diversifying the livelihoods of farmers, fruit trees of various types were distributed to the 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 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 20 women self help groups that was comprised of 480 women in different kebeles of woliso, Tole and Ada'a berga districts. The target groups in Ada'a berga 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 the implementation of the 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 some 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 have not been 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's 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 fiscal year.

2.1. Water Supply and Sanitation

2.1.1. Community based Water Supply and Sanitation

It was planned to develop five community based water supply and sanitation projects and three schools based water supply and sanitation projects in the year 2015. 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 2410 households on hygiene and sanitation issues. Moreover, it was planned to train 56 water and sanitation (WASH) committees; 75 hygiene and sanitation communicators, 15 community water technicians on water management, operation, hygiene education and maintenance.

The financial support to implement these projects was obtained from Water Aid 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

After 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 were 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 306 households in the target areas.



Photo: Women fetching water from one of the water wells

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 were constructed with the participation of target communities in mobilizing locally available construction materials such as wood whereas, other construction materials such as stones, sand, gravel and industrial product materials were purchased and

delivered

by

OSRA.



Photo: Men and women washing their clothes using washing basin

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 part of the projects so as to ensure the sustainability of the project outcomes. In this respect, several training sessions were organized and facilitated for members of WASH committees and target beneficiaries during the reporting period.



Photo: Community Training and Sensitization

i. Community Sensitization and Training

Prior to the commencement of 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 306 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, 2401 selected community members from the target villages were provided with in-depth training at the district level on hygiene and sanitation.

ii. Training WASH committees, Hygiene and sanitation Education Communicators

Besides, establishing WASH committees, building their capacity through training is so important. To this end, 56 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 was one of the activities implemented in the reporting period. Accordingly, 75 individuals drawn from the five 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 district 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 schemes were developed. Accordingly, training sessions were organized for selected community members. During the fiscal year 15 care takers/ community technicians selected from the target villages were trained on operation and maintenance of hand pumps.

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

2.1.2. Clean Water Supply and Sanitation for Schools

During the reporting period, three 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 district and one found in Tole district.

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. School Water Supply

Two water wells were developed for two targeted schools namely, Jato and Kusaye Lencha primary schools in Becho district. The depth of the water wells ranges from 55 meters to 65 meter with an average discharge rate of 3 liters/second. Elevated wellheads along with 11 water distribution facets were constructed in these schools. Besides, pump installation, and water tankers with 2000 liters holding capacity were installed for each targeted schools. In addition to this, spring extension work has been done for Yaya primary which has covered about 2.5km from the spring to the school. The water goes all the way to the school and two nearby community sites using water pipe. In such a way that, it was possible to benefit both the school and the nearby community using installation of water pipe.

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, 21 WASH committees and 9 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 three of the target schools, namely Jato, Yaya and Kusaye Lencha primary schools. In two schools, three blocks of VIP latrines (1 for boys with urinals, 1 for girls with washing room, and 1 for teachers) were completed and start giving service and in one school (Yaya) one VIP latrine block for girls and one block of latrine for teachers was constructed. 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 seats¹ 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 the sanitation facilities complete in the respective schools, 500 liters water storage capacity tankers were 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 were actively involved in provision of locally available materials for the construction of latrines.

Construction of sanitation facilities in the three target schools in Becho and Tole were completed during the reporting period.

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 were undertaken in the target areas. In three targeted schools namely Jato, Yaya and Kusaye Lencha school community sensitizations and various events have been conducted during the reporting period. About 2060 students and teachers in the three 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) approaches were provided for 29 health club members drawn from three 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 Operation and Maintenance (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:

- **29** health club members (**M=15 F= 14**) were trained to conduct outreach activities to the surrounding community members on basic hygiene and sanitation practices.
- In addition to this, training of trainers (TOT) on menstrual hygiene management has been conducted during the reporting period. Accordingly, 26 students have been trained on menstrual hygiene management drawn from the three primary schools.
- SLTs triggering in the three targeted schools was also conducted involving **2060 (M/F=1081/979)** students and teachers.
- The other activity undertaken during the reporting period was strengthening the school health club members with the necessary materials.

2.3 Integration of ICT in to Value chain – some of the main activities accomplished during the physical year under ICT project is explained as follows:

- Tailor made training on Basic computer skill provided for 18 farmers /FMO members
- 206 FMO members were trained on SMS texting through mobile phone , farmers started using SMS texting for market information sharing using their mobile phones for making calls
- FMOs have started managing their data with computer software.

- Coaching and mentoring for 17 FMOs and Union in ICT use materials
- Through union and FMOs, Improved agronomic practices on chickpea and teffe production are being shared through audiovisual materials to improve the framing practice of farmers
- Field workers, union staff and Development agents was trained on Data collection, storing and Filtering and they understand data collecting, organizing and summarizing using computer.
- FMOs have been awarded for their best performance on ICT use materials, jointly with FMO representatives.
- Experience sharing visit done among 7 FMOs

2 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 were 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.

During the reporting period, **256 (M/F=216/40)** farmers were trained on 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 10.5kms long check dam in selected degraded areas of Dire Duleti, bukassa keta, Gute Godeti and B/kentero kebeles. The experts in the district Agriculture office and village development agents were 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 the environmental protection at a central nursery sites. Accordingly, various tree and fruit seedlings were raised on the nursery site established by the district agriculture office. The district agriculture has allowed 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 extended 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 were conducted for about **620** hhs (M=532 F= 88). On top of this, tree and fruit seedlings were distributed for the target beneficiaries in the target kebele and were planted during the quarter.
- 76,810 tree seedlings were distributed and planted on selected degraded areas and individual farmers land respectively out of which 22,000 are fruit tree seedlings such as Apple, avocado and papaya were distributed to a total of 389 (M/F=337/52) 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.

Table1: The following tables illustrate the type of tree seedlings and fruit trees distributed to the communities.

. #	PAs	W/pts	Beneficiaries (HHs)			Apple	Papaya	Avocado	Nimtree	Gravilia	Juniper	Acacia	Coffee	Koshomi	Saspasia	shuwas huwe
			M	F	T											
1	D/dulatti	Gagure	66	7	73	500	500	4000	0	4000	665	165	500	500	5000	300
2	B/Ketta	Chancho	78	16	94	0	500	2000	0	3000	165	165	200	500	5000	300
3	G/Godeti	Mandeli	52	7	59	0	0	2000	0	2250	2000	0	0	500	5000	300
4	B/ketta	Gunde	65	13	78	0	1500	1000	500	3500	2000	0	200	500	5000	300
5	B/ken tero	Babbo	76	9	85	500	1500	3000	500	3500	2000	0	500	500	5000	300
Total			337	52	389	1000	4000	12000	1000	16250	6830	330	1400	2500	25000	1500
Grand Total						71,810										

Table: Tree and fruit seedlings distributed under CAFOD project

No.	Kebele	Water point	Beneficiaries (HHs)			Apple	Papaya	Avocado
			M	F	T			
1	B/ Ketta	Chancho	78	16	94	200	500	2000
2	G/Godeti	Mandeli	52	7	59	200	0	2000
3	B/ketta	Gunde	65	13	78	200	500	1000
Total			195	36	231	600	1000	5000

Table: Tree and fruit seedlings distributed under CCFD project



Photo: Tree nursery site from where the seedlings are distributed

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.

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, **262** women were trained on the above-mentioned topics. The trained women had 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 22 kg of vegetable seeds were provided to the women who participated on the training. The purpose of the vegetable production was for household consumption and partially as income generation for the women. The

Village level development agents provided technical support and made close follow up during the production of the vegetables.

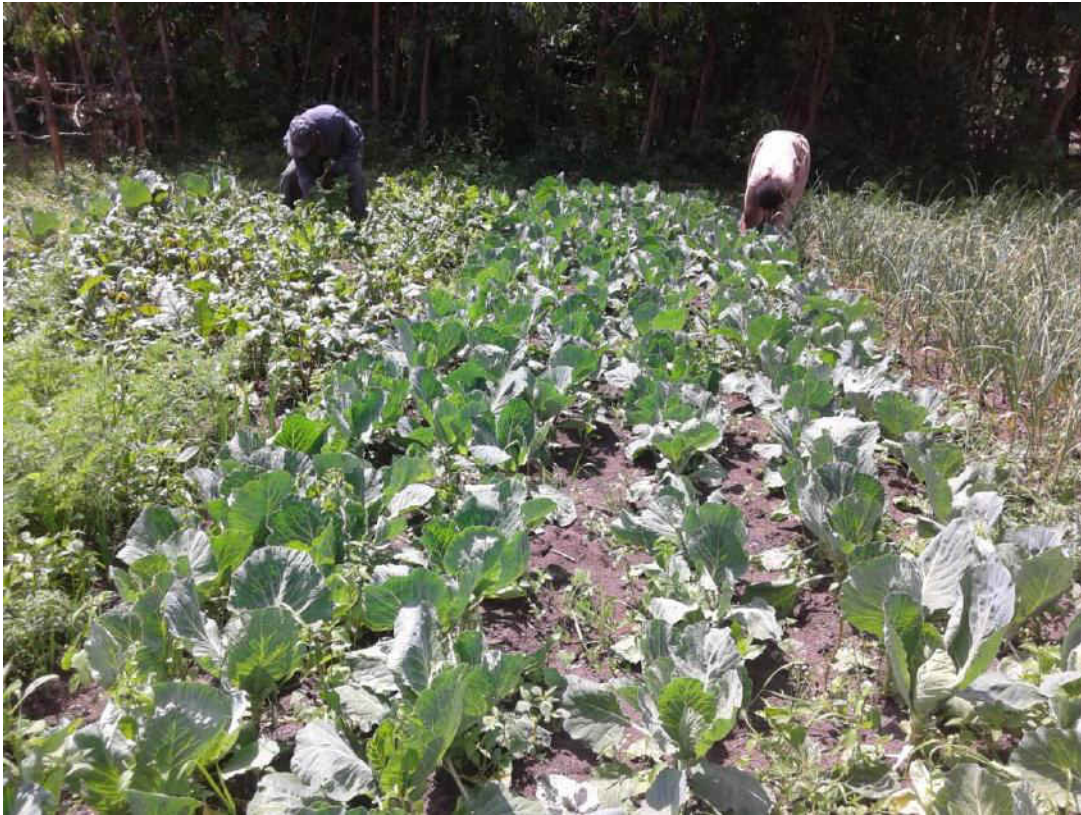


Photo: Home stead vegetable production

III. Training Farmers on Improved Bee keeping practices

During the reporting period user farmer's selection and training on improved bee keeping production and management has been conducted. Accordingly, **95hhs** farmers (**M=92 F=3**) has received training for two days on improved bee keeping and management from the target villages. The training was conducted in collaboration with district level office of agriculture. The main purpose of the beekeeping training is to enhance the knowledge of farmers on improved bee keeping and management of improved bee hives to increase honey production which helps them to generate household income so as to improve their livelihood situation.

IV. Provide Access to Improved Bee Hives

During the reporting period, the farmers who have participated on bee keeping training have been accessed improved bee hives. Accordingly **72 hhs (M=69 F=3)** have got improved bee hives. In the process the farmers contribute bee colony and OSRA provides hives and bees wax. The farmers harvest 20-30 kg of honey per season from the improved bee hives as compared to 5 kg from the traditional hives. The price one kg of honey on the local market is up to 140 birr.

3. 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 the social and economic problems they are face in their daily life. So as to make this a reality, 20 SHGs were organized in Dire Duleti, Bukassa Keta kebeles of Woliso district and Haro boro and Tuli Dase kebeles of Ada'a berga districts having 480 members. Currently, the groups have developed their own bylaws and started voluntary saving on fortnightly basis. The groups save 2-5 birr on the average based on the decision and agreement of each group. Accordingly, the groups have successfully saved more than 50,000 birr to date which will help them to access small loans from their groups to run different income generation activities in their respective villages.

3.1 Training women in small business management and entrepreneurship skills

During the reporting period, 208 women beneficiaries who are the members of seven SHGs were trained for two days 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:

4. Zero Grazing and Improved Dairy Production

4.1 Training of Farmers on Zero Grazing and Dairy Improvement

During the reporting period, 272 (**M= 214/F=58**) farmers were trained on the above mentioned topics for two consecutive days in collaboration with livestock development and health office experts at district level. The training has helped the farmers to practice improved dairy production and livestock management using zero grazing system. This includes improved forage production and feeding, dairy cattle management, livestock health and artificial insemination.

4.2 Facilitate Experience Exchange Visits for Farmers and Experts

During the reporting period famers experience exchange visit was conducted involving 135 farmers (**M/F=112/23**). The farmers had 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 could increase the milk yield and earn more money as compared to the previous years. In addition, **31 farmers (M/F =30/1)** have also visited Genesis farm and International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) and learned about dairy cattle management systems, improved feeding, milk processing and bio gas technology.

4.3 Provision of Improved Forage Seeds

After training the community on improved livestock management and zero grazing systems, improved livestock feed like oats and vetch was distributed to the farmers. Based on this, 35 quintals of oats and 20 quintals vetch seeds were distributed to **188 (M=132 F=56)** farmers. The seeds distributed were 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.

4.4 Training Farmers on Feed Preparation

During the reporting period, **74 (M=63/F= 11)** farmers were trained 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 had focused on straw treatment using molasses and urea to improve the palatability and nutritive value of agricultural by-products. The training involved both theoretical and practical aspects in livestock feed preparation from agricultural by-products mainly teff straw.

4.5 Farmers training in milk processing and Establishment of Milk collection centers

One of the activities accomplished during the reporting period was establishment of six milk collection and processing groups having 116 members living in six kebeles. The groups have developed their own bylaws and started monthly saving of 10-20 birr in their groups. During the reporting period, **59 farmers (M/F=55/4)** were trained on basic cooperative principles, milk handling and marketing. The groups have started milk collection and marketing. In addition to this discussion forum was facilitated among milk producer groups and milk buyers/processors located in the vicinity. In addition to this, the milk collection centers established are equipped with different types of milk equipments like aluminum milk cans, lactometer, thermometer, alcohol etc. during the reporting period.

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 discussion 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.

4.6 Training and Installations of house hold Bio-gas Technology

During the reporting period, **123 (M/F=75/48)** target farmers from the two districts were trained 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 to the 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, Memorandum of Understanding (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 **18 (M/F=15/3)** has been completed and started giving service to the community. The biogas installation is on cost sharing basis whereby OSRA supplies cement and gravel, the beneficiaries provide unskilled labor, stone and sand. The National bio gas promotion office also provides bio gas accessories and cover costs for masonry works.

5. Community based Dairy Production and Marketing

During the fiscal year OSRA launched a new project on community based dairy production and marketing through value chain in Ada'a district east shewa administrative zone. The production focus on framers training on milk quality and milk hygiene, learning and sharing, establishing milk cooperative, establishing input shop, establishing linkage among farmers groups and milk processors, dairy feed supply for input shop etc.

5.1 Farmers Training

During the fiscal year farmers training on milk quality and hygiene has been conducted for 316 (M/F=172/144) farmers. As result farmers acquired knowledge on milk quality and hygiene management. Farmers have got good understanding and knowledge feeding housing watering and barn clean and health dairy cattle.

5.2 Experience sharing and Learning

During the reporting period 37 farmers have taken part in experience sharing to genesis farm, Alfa farm and Ada'a milk cooperative. They learned how to keep milk hygiene and quality and how to avail fresh milk to milk processing industries found around the project area. Accordingly farmers have taken part in the experience sharing visit and learned about milk quality, milk hygiene, handling milk equipments etc.

5.3 Establishing and Strengthening Milk Cooperatives

During the reporting period five milk cooperatives have been established and trained. They have also got their legal personality. The milk collection centers and livestock input shops have also been established for the cooperatives as part of strengthening and capacity building initiatives. The milk collection centers have also been supplied with necessary milk equipments and office materials like aluminum milk containers of 50, 30 and 10 liters capacity, lactometer, thermometer, cylinders, alcohols etc.

5.4 Developing Farmers Training Materials'

Training material used to train farmers has been developed in collaboration with experts from Debrezeit research center during the reporting period. The training material has focused on dairy animal feeding, housing, watering, health, milk hygiene and milk quality and proper handling of milk and milk utensils. The training material was in use during for the training during the fiscal year.

4.5 Training Development Agents and Experts

During the reporting period 21 development gents has received training on milk hygiene, milk handling and maintaining milk quality, feeding and housing dairy cows etc for two consecutive days. The training was given by experts from Debrezeit agriculture research center.

5.6 Establishment of Livestock Input Shop

During the reporting period two milk collection and input shops in Hiddi and Dhankaka kebeles have been established and equipped with the necessary materials. The main purpose of the input shop is to serve as center to collect fresh milk and to supply dairy cattle feed to the farmers. While farmers bring fresh milk to the center the take back feed for their dairy cows.



Photo: Livestock input shop and milk collection center

5.7 Provision of Dairy feed for Input Shop

OSRA has provided 100 quintals of concentrate feed of excellent quality has been provided to the two input shops established at Hiddi and Dhankaka from Alema feed factory located around Debrezeit town. Once the feed is provided on revolving basis the milk cooperative will sell it to the farmers making small profit margin to revolve all year round to ensure its sustainability.

6. Ensuring food security through promotion of income generation opportunities

During the reporting period, the following activities were planned and implemented under ensuring food security through promotion of income generation opportunities. The project was implemented in two kebeles of Ada'a berga district namely Tuli Dase and Haro Boro.

6.1. Selection of target groups from two target kebeles

After sensitization of the community with regard to eligibility criteria, identification and selection of target groups that exactly fitted the set criteria with the involvement of community at large, selection of target beneficiaries has been conducted. In the community meeting, 704 people (M/F=423/281) from both kebeles participated in two rounds. After carrying out the meeting with communities 250 people were selected to as the target and beneficiaries of the project. District level office of agriculture, livestock development and women and children affairs office experts have taken part during the selection of the target groups.

6.2. Promoting Self-Help Groups SHGs)

This component of the project is to initiate and support target community members to get organized in primary saving and credit association at their neighborhood level. During the reporting period, 251 people (M/F=158/93) organized into 13 SHGs in two target kebeles. The group members have started regular saving on fortnightly basis. The members are using this saving for working capital to start small business activities in their vicinity, which some of the group members have already started. The group saving and credit protects the members from exploitation of local money lenders which has been rampant over the years. By being organized in to self help groups the members have collective voices and they can solve different social and economic problems which they are facing in their daily life.

In order to share experience and learn from each other and scale up the practices in the kebeles at large biannual experience exchange events among the SHGs has been organized during the reporting period. Accordingly 50 (M/F= 44/6) members have taken part in the learning and sharing visits.

6.3. Promoting Improved Potato Production

The purpose is to allow the target groups to obtain more knowledge and skills for improved vegetable seed variety production, in a way to increase the yields of their farm that tantamount to increase their incomes from agribusiness. Consequently, it would be marketed for the purpose of diversifying income generation.

Accordingly, it was possible to distribute 50 quintals of improved potato seeds variety for 100 (67 men & 33 women) target group members during this reporting fiscal year.

6.4. Small Ruminants Fattening and Marketing

During the reporting it was planned to engage 101 poor resources less from target community members specially focusing on women and land less youths. So the project was able to reach 98 people (M/=F46/ 52) community members from the two targeted kibbles. Accordingly, 196 sheep/goats were purchased and distributed in order to start the business of small ruminants fattening and marketing to enhance their household income.

6.5. Promoting Modern Beekeeping and Honey Production

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, 48 farmers (M/F=42/6) households from those organized in SHG were provided modern beehives, including the necessary accessories/inputs like honey wax and bee friendly flower seeds.

6.6. Facilitation of Trainings

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

6.6.1. Training Self-Help Group members

- 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 43 (40 men and 3 women) 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 242 (146 men and 96 women) 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.

6.6.2. Training on Vegetable production

To equip with improved methods and technology of vegetables production *training* was facilitated and carried out where 96 farmers (M/F=65/31) have participated. The training has focused more on necessary agronomic practices of vegetable seed bed preparation, sowing, weeding raising and transferring of seedlings etc.

3.6.3. Training on Small ruminant fattening and marketing

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 in which fattening of those shoats for marketing and obtaining profits. Thus, 96 farmers (M/F=61/ 35) have been participated on the training and got the necessary knowledge and skills.

6.6.4. Training Farmers in improved bee keeping

During the reporting period, 83 (M/F=72/ 11) targeted group members have been 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 which is more productive and highly contributing to livelihood of rural households.

6.7. Monitoring of the project implementation in participatory approach

In order to take timely corrective actions on the factors affecting the smooth implementation of the project and enhancing the pace of execution as planned quarterly review meetings has been conducted during the fiscal year. Accordingly, two review meeting events have been carried out during the reporting period at district level.

6.8 Outcomes of the project

- 98 hhs increased their income from marketing of sheep/goats
- 48 farmers acquired knowledge on improved bee keeping
- 96 community members acquired knowledge and skills in improved vegetable production
- 251 community members organized in SHGs have started saving and credit activities

7. New Project Proposal Developed during the Fiscal Year

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

- 1. Horticulture and Vegetable production using underground water supply amounting euro 40,000 (ICCO) matching fund**
- 2. Woliso Community Water supply, sanitation and hygiene promotion amounting 18000 euro (Funded by Stitching Water)**
- 3. Family Farming Project euro 50,000 King Boudine Foundation (KBF)**

8. Outcomes/changes

As explained in the aforementioned sections, various project activities were 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 discussed above.

- People have used clean water sources and sanitation facilities; practicing improved hygiene & sanitation, which improved their health and enhanced their production and productivity;
- Conducive teaching and learning environment realized 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.
- Increased asset building for the poor and vulnerable community members;

- People acquired knowledge on environmental degradation and effect of climate change on the livelihoods;
- Household income increased as a result of increased milk production
- Household energy supply enhanced as result of household bio gas promotion

9. Challenges Encountered and Lessons Learned

Challenges:

The challenges encountered during the reporting period were as follows:

- Drought situation due to EL lino affected the livelihoods of the community members in the target areas.
- Phasing out of some big projects resulted in shortage funds and staff reduction.
- Shortage of fund hindered OSRA to reach as many needy community as possible
- Some target kebeles were in accessible for monitoring due to security problems

Lessons Learned:

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

- Cost sharing approach in project implementation enhance ownership feeling and highly contributes to sustainability
- Establishing SHGs in rural environment is more productive and can be used sources of finance for members to generate working capital to run small business activities. .
- If properly mobilized and coordinated, students and schools can be change agents to bring about behaviour and attitude change changes not only in schools but also in the surrounding communities.

10. Annex-1

Summary of Plan versus Accomplishment of some of the key Activities

Activities	Unit	Annual Plan	Achievement	%	Beneficiaries (HHs)		
					M	F	Total
Community and School Water Supply Sanitation and Hygiene							
Develop community water wells	No	5	5	100	269	37	306
Shower rooms and washing basins	No	5	5	100	269	37	306
School water supply	No	3	3	100	1081	979	2060
School latrine blocks for boys	No	3	2		1081	-	1081
School latrine blocks for girls	NO	3	3	100	-	979	979
School latrine blocks for teachers	NO	3	3	100	29	20	49
Training WASH committee	Com. Members	56	55	98	32	24	55
Training water technicians	No	15	15	100	15	-	15
Training HEC	No	75	75	100	40	37	77
Training community members in hygiene and sanitation	No	2410	2401	99.6	1339	1062	2401
Training school health club members	No	30	29	96.6	15	14	29
TOT on menstrual Hygiene	No	30	26	87	12	14	26
SLTS Triggering in schools	No	3	3	100	1081	979	2060
Strengthening health club members with necessary materials	Members	75	83	111	46	37	83
Total Beneficiaries					2,878	2,224	5,102
Food Security and Livelihood Program							
Train farmers on Watershed management and	Farmers						

environmental protection		240	256	106	216	40	256
Train development agents, field staff and line offices on environment	DAs	25	19	76	12	7	19
Support community based physical soil and water conservation activities	km	16	10.5	65.6	216	40	256
Support famers to plant multipurpose tree seedlings and fruit trees	Seedlings	120,000	76,810	64	532	88	620
Training farmers in improved bee keeping	Farmers	98	95	97	92	3	95
Provide improved bee hives	Bee hive	73	72	99	69	3	72
Facilitate training on vegetable production	Farmers	235	262	111	-	262	262
Training on small ruminant fattening and marketing using zero grazing approach	Farmers	100	96	114	61	35	96
Purchase and distribute small ruminants(Sheep and goats)	Farmers	100	98	98	46	52	98
Training Farmers on zero grazing, livestock production, management and health	Farmers	272	272	100	214	58	272
Facilitate experience exchanges and field days among farmers	Farmers	135	135	100	112	23	135
Provide access to seeds of fodder plants	Farmers	188	188	100	132	56	188
Provide training on improved feed preparation	Farmers	74	74	100	63	11	74
Establish and support	Groups	8	6	75	97	43	140

farmers milk collection and processing groups							
Training of farmers on milk processing and marketing Support milk processing groups/cooperative with necessary facilities	Farmers	120	59	96.7	54	5	59
Promotion of household level bio gas technology	Farmers	15	18	44.3	15	3	18
Training of farmers in installation of bio-gas technology	Farmers	94	123	96.9	75	48	123
Establish and strengthening milk cooperatives	Coops	5	5	100	97	43	140
Establish livestock input shop	NO	1	2	200	97	43	140
Equip livestock input shop with excellent quality dairy feeds	Qtl	100	100	100	97	43	140
Training farmers in milk quality and milk hygiene	Farmers	300	316	105	172	144	316
Develop training manual to train farmers	Manual	1	1	100	172	144	316
Organize women into SHGs	Groups	17	12	71		208	208
Provide women groups with management and entrepreneurial skill training	Women	235	208	89		208	208
Facilitate experience exchange among the target groups	SHG members	138	66	49	32	34	66
Total beneficiaries					2,091	1,206	3,297