



**Proceedings of the
Experience Sharing Workshop on Food Security and
Environmental Management**

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Executive Summary

Consortium of Christian Relief and Development Association (CCRDA) is a non-governmental and non-profit making membership organization of more than 334 organizations founded by 13 faith-based and secular organizations which sought to coordinate their relief efforts during the 1973/74 famine in Northern Ethiopia. Its constituency is based on membership drawn from both local and international NGOs that are engaged in various development activities across the country. It is the oldest and biggest membership organization of NGOs in Ethiopia.

Creating an enabling environment for NGO operation in the country and building the capacity of its members were the two major strategic directions which CRDA engaged over the years.

The National Food Security and Environment Forum of CCRDA is one of the seven thematic Forums operating under the auspices of CCRDA. The Forum's main objectives are to engage in collective undertakings in the areas of action research, networking and proactively engage in advocacy and lobbying of common concerns on issues related to rural development specifically Food Security and Environment.

The sub-national food security and environment network, formerly called food security network, of CSOs operating in Benishangul Gumuz National Regional State was established organizing inauguration workshop in Assossa on August 2008. The workshop was organized by ActionAid Ethiopia. Since then the network was not functional and a revitalization workshop was organized by CCRDA co-financed by European Union and ActionAid Ethiopia in Assosa town on August 30-31, 2010.

The objective of the network is to *reinforce Civil Society Organization's contribution to regional and local food security and environment realization policies, strategies and*



interventions through debate, dialogue, negotiation and discussion with the spirit of partnership among community, government and donor agencies.

Introduction

The Benishangul-Gumuz Food Security and Environment Network operate to attain the following objectives.

- * Serve members and stakeholders as an effective communication channel for sharing of information, experiences, research findings, emergency cases, and resource mobilize resource center, report food security status and best practices in promoting food security and poverty reduction interventions and enhance learning and scaling-up of the same.

- * Prepare membership profile to avoid duplication of efforts and enhance communication among members and stakeholders.

- * Enhance partnership and linkages, collaboration and cooperation between and among development partners (GOs, NGOs, CBOs, multi-lateral and bilateral institutions and Donors).

- * Work in collaboration with the government authorities at regional and local levels to create an enabling environment for all stakeholders for the achievement of common goals.

- * Facilitate regional and local advocacy and lobbying works in relation to food security and environmental protection modalities and poverty reduction policies, strategies and practices, with particular focus on targeting and empowering of the poorest people and marginalized areas.



* Nurture appropriate approaches for the realization of the mainstreaming of gender, HIV and AIDS and harmful traditional practices with regard to food security and environment.

* Support in research and other similar efforts, and collaborate with other networks.

* Create opportunities for capacity building of community based institutions, members of the Network and government offices including empowerment and enhancement of individual skills and ability to nurture common interest and harmony in the fight against poverty and ensuring food security and protection of environment.

Members of the network participated in a two-day experience sharing workshop in Assosa town (April 05-06, 2011). About 13 presentations were made which were followed by comments, questions, responses, reactions and detailed deliberations. This document therefore attempts to present the proceedings of the workshop.



ACRONYMS:

GO : Government Organization

NGO: Non-Government Organization

CSO : Civic Society Organization

CBO: Community Based Organization

DRM: Disaster Risk Management

EWS : Early Warning System

GTP: Growth and Transformation Plan

PVA : Participatory Vulnerability Analysis

MDGs: Millennium Development Goals

PASDEP: Plan for Accelerated and Sustained Development to End Poverty

REDD : Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation

CAADEP : Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Plan

PRRP: Participatory Review and Reflection Process



I. THE BENISHANGUL-GUMUZ FOOD SECURITY AND ENVIRONMENT NETWORK: ACTIVITY REPORT

By: The Steering Committee

1. INTRODUCTION

Significant parts of Ethiopia (36.5 %) are characterized by persistent food insecurity. Different man made and natural disasters have been significant triggers to food insecurity and poverty. Factors which have been creating and increasing vulnerability in the country include: land degradation, limited household assets, low levels of farm, technology, lack of employment opportunities, population pressure, low levels of education, and high disease prevalence.

To address the challenges of food security in the country, AAE initiated and established national food security network of CSOs in 2006. The objectives of the network include:

- 1) To strengthen CSOs in order to contribute to international, national, local level debate, dialogue and policy influence, and
- 2) To ensure a sustained collective responses and action from CSOs to the food security program through promotion of active participation, shared learning and exchange of information and advocacy.

Major implementation geographical areas of the Network are: Addis Ababa, Hawassa, Assosa, and Bahir Dar. NGOs, government offices, community, and consultants are partners of the Network during initiation and intervention of the different activities.

The food security network of Benishangul Gumuz Region was established in 2008 with the initiative of AAE. The network was led by steering committee having five members. Unfortunately, the blurred legal environment coupled with global economic crisis has adversely affected the inspiration of the network members including the major actors AAE and CCRDA.

Following global emphasis given to food security issues, in August, 2010, AAE, in collaboration with EU and CCRDA, initiated the revitalization of the network in the region .



2. Networking: Concepts, Importance and Challenges

“Networking” is one of those concepts which are difficult to clearly define. The following is a working definition for the purpose at hand:

“Networking is a process by which two or more organizations and/or individuals collaborate to achieve common goals.”

In essence, a network is a communication device – a mechanism that links people or organizations that share common values and/or objectives; based on simple principle of “giving and taking on equal terms”; and based on member – ownership and commitment to shared objectives and means of action.

3. Benefits of Networking

If members do not benefit from a network, they refrain from participation; if the feeling is widespread, the network will cease to function. We network because the problems and issues that we face are too large for any of us, as individuals or as organizations, to face on our own.

Networks have a “synergy effect”, that is the total effect of things done together is greater than the sum of individual activities. That means cooperation between various organizations gives the groups involved “more”.

Successful networking also helps to strengthen advocacy; share experiences, ideas, and best practices; broaden the understanding of issues or struggle by bringing together different constituencies; share the work, increase transparency; increase visibility of issues, best practices, and contributions; increase efficiency by reducing duplication of efforts and wasting of resources; and increase access to information; expertise and financial resources.

Steering Committees for the network

Composition of the First Steering Committee /August 2008/

- Action Aid Ethiopia Benishangul Gumuz Regional Office (AAE BGRO)-Chair person
- *Tikuret Le Gumuz* People Development Association/ Secretary/
- Research Inspired Policy and Practice Learning in Ethiopia (RIPPLE)-member
- Assosa Farmers Multi Purpose Secondary Cooperative/Union/-member
- Benishangul Rehabilitation and Development Association (BRDO)-member

Second Steering Committee /August 2010/



- Action Aid Ethiopia, Benishangul Gumuz Regional Office (AAE BGRO)-Chair person
- Mijejigo Loka-Secretary
- Poverty Action Network in Ethiopia- member
- Benishangul Rehabilitation and Development Association (BRDO)-member
- *Tikuret Le Gumuz* people Development Association-member

Activities done so far by the steering committee include: holding a meeting-once but every quarter, finalizing the MOU incorporating comments given at the last workshop, suggesting project ideas for the network, promoting the opening of a coordination office in Assosa for the network to function properly, and calling upon potential new members. It was also the steering committee that organized the current workshop



II. PAST EMERGENCIES AND CURRENT SITUATION OF FOOD SECURITY IN BENISHANGUL GUMUZ REGIONAL STATE: AN OVERVIEW

I. Geographical background of the region

Benishangul-Gumuz Regional State is one of the nine regional states established in 1994 by the new constitution of Ethiopia that created a federal system of governance. The region is located in the western part of the country between 09.170 - 12.060 North latitude and 34.100 - 37.040 East longitude

The region has international boundary with the Sudan in the west and is bordered by the Amhara region in the north and northeast, Oromiya in the southeast and Gambella in the south (See Fig. 1). The regional capital, Assosa is located at a distance of 687 km west of Addis Ababa.

According to the current administrative structure, the region is divided into 20 Woredas that are structured under 3 Administration Zones. The one woreda (Mao-Komo) are designated as special Woreda

Total area coverage of the region is 50,335.92 km². The total population size of the region is 711,702 (2010 G.C Ministry of Federal Affairs).

Annual temperature of the region ranges between 20 and 32 oC

The major emergency disasters/hazards frequently occurred (last five year) were: erratic rain, plant (pest, disease weed (straiga), livestock disease, deforestation, land degradation, wild fire, and human disease (malaria).

For the last five years most commonly affected woredas were: Kurmuk, Sherqole, Guba, Mao-Komo s/w, Sirba-Abay, Odabildigilu, Assosa, Menge, Homosha, and Banbasi

Food security in the region is affected by the following key issues: low crop production and Productivity, livestock diseases, limited income and employment opportunities, poor



market and infrastructure. poor health and nutrition, poor saving and stock building practices, cultural practices affecting women and limited emergency response capability.

Limited emergency response capability refers to limited institutional capacity, poor integration and coordination in light of the following:

- Increasing environmental degradation leading to dwindling natural assets (depleting coping strategies)
- Recurrent drought due to rain failure (especially along Ethio-Sudanese border areas)
- Traditional agricultural practices

The overall goal/impact of the food security program is to ensure food security at household level and reducing poverty in the program area. The outcomes are:

- 1: Increased agricultural production and productivity
- 2: Increased household income
- 3: Improved health and education status
- 4: Strengthened emergency response capabilities
- 5: Improved institutional capacity

The program area is located in Benishangul-Gumuz regional state. It consists of 7 woredas selected purposively by the region as priority for food security program implementation. The program area has 107 Kebele Administrations (KAs) as shown in Table 2 below. The total area coverage of the program area is 14,884 km², which is about 30% of the total area region.

This program believes that partnership and networking enables to learn best practices, adopt appropriate technologies, create alliance for advocacy and lobby, etc.

Therefore, the main approach will be creating strong partnership and networking with like-minded governmental institutions, NGOs, donors and community based organizations at regional, national and international settings.

The types of assessment conducted are: seasonal (meher, belg and pastoral), as well as disaster area, and emergency nutrition (as required). The assessments are coordinated by EWWG

Identification of areas, collaboration among stake holders and sectors, and government commitment to establish structures at woreda levels were among the strength of the RMS. On the other hand, untimely flow of information, poor quality reporting status /not as required / less coverage, lack of good baseline information, lack of vehicle and motor bicycle for early warning data collection were among the weaknesses and limitations.

Disaster Risk Management (DRM): What is disaster? Disaster is when hazard and vulnerability occur at the same time. Disaster = Hazard + Vulnerability

Comments and Questions



The following section presents the comments, suggestions, and questions raised after the presentations were completed in the order they were forwarded. These are followed by the responses and reactions from the resource persons and other participants. A similar approach is followed throughout.

* Most of the issues raised in relation to ensuring food security by improving the agricultural system both at regional and national level are dependent on nature. This makes it vulnerable. The state of food security depends on the occurrence or other wise of natural disasters. How can we ensure food security in there context of everything depends on natural forces, what is the guarantee? Do we have the capacity to protect agricultural products?

*To supplement the question, for me, food security dose not mean provisions of aid after disasters occur. Wild fires have been mentioned on a problem. If I am not mistaken, of the approximately 50,000hectars about 40,000 hectares are burnt down. What have you planned to deal with this? To ensure food security in an environmentally friendly way as well as to ensure its sustainability and continuity, we need to similarly think of the environment. My question is have you got any plans to deal with the problem facing the environment?

* I have understood from the presentation that a forum has been created at regional level between GOs and NGOs and that they report on food security status of the region. For this purpose, they collect information in their areas of operation. My concern it that since they may not have adequate knowledge of food security, their reports may not be satisfactory. In addition, how are the questions of accountability and reliability handled? Doesn't this have risks? If, for example, a certain GO or NGO reports that a certain number of people are facing food shortages, how is the figure checked?

*In addition to the crop production mentioned in the presentation why are other approaches not attempted? For example, the camel is known in Somalia, Afar and other areas as a source of food and a means of transport. There are also goat varieties that can help a lot as they are not prone to diseases. Why don't we look at these alternatives? Personally I know areas where individuals are trying to rear camels, so why don't we try camels in areas like Kurmuk and Guba?

* My question is to both presenters. I remember that a few months ago I participated in a workshop prepared by Farm Africa funded by the same funding institution. The objective of that workshop was also to create a network. Here we are again trying to create a similar network. I think we need to look into the nature of relations between these networks. It was mentioned earlier that one of the objectives of the work is to avoid duplication of efforts. So if different networks operate in an area, doesn't this contradict the objective?

Secondly, do you have the capacity to prevent/control disasters and to rehabilitate the people after disasters strike? I know there is no food reserve in this region. So do you



have any strategies to deal with disasters if they occur in the future? Do you have any strategies or attempts to involve CBOs or GOs?

Responses, Reactions and Further Comments

The first question relates to natural disasters and their impact on products and productivity. Natural Disasters are very difficult to deal with even for developed countries. We have seen what has happened in Japan recently. But what we have is the attempt to minimize the effect of natural disasters by strengthening EWS. One thing that has to be said is that most of the hazards are manageable. For example we can mention livestock diseases. In Fedele, they have controlled Tsetse/Trypanosomiasis. They have traps at different locations. You may have seen them. The agriculture office is managing this. But efforts should be multi sectoral, involving for example the agriculture, health and environmental offices. They should all contribute to the effort.

I will try to answer several questions together. Earlier the question of the network status, as well as the flow, reliability, quality and timelines of information were raised. I have talked about livestock diseases. Let me talk about the problem of erratic rain fall. There is nothing we can do about this. For example Kurmuk, Sherqole and Guba are prone to this problem. These are dry areas.

Another question raised was the possibility of using alternatives. Alternatives require feasibility studies. Just because camel rearing was effective at one place, it doesn't necessarily follow that it will be effective elsewhere. For example, five camels were brought to Guba for a trial. Now all five are dead. But we can raise goats there, but still the how of it should be based on studies. The food security strategy being implemented has incorporated this, for example CHF. It is trying to help people generate their income and secure their food security. It is an Oxfam Canada project.

Oxfam works in Kurmuk and Sherqole. It has established nurseries and plants local varieties from the Baku forest. They develop them, sell the products and rehabilitate the forest. The system works. They have recently signed the contract and started operating.

One point we can take regarding natural disasters is that we attempt to at least to minimize damages. This is done by strengthening our information exchange system. Regarding livestock diseases a team has been formed and included as a member in this network. They are currently conducting studies. We also have guests from disaster prevention office. So people from agriculture, health and environmental protection offices discuss this issue and try to work out what should be done in the future to deal with thin problem.

Another factor that has exasperated the problem is the fact that the region is not part of the safety net program. As the program is *food for work* it could contribute towards filling gaps.



Another question was about the prevention of wild fires. We have now established committees at all woredas and kebeles. They to a certain extent participate on environmental protection. The committees are however facing management related problems. Wild fires occur during honey harvest and for farm land preparation. They usually occur at dusk, after people have retired to their homes. We have tried every thing in this regard but have achieved practically nothing. Recently at *Anbessa Chaka* , some wild animals were forced out of there habitat and had to move into human villages. The residents however fought very hard against the fires and managed to save some forest sections.

We have established a committee. We have also informed the regions cabinet of the situation. Our ideas have been accepted, and we are about to start operating.

Another question relates to the DRM forum, the inclusion of several NGOs and the reliability of information they bring in. World vision, ActionAid and Oxfam are among the NGOs in the forum. As an example, let me talk about World Vision. It works in areas related to EWS in Bambasi, Mao-Komo, Komosha, and Assosa. At least once a week, they bring in information on these areas. We cross check the reliability of the information.

But the point here is the follow of information. Recently *Kale Hiwot* brought an unexpected information to us. The information was the existence of malnutrition in four woredas. They noticed indicators and conducted a rapid assessment and 15 moderate children were found. We can understand from this that information that helps to prepare early can be found. This helps for early preparation and timely responses. In short, checking reliability requires time and resources, and hopefully this will happen in the near future.

Regarding contingency plan, I can tell you that currently we have nothing in stock (both food non food items). It may surprise you that in a recent problem in Mandura, Sherqole and Belojicalo, we responded by contacting Unicef – Gambella, who gave us emergency aid. Secondly, the regional cabinet held an urgent meeting and approved about 415,000 birr for the same cause. We are using the money to purchase enriched /nutritious food for children. This is to show that contingency is currently out of questions. We have neither the capacity nor the resources.

However, let me tell you some thing we are planning. You all remember the national movement under the motto “*One Birr for one Compatriot*”. We are planning to adopt that. The cabinet has approved the idea. At woreda level, committees on disaster risk management will be established. They will open bank accounts and save the money there. When problems occur, they can make use of that cash.

The second thing relates to something we learned from the Komo people. When the Komo people harvest their crops, all households put aside a sack of grain. When problems occur, they make use of that to deal with them. We are in the process of scaling this practice up to the regional level. We are also inviting aid organizations.



Another question raised relates to the number of fora and networks. One thing we have to understand is that all networks are established with specific objectives. But if there are overlapping areas we have to take a close look into them and try to bring them together.

**To add to the answers given, different issues relate to different sectoral offices. These are issues relating to agriculture health, environment or cooperatives offices. The question is: are these clearly reflected in every development plan?

Secondly, when new NGOs come to woredas, they usually sign agreements. It also helps to look into the agreements to check if these issues are really included. Sometimes there are confusions. Some agreements are expected to be signed with finance and economy office, some with agriculture office, some with cooperatives. These should be combined, so all concerned bodies know and include it in their plans implement and evaluate it. They channel fragmented efforts. So is there any progress in this regard. If we accept food security as a challenge, we need to plan and work on it. These are issues raised many times before but because nothing was done on them, we cannot talk about experience in these areas now.

Secondly, regarding Tsetse/Trypanosomiasis and ploughing with oxen many issues are raised. For example at Kamashi Zone, ActionAid once tried ploughing with oxen. That was not successful. But sharing experiences does not always have to focus on success stories. We can learn from failures also. We have to analyze the causes of failure for further improvement. Projects should not just phase out without any impact.

Tsetse/Trypanosomiasis control also was tried at different places. Bedele has been mentioned here. But this was also tried to certain extent in Benishangul, at Kamashi. So let us look into ourselves and share experiences of success as well as failure. If there is any thing that appears to work we can try it. For example, we can bring the Bedele experience and apply it here. In the regions strategic plan, a major concern was the prevalence livestock diseases. So as long as it is to solve a major problem why can we do it? It only needs some level of expertise, not too much finance. Another point I would like to raise is that the distinction between GO and NGO does not help much. So may be in this connection, it could help to remind participants of the five principles of the Paris Declaration.

First, **ownership**. Governments have to prepare long and short term development plans. That is why we ask whether those issues of concern are included in the government's short and long development plans.

Second, **alignment**. This principle questions whether or not an NGO addresses the priorities of the region. This is imperative

Third, **harmonization**. The government has procedures and institutions. Are these strengthened or are efforts duplicated elsewhere?



Fourth, *managing for result*. What is planned and done should bring about changes-technically as well as financially.

Fifth, *mutual accountability*. GOs and NGOs should look for common indicators so that both parties continue to be accountable. In 2006, Ethiopia scored “C” in all five principles. In 2008, only ownership improved to “B”. This is therefore a national problem. However, the participants of this workshop, I believe, have the capacity to change this. I know the region as well as the people. From what I know, I believe there is potential here to solve many of the problems we raised.

There were poverty reduction plans and now there is the GTP. GOs, NGOs, cooperative, etc. have participated in the discussion process of the GTP. This will be a continuous process; all stakeholders should play their respective parts. Internationally, what is accepted is the idea that the government should take the leading role, because NGOs come and go, but not the government. So I believe we need to look into all our acting in light of these five principles.

Additional Questions

*Many problems have been raised. Development program have not main steamed climate change issues. Now all plans should include this idea, adaptation included. Drought is related to climate. In many developing countries, poverty and food security problem are related climate change. Adaptation strategies should be mainstreamed in program plans so that the coping capacity of the society improves. So I would like to ask the region’s agriculture or water sector or others related to climate to what extent adaptations strategies are mainstreamed in their program plans. This is what we should do; otherwise, if we labor after disasters strike, it will only be a waste of resources. Do we have the awareness and the capacity?

*I believe the objective of this workshop is to share experiences. The presentation has shown in the five year trends regarding disaster risk factors. We have also learned that the number of aid dependents is increasing, and that there were some easily manageable disaster factors. Regarding contingency plans, we know that the GTP of the region has only recently been developed. But are the trends taken notice of and included in the plan? I also believe stake holders should be included in having a budget - supported



contingency plan. We have also been told that disaster= risk + vulnerability, then, so I think it is logical that if we manage to minimize vulnerability, disasters are minimized. So how can we minimize vulnerability? We know that use of modern agricultural practices is not widespread in the region, so it may be difficult right now to increase production and productivity. So capacity at all levels is a question.

There was also a mention of Bambasi as excess producing, but also as vulnerable. This means the livelihoods of the people are not diversified. I think this should be included in the region's strategic plan because it gives the people the ability to cope up somehow if a crop fails.

Areas with erratic rainfall have to be treated separately in the strategy. Water harvesting and other livelihood options should be considered as appropriate for different woredas. Relevant GOs, as well as NGOs should take part in this for a holistic approach and maximized impact.

*When the region designed its food security and strategy program, it had looked into most issues raised here. The problem was it took a long time to be implemented. The severity of the problem now may be different from the time the program was designed about 6 years ago. Maybe the program needs revising.

And to share some information, the region has now prepared an action plan for a regional climate change adaptation program in cooperation with various stakeholders. It will be implemented as soon as it is approved by the federal environmental protection authority. There was also a program designed by ActionAid regarding participatory vulnerability analysis (PVA) at all levels. There were also implementation attempts for example in Kamashi. That is to deal with vulnerability to ensure food security. Information from all these were included in the adoption program mentioned earlier.

I also want to talk about wild fires as it concerns my office. We have prepared a regional wild fires prevention strategy and had it approved by the regional cabinet, then we



prepared technical manuals and worked out the organizational structure. Our target is to prevent at least 50 per cent of the wild fire incidences in the region in the next two or three years. If this proves successful, it will solve multifaceted problems.

*This network is very useful for us. At regional level we are starting a new project entitled Benishangul Gumuz Food Security as Economic Growth project. It is a five year project funded by SIDA. So we hope to learn form others' experiences and also in due process share our own.

*We know that animals die a lot in Assossa and its surroundings. There are hot spot Tsetse/Trypanosomiasis areas. In areas we visited the farmers say the problem is now serious because the vaccination that used to be given was not available last year. There are methods of prevention like traps and zero-grazing. I want to know if there are any points related to these.

*I want to emphasize the need to harmonize our activities with government plans. My question is to what extents are our activities participatory (inclusive) of the people. The society should know and accept our activities. For example, earlier it was said that a committee was formed to deal with wild fires. But should this not be the work of the community? Experience form Bale shows that the community could control wild fires. Related to this, we know there are broad-based soil and water conservation campaigns in Harar and Tigray. Why don't we try these here?

* My first question is to know if there are any things done to involve the people and conserve soil and water in the region. My second question relates to the current resettlement program: is it based on adequate studies? Farmers are heard complaining about lack of services like water and health. A recent study by the World Bank at Kamashi found that an area meant for 200 people held only 60. Even the 60 who agreed to resettle there believing a promise made, are now planning to leave the area as the promises never materialized.



*A common thing is when for example sorghum or maize crop fails, or when some livestock type dies of diseases, we say we are starving. However when foreigners visit these same areas, they are surprised that people are starving. For example, I remember once I went to an area in Jimma with a Japanese. That area was reported to have faced starvation. The Japanese visited a nearby forest and indicated several shrubs and tree types as edible. There are also traditional coping mechanisms. For example the Berta people eat roots and wild fruits to survive harsh seasons. A few years ago, I heard that there are people who eat monkeys. That is very good. Such experience should be promoted. Are there any attempts to do this? Are there any studies conducted to identify any additional edible animals?

Responses

I will try to respond to the question by merging similar ones.

- First the region's five year plan includes emergency humanitarian responses. It is also handled by the early warning response business process, following the implementation of the new BPR. The response is planned up to woreda levels. If the extent of the disaster is up to 25% it can be handled by the kebele. If it is greater it goes up to woreda, Zone, etc and when it reaches regional level measures are put. Resource clearly plays a major role here. But we have no resources for this. So as I mentioned earlier we have alternatives like the "*one birr for one compatriot*" scheme, and the one I mentioned about Komo people. What is not included in the plan is the part to be played by sector offices. Sirba-Abay and Kurmuk have good experiences of participatory planning. They involve sectoral bureaus. They also attempt to include the community. What we try to do is start from the vision of our bureau. We think of what we can do if disasters strike. We think of contingency plans. We also think of source of funds. We think of both natural and human induced disasters. So when there occurred a conflict between Gumuz and some people in Oromia, we used money reserved for contingency to deal with the problem.



Another question relates to our bureau and NGOs. Now we no longer have the mandate to deal with new NGOs, as that mandate has now gone to the finance and economy bureau. But there are now indications that we need to be involved. When we do, we will definitely consider the question of duplication of efforts and work towards the common goal of ensuring food security for our people.

Another point relates to animal diseases. I have noticed something during pre and post harvests. One question to raise is the way we manage our domestic animals. How well do we feed them? These animals have practically no resistance should a disease occur. Recently, many animals died in Assosa. The main cause of the disease was their nutritional status. They have no grazing land. The disease was what is known as “foot-and-mouth” disease. Now professionals are giving trainings to DAs and technicians. There are endemic as well as epidemic diseases. Trypanosomiasis could be controlled by our capacity, so now we have labeled it as an outbreak.

In Assosa in some areas maize and sorghum are being avoided because the soil acidity has increased. The soil has to be rehabilitated by gypsum application, which demands resources, which we do not have.

Our people have coping mechanisms. One example is using bamboo shoots, which helps a lot to survive harsh seasons. This experience of wide food is now facing serious challenges because of the wild fires. People used to have bamboo trees at their door steps, now they have to walk hours to get them.

**What we have to think of now is ways of changing these ideas raised here into workable activities and strategies. Otherwise all our efforts could be fruitless. We need to think of which ideas could be applied by whom, how, etc. Most ideas raised here relate to emergencies. But we have to remember that emergency is only one part of our efforts to ensure food security. There are other equally relevant issues.



Having said that let me talk on the lack of resources raised repeatedly. The question is: is it really lack of resources that is our major problem, or is there something else? What I have come to notice is that resources are not a major problem. This is because we are seeing that what we try using available resources are failing. Reports we write also usually focus on lack of resources. But when those demands are fulfilled, it is proved that sources are not the issue. I can give your practical examples of this. I am not trying to say resources are not needed, never. What I am saying is the main problem is lack of commitment and capacity.

Let me give up a practical example. Irrigation is a great idea. It was believed to radically change agriculture at all levels. It was therefore attempted using water pumps, diversion, etc. to implement it here. It was a project coordinated by the food security office. Water engineers and agriculture experts were involved; there was not shortage of funds whatsoever, 100 per cent was granted immediately following the request (1.6 million birr). But if you ask which of these was successful, the answer is none. Nothing came out which is practicable. Then a kind of action research was conducted to determine whether or not resource was a reason. Even now 65,000 hectares of land are planned to be developed in the next 5 years. Now there may be lack of funds. But even a few hundreds could not be developed with full resource. This is one experience we want to share with you. Any level of education is meaningless if no change comes out of it. One of the challenges in light of the Paris declaration is the in ability to use resources. So let us not unjustifiably use lack of resources to be behind every lack of progress.

Practicality should be our guide. Learning from others and experimenting helps. For example the idea of participatory vulnerability analysis is a nice one. It was tried in four woredas. Communities had participated in it. It was used during planning and budgeting. When other NGOs come instead of spending on surveys and studies they could use that. Kombolcha and Seru in Oromia are now exercising this. All this sprang from the Benishangul experience (There are activates that can be carried out at community level).



That experience was then shared with all the 20 woreda at a big workshop. The same thing can be done in all other areas.

Another point raised was contingency and safety net. Nationally there are justifications given for the need for these in certain areas. Emergency types, frequency and population size are considered. It is at four or five spots that we find reserves. It is possible to mobilize emergency relief from these spots. There is also a question of priorities. What is more serious is the question of translating ideas into practice and scaling up others' workable practices. If there are areas thought or known to be community priorities they can be worked on. Therefore just having a five year document is not enough. We need to have yearly practicable action plans. The focus should be on specific, meaningful areas that could bring about changes in the lives of the people. Ideas should be changed to plans and tried on the ground. Local priorities should be addressed. That is why we mentioned the Paris Declaration. All of us, GOs as well as NGOs, should work in cooperation. Such workshops are prepared to fill technical gaps.

*My first question is when a strategy designed 5 years ago is implemented now, how are possible changes seen? Secondly, can we reasonably expect changes within the five years? If we look at the women's policy as an example, it was designed in 1986 E.C. Now everything is done based on that. A common question raised is related to recency. The answer given at federal level is that the policy can serve as a framework. Minor adjustments can be made based on changes. Is the food security strategy of our region workable in the current situation?

*Our region is currently suffering from human induced disasters. Think of bamboo trees. They are disappearing now. The Gumuz as well as the Beta people were using them. The question is what can we do now to rehabilitate the forests? As mentioned earlier our lack of commitment is playing a major role in this. How can we, as GO and NGOs, work in this area? How can we issue laws? How can we stop this serious problem? We need to focus on this.



*I believe this network brings GOs and NGOs together so that they learn from one another regarding issues related to food security and environment .I expect it to allocate jobs or activities to different organizations based on their areas. Who is doing what should be detailed. This will make assignments of tasks, monitoring, evaluation and reporting easily.

*We all have attitude problems. We think resource is always the money we get from the government or NGOs. We do not think the people themselves as resources. There are regions which are using the people more than the finances. People who are convinced, who are ready to cooperate, who have accepted the change, and who understand the pain can be a tremendous wealth. How did the people of Harar, Bale and Wollo manage to feel the pain and mobilized themselves? These should be a lesson for all of us. All offices up to the regional heads need to be involved in this. This requires political commitment.

Budget allocation is another problem. What is sucking up our budget? It is usually a lot of trainings. How are we managing wastage?

*This region has resources like land. In fact the population density is not big. But a major concern is the level of interest or the status of the tradition of work. We have repeatedly heard of the need to involve the community. But is this the mandate of our network? In addition, although the idea is good, involving the community is not simple. It takes a long time. It has to be done by Kebeles because they are closer to the people. We can only support them. It may regime short and long, formal and informal education and training, but the people should be made to feel the pain. Technical capacity at kebele level should be built. Now the government is organizing development teams involving several households. So we can channel our capacity building intervention resources to them.

ActionAid participated in studies. Has it participated in implantation? Projects have live-span. So do NGOs. So the real focus should be on the people.



We are living in dynamic world. Things are changing all the time. A study conducted five years ago cannot be the basis for this year's intervention activities. By the way the region's PIP has been revised to consider recent changes. For example, in the previous document, bamboo coverage of the area was huge. Now we can't think of that. The reality has changed. Bamboo processing plants are becoming like mills where there are no grains. So the strategy now is to focus on rehabilitating the forests.

III. CONCEPTS OF EARLY WARNING SYSTEM (EWS) AND DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT (DRM)

What is EWS?

Early warning system (EWS) is defined as a system established to monitor and warn of the threat of disasters ahead of time, trigger timely, appropriate, preventive measures

Early warning incorporates two important words/elements: "early" and "warning". *Early* implies that time is an important factor in the activity; *Warning*, on the other hand, shows that the information is on an impending danger.

Therefore, the system is viewed as a mechanism for early identification of situations which could lead to food shortages, so that measures for intervention could be planned and taken on time.

Objectives of the EWS. Early warning system is the corner stone of the national policy on disaster prevention and management. Its primary objective is to regular monitor the food supply situation in the country, identify surplus and deficit producing areas, detect the likelihood of disasters as early as possible, provide warning about impending disasters in a given area so that the necessary preparedness measures can be taken ahead of time, provide estimates to prospective beneficiaries of food shortages and the quantity of assistance required, conducted disasters area assessments upon request from concerned body, identify causes, extent and effects of a disaster, determine the forms, types and magnitude of needs and determine the duration of assistance. And identify causes of disaster and initiate developmental activities for elimination of the root causes of the problem

Food supply system (FSS) in Ethiopia

A food supply system is defined as a system which links together factors that determine production, distribution, and consumption. In Ethiopia there are three major food supply systems: the subsistence crop dependent food supply system, the market dependent food supply system and the livestock dependent food supply system



Regular Monitoring System. There are structures that are established at all levels (Kebele, Woreda, Zone, Region and Federal) to monitor the FS status. These structures are responsible to collect the FS status on a monthly basis. Information on acute FI are collected at AEZ and analyzed at all levels

Types of data collected under the RMS

Climatic data (onset and cessation, amount and distribution)

Crop performance: land preparation and planting, cultivated and planted areas major food and cash crops planted, performance of each crop, availability of agriculture inputs and usage, incidence of pests, types of pests and its impact on crops, etc.

Livestock Performance: head size and quality, physical condition of LS, reported death of livestock, main cause of death, reported types of LS diseases, affected areas, types of control measure taken, and availability of pasture and water

Market performance: Supply status (crops and LS), Prices of major FC and LS, Market proximity, etc.

Health, Nutrition and Education: Human health condition, reported types of diseases status of malnutrition, death reports, affected areas, schools closed, children drop-out from schools

Sources of Information: GOs. NGOs, UN agencies, etc.

Flow of Information: Kebele, Woreda, Zone, Region .Reports are sent on a weekly and monthly basis. Feed backs are communicated at each level (EWUs)

Types of Assessments: Seasonal (*meher, belg* and pastoral), disaster and emergency nutrition area as required. These are followed by analysis, reporting and dissemination.

Strength of the RMS

- Identification of areas
- Collaboration among stake holders and sectors
- Government commitment to establishes structures at woreda levels

Weakness and limitation

- Untimely flow of information
- Poor quality
- Reporting status /not as required / less coverage
- Lack of good baseline information
- Lake of vehicle and motor bicycle for early warning data collection



Disaster Risk Management (DRM)

WHAT IS DISASTR?

Disaster= Hazard + Vulnerability

Disaster can be Natural or Man made. It can also be classified based on “set” as rapid on set disaster and slow on set disaster

The terms of reference of the earlier EWWG was rewritten in 2009 resulting in formation of the DRMTWG

Rationale for Establishing the DRMTWG

- coordinated early warning systems were sector-focused
- EWS mainly food focused and reactive to disasters
- Realign the EWWG with the policy/strategy level shift to the DRM approach
- a need for a multi-hazard DRM approach

The goal of the DRMTWG

- to assist DRMFSS-EWRD to ensure effective implementation of the multi-hazards and multi-sectoral activities through a DRM approach by
 - addressing all elements of the DM cycle contextually, including hazard assessment and mapping, vulnerability and risk analysis and
 - enhanced preparedness for providing timely and appropriate response, mitigation, prevention and recovery.
- provides platform to support national disaster risk management strategies and institutions.

Objectives of the DRMTWG

- Support the development and the implementation of the national DRM plan in line with the HFA Priority Areas;
- Support the implementation of decentralized, all-hazard, multi-sectoral Vulnerability/Risk Profile-based DRM;
- Coordinate and support proactive risk and needs assessments and analysis through improved EW and contingency planning;
- Support the generation of risk financing triggers for scaling up PSNP;

Objectives of the DRMTWG

- Support and enhance prevention and mitigation efforts to reduce underlying risks and vulnerability;
- Capacity strengthening of institutions for enhanced emergency preparedness and response;
- Promote linkage of emergency relief to recovery and development;
- Maintain efforts to prepare for, identify and coordinate the response to disasters
- ensuring greater predictability and accountability in DRM;

Some of the Suggested Activities



- Produce a joint work plan outlining all activities under the DM cycle encompassing all stakeholders interested in DRM.
- Support development of operational framework, plan, guidelines, tools and training materials for DRM implementation
- Provide platform for technical discussion and coordination for different initiatives already underway
- Ensure development of Contingency Planning and information sharing
- Assist in the triggering of risk finance
- Support the mapping of DRM activities at national and regional level to identify the gaps
- Support capacity in the decentralization of the DRM to regional and PA level
- Support the woreda profiling pilot and scale up
- Advocate funding for the DRM activities

Operational Framework

- the Head of DRMFSS /EWRD chairs the DRMTWG
- the secretariat in consultation with the Chair shall call meetings
- membership is open to government and non-government agencies and organizations that have interest and capability in DRM, food security and lives and livelihood protection
- Chairs of the sectoral taskforces are members
- individual agencies will have a designated focal person

IV. THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON MDGs, AND PASDEP IMPLEMENTATION IN ETHIOPIA

Prepared by PANE/BG

Climate change is defined as a *long-term change* in the statistical distribution of weather. In recent usage, especially in the context of **environmental policy**, climate change usually refers to changes in modern climate, more generally known as global warming or anthropogenic global warming (man made). Climate change may be limited to a specific region, or may occur across the whole earth.

Causes of Climate change are climate forcing (variations in solar radiation, deviations in the earth orbit, continental drift and changes in green house concentration), natural variability (interactions among the atmosphere, ocean, and land, as well as changes in the amount of solar radiation), and human induced changes (certain naturally occurring gases, such as carbon dioxide (CO₂) and water vapor (H₂O), trap heat in the atmosphere causing a greenhouse effect)



Evidences for climate change are records of surface temperature and changes in vegetation, ice cores, sea level and glacial geology (indirect indicators)

The Millennium Development Goals are a UN initiative. They originated from the millennium declaration produced by the UN. MDGs encourage development by improving social and economic conditions in the world's poorest countries. They derive from earlier international development targets.

Goals of the Millennium development

MDGs are eight. These are: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, Achieve universal primary education, Promote gender equality and empower women, Reduce child mortality rate, Improve maternal health, Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases, Ensure environmental sustainability, and Develop a global partnership for development. These goals have targets under them ranging from one up to six.

III- The Impact of Climate Change on MDGs in Ethiopia

Goal 1: Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger by 2015(1190-2015)(targets)

Facts related to Ethiopia

- 1) There exists a high correlation among climate change, drought and poverty
- 2) Temperature will increase in the range of 0.9 -1.1 °C by 2030, in the range of 1.7 - 2.1 °C by 2050 and in the range of 2.7-3.4 °C by 2080 over Ethiopia compared to the 1961-1990 normal

For instance climate change is projected to reduce yields of the wheat staple crop in Ethiopia by 33% (FDRE 2007).

2) Highly dependent on the agricultural sector for income, foreign currency, and food security,

3) The sector is dominated by small-scale farmers who employ largely rain-fed and traditional practices

- Possible effects of climate change on Ethiopia's efforts to eradicating extreme poverty and hunger by 2015 are-

- ✚ Climate change induced hunger and malnourishment diminishes the ability of the poor to learn, work, and care for themselves and their family members.



- ✚ Loss of harvest and livestock due to cycles of drought create poverty traps for many households, constantly thwarting efforts to build up assets and increase income
- ✚ have a direct effect on foreign exchange earning, employment and GDP.
- ✚ survival strategies adopted by poor people to cope with a changing climate may damage their long-term development prospects
- ✚ frequent extreme weather Vs shorter periods to recover which results in pushing the poor in to a poverty-trap

Goal 2: Achieve Universal Primary Education (UPE)(Targets)

- 61.6% 79.8% 91.3% 109% (% increase from 2004/05 Base Year)

The possible impacts of climate change in meeting MDG goal -2 in Ethiopia are:-

- Climate change induced drought and famine, may force children to engage in paid employment than attend school.
- Climate change related diseases like malaria affects children's regular attendance of school
- Malnutrition as a result of drought and famine is seen affecting children's ability to effectively attend school
- Reduction in GDP due to loss of agricultural products severely curtail governments ability to provide primary education for all
- Infrastructure like roads and school buildings may be affected by flood and natural calamities which directly affect school attendance.

Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women

Some of the effects of climate change in promoting gender equality and empower women are summarized as follows.

- 2015(Girls /boys ratio) 0.87 0.90 0.97

Possible Effects of climate change observed on Goal-3

- In times of extreme stress, men often migrate leaving women and girls behind to cope with increased domestic and work burdens.
- More work burdens, women's health, and time available to participate in decision-making processes and other income generating activities is reduced.



- Existence of high gender inequality, Women farmers are often first to lose their livelihoods in and last to find new work in formal sectors.
- Drought induced water loss increases time spend to fetch water women and girls in many rural societies now spend up to three hours per day collecting water and firewood, their opportunities to participate in wage earning activities are decreasing
- Erratic weather causes women to spend more time gathering food, which means less time for education, personal, and family life.
- Women are highly vulnerable to disasters include lack of means and assets to ensure their own safety in situations of flooding, landslides and storms
- Without secure access to and control over natural resources (Land, water, livestock, trees) women are less likely to be able to cope with permanent climatic change
- Women suffer health effects both from increased work load, as well as walking distances in search for fuel wood
- For women, unequal gendered divisions of labor, decision-making power and access to resources have resulted in a widespread “*feminization of poverty*”

Goal 4: Reduce Child mortality (targets)

1990- 2015, the under-five mortality rate 167/1000 140/1000 123/1000 85/1000

Some of the effects of climate change on child mortality are:-

- The impact of climate change on water supplies is likely to increase cases of diarrhea which claims the lives of nearly two million children every year.
- Malaria’s endemicity and epidemicity are impacted by climate and it is already the second leading cause of death in the world for 5-14 year olds

Goal 5 – Improve Maternal Health (targets)

between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio 871/100,000 673/100,000 600/100,000

Climate variability has its own effects on improvement of maternal health. Below summarized some of these effects:-

- Loss of food production and nutrition, affecting pregnant women and the fetal development



- Pregnant women are more likely to contract and die from malaria, a disease whose endemicity and epidemicity are impacted by climate
- Climate change, through geographic changes in weather patterns, rainfall and temperature, is predicted to increase dramatically the extent and prevalence of some vector borne diseases such as malaria and dengue fever.
- Floods and droughts may result in declining quantity and quality of drinking water, which is a prerequisite for good health and prevention of maternal mortality

Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Other Diseases

7.3% of prevalence) 3.5% (prevalence)

As climate change induced global warming increases, and becomes clearer that it will lead serious impacts on human health. Some of the impacts include:-

- Insects and rodent population's increased. This in turn will affect diseases such as asthma as well as increase the range of vector borne parasitic diseases like malaria and leishmaniasis
- Food borne diseases are likely to increase as a result of warmer temperatures
- Waterborne diseases may also increase because of extra demands on diminished water supplies which will in turn increase the risk of contaminated supplies reaching the public
- Climate change related disasters can also drain public resources for health care
- The increased prevalence of climate-related diseases would add new stresses to health systems already overwhelmed by HIV/AIDS

Goal 7: Ensure Environmental Sustainability

safe drinking water 42% 47.2% 87%

reduce slum areas-70% 35%

Some of climate change induced effects on EES are:-

- Water supplies are expected to drastically decrease in many poor countries
- Patterns of precipitation and runoff are likely to change substantially with rain arriving in fewer, heavier events that will lead to more floods and dry spells
- Ground water recharge will diminish, making it more difficult to improve access to safe water



- Slum dwellers will be particularly vulnerable to climate change, since many of the slums are located in areas at risks from floods.

Goal 8: Develop Global Partnership for Development

IV-Impacts of climate change in sectors indicated in PASDEP

5.1. Agriculture and Rural Development

Impacts of climate change on agriculture and rural development are manifested in the form of Shortening of maturity period and decrease in crop yield; change in livestock feed availability; effects on animal health, growth and reproduction; reduced quality and quantity of forage crops; change in distribution of diseases; change in income and prices; contracting pastoral zones in many parts of the country; and expansion of desertification

5.2. Water Resources Development

Decrease in river flow might cause small streams to dry up completely, and the magnitude of flow of the medium to large rivers will decrease significantly.

The supply of drinking water for humans and livestock depends mainly on river flow, so a decrease in the flow will have a severe impact

Uneven distribution of rainfall and a decrease in or total failure of rainfall will cause crops to fail

Flood in agricultural fields and human settlements exacerbate the problem.

5.3. Health and HIV/AIDS

Climate change is projected to cause encroachment of malaria from lower to higher altitudes High correlation is also observed between children who were born in a drought year and high incidence of stunted (under developed) births.

5.4. Energy

Losses or changes will occur in hydropower potential for electricity generation and the effects of increased runoff (and consequent siltation) will grow; growth rates of trees used for fuel wood results in energy poverty; and soil erosion and sedimentation affect reservoirs

5.5. Education

Impacts here are associated with infrastructure loss

5.6. Infrastructural development



Risks of infrastructure failure will increase damage to communication, road and other infrastructure by floods

5.7. Biodiversity and Tourism

Affects supply of clean water, pure air, soil formation, and protection, pollination, crop pest control, and the provision of foods, fuel, fibers and drugs

5.8. Mining

Water scarcity can impact production rates, dust suppression activities, mine drainage composition, and the covering of tailing ponds, and exacerbate acid rock drainage which potentially impacts on water resources.

5.10. Population and Development

There will be increase in migration and displacement of people affected; people will be affected due to health related impacts such as emergence of new vector-borne diseases; there will be increase in hunger and malnutrition in communities; and people living in low elevations will be exposed to floods and scarcity of water.

5.11. Children

Every year more than 3 million children under the age of five die from environmentally linked diseases, including diarrhea ailments linked to water accessibility, respiratory illnesses and malaria, which thrives on heat and humidity.

5.12. Women

Erratic weather causes women to spend more time gathering food, which means less time for education, personal, and family life. Lack of means and assets to ensure their own safety in situations of flooding, landslides and storms

With changes in climate, traditional food sources become more unpredictable and scarce. This exposes women to loss of harvests, often their sole sources of food and income

5.13. Pastoralist Livelihoods and Development

IV- Conclusion and recommendations

- Adopting the MDGs to the local context is crucial to enhance development
- Urgent need to localize the MDGs to the local context through formulation of a comprehensive development plan
- Urgent policies are needed to “climate proof” agricultural production, natural resource, and environmental policies, in order to develop new production systems such as farming conservation,
- There is the need to promote drought and high temperature-tolerant crops, and improve social safety nets for smallholder farmers
- Different time setting and approach are needed for different regions for the achievement of universal primary schooling in 2015



- **Scaling-up opportunities**

Women specific knowledge about biodiversity, crop diversification, alternative cultivation methods etc. requires due attention; improved infrastructure will reduce the time burden for women and young girls; broad-based agricultural development will empower smallholder farmers, who are predominantly women

Reducing child mortality not only needs intensive external financing for programs, and sustained attention to staffing and service delivery reforms but also implementation of climate change adaptation mechanisms and response systems.

In order to address the goal of combating HIV/AIDS malaria and other diseases implementing a long-term climate change sensitive multi-stakeholder, multi-sectoral and gender-sensitive approach, based on national AIDS plans is very necessary

Prevention and treatment programmes of HIV/AIDS must explicitly address the climate change issues that make some groups more vulnerable.

Strong community leadership, can help generate locally acceptable responses to climate caused diseases and to address disorganized, overwhelmed and grievously under funded health systems

Improving environmental policies and mitigating the environmental impacts of sectoral policies are an integral element of the strategy for achieving the MDG 7; better integration of sectoral policies may be the fastest route to environmental sustainability. Challenges posed by climate change and natural disasters further increase the need for regional cooperation and integration in areas of economic policy, infrastructure, research, and the management of trans-boundary river basins.

There is a need for building institutional capacity for monitoring, evaluation of feedbacks and review to track outputs and outcomes ,coordinate donor supports and improving institutional arrangements for monitoring climate change impacts and adaptation

There is a need for understanding the impacts of climate change also in terms of costs of the impacts. This is to ensure future policy decisions for poverty reduction are made based on evidences

Awareness levels related to climate change issues are key to successful adaptation. Hence, sufficient attention and strong efforts have to be made in order to disseminate relevant information.

There is an immediate and urgent need for establishing and strengthening ' Agency for Research on Climate and Environment'.

Mainstreaming and integration of climate change into national development plans, sectoral policies and programmes is very crucial to address the impacts of climate change

Funding for climate change research has to be sufficiently increased and also diversified to include public, private and community support



Enhanced collaboration between different actors including government ministries, regional governments, research agencies, universities, private sector, civil society and donor agencies is a necessity

Enhancement of the participation of the different stakeholders in decision making, at all levels, on climate change and development issues is essential for a country development

“Climate change as an opportunity and challenge for the MDGs”
“MDGs as a challenge and opportunity to climate change”

Comments and Questions

Climate change is a serious issue. An issue which is currently circulating is the issue of carbon trading. What can we do in this regard to benefit the community? Wild fires are destroying forests; there are acid rains, acidic soils- handling all there is costly. So what can this network do in light of the presentation. Talking as a forester, the Sahara belt around Kurmuk and Guba is widening. In five to ten years the Sudan belt will reach them. Currently, loss of trees is visible in the amount of dust. So what can the network do?

*I was in Kamashi ten years ago. I was there last week, and I could tell the change in climate. In Assosa we did not have malaria ten years ago. We talk of rehabilitating forests, but we are not talking of the effect of investment on forests. In Metekel bamboo trees are disappearing. Assosa and Kamashi are feeling the heat. Land given to investors is usually covered by forests. Trees are then felled and burnt down. It is good to think of the other side. There are some attempts on planting tree seedlings of eucalyptus. But is the idea of using or planting climate friendly trees being considered? What should we expect ten years from now?

*Climate change is presented as an obstacle in our attempts to attain the MDGs and GTP. Climate change is a global issue. So although we may not have a problem of a carbon emission at Benishangul, as part of the global community, we are affected by it. Countries have developed at the expense of the environment. That is why carbon-trading is now an issue. So although we are operating in Benishangul, what should our strategy look like in networking with other similar bodies?

*Investment surely is a challenge to the environment. Clearing large areas of land is common. If you visit odabildigilu, Guba and Metekel, you will be shocked. Related to DRM, investment offices do not communicate with other relevant bodies and discuss environmental repercussions. Investment, environment and food security are linked. Previously untouched forests and being cut down. One of the objectives of this workshop should be to think of what we can do in the future.



*What is expected from our network? We work individually, but we also need to work together. We have to consider the issues raised seriously. We can do advocacy work. As long as our focus is on development, there will be no problem. Dialogues could be established with government bodies. This supports government plans.

*Ethiopia's natural resources are fragile. Poverty is an issue. The poor life style of our people is affecting the environment both directly and indirectly. There is no pattern of use. I work for EPLAUP and I know that the rural land use policy was issued only last year, while in Amhara and Oromia it was issued in the late 1980's E.C. Poverty clearly has impacts on natural resources utilization. Land allocation used to be a problem in our region. Investors used to come, talk to the board, get their investment licences, go to kebeles and take land. They made commitments but the follow up was poor. That has affected the environment. The points and concerns raised here are justified. A month ago we tried to conduct a survey of land use (SWAT). The situation is alarming. In Guba, at the border with Sudan, investors clear the forest, produce and export charcoal. That was because there was no planned land administration. Now things are changing. Now the investment office can not give land, because the land use bureau has been given the mandate. Investors sign contracts with the bureau; if they do not stick to criteria in the contract, they lose the land.

Our farmers use shifting cultivation. Recent trends indicate increase in frequency of the shifting. When they shift they burn forests. This increases carbon release to the environment. To change these farmers should be made aware of improved agricultural practices, use improved inputs and stay on the same land for a long time. Is there anything planned in this regard? (Especially NGOs)

*I have about three points. First we need to have tangible data on the local situation regarding the damage. Secondly, every strategy related to food security and environment should help tackle the damage. If they exist already, it is good, but if they don't, we need to think of this because they can guide us. Thirdly, there is a debate whether **Goal 1** of the MDG (reducing hunger and poverty by half) can be achieved. What is our contribution? The debate revolves around the fact that agriculture depends highly on nature. This is an obstacle. A way out is changing the agriculture system and diversify production. We need to bring innovative ideas, local experiences etc. and scale them up. This is one thing this network can do.

Another point is investment. Investments bring about development, but they affect the environment. We need to strike a balance. Sometimes we need to choose. In the context of Benishangul, is the only investment clearing lands and ploughing? Are there not other alternatives? These ideas are included in the strategic document. Using the forest and the resources inside is an option. The trend now however is wide spread forest destruction. Innovative ideas and lobbying should be focused on; we need to try to influence decision as a network.

Responses, Reactions and Further Comments



*One area of NGO intervention is minimizing the vulnerability of the community. We need to enhance the adaptive capacity of the people. Climate change is unavoidable. It expresses itself in a number of ways. There is a capacity related problem. So we need to deal with capacity as development partners. All GOs and NGOs together should work hard. There may be good policies, but if we can't enforce them, they may not make much sense. Sustainable agriculture, livestock, and forests related national adaptation plans of action exist. If there are regional level plans, we need to enforce them. One duty of this network could be influencing through dialogue and working towards the enforcement of policies.

Carbon finance was another issue raised. There are 3 elements in the Kyoto document.

1. Emission trading
2. Joint implementation
3. Clean development mechanism (CDM)

CDM is what concerns us. For example a company in a developed country where carbon emission is not allowed emits large amounts of carbon, but, proportionally, it supports environmental rehabilitation projects in other countries.

There is only one project in Ethiopia. World Vision Ethiopia has a project in SNNPRS. There was a workshop in Addis Ababa a few days ago World Vision, MOA, WB, Environment Protection authority were in participation. The project is on afforestation at a degraded area. The community was involved. And now they have been paid the first instalment. The payment is in proportion to the amount of carbon sequestered. The project is run by the community. About 10 candidate site have been identified. This is to say there are opportunities, but it is challenging and it needs commitment from the government. The community should own it. It is a lengthy process. There is also REDD (Reducing Emission from Deforestation and forest Degradation). We know that soil is a carbon emitter, and livestock production is also a methane emitter. Methane is a powerful green house gas. There is also an opportunity to invest and benefit from this. This will also take time and needs commitment. So this is an area that can be pursued through the network in the future in cooperation with government sectoral bureaus.

*I sense confusion here. This network sometimes sounds to be a planner, sometimes it appears to be trying to assign people to do different jobs. Mandate related issues do not create problem as who handles them is decided by proclamation. We need to focus more on sharing experiences. What have we done? What problems did we face? How did we handle them? What experience or insight did we get? Who can learn what from whom? etc.

Regarding climate change, we are not expected to plan anything, because a lot is being done. But we can discuss what is going on and what our role should be in that connection. There is IPCC (International Panel on Climate Change). It has been doing a



lot. It has put alternatives forward. These are carbon reduction, mitigation (sequestration) and adaptation. Governments are working on there proposal, you remember the Copenhagen Summit. So the issue is paid attention to at higher level. Finance is also discussed climate financing requires up to 100 billion dollars. You can get a lot of information from the internet. At Africa level there is NEPAD. Under NEPAD there is CAADEP (Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Plan) This is a climate change Programme. We can share these. Finance is also discussed. Climate financing requires up to 100 billion dollars you can get a lot of information from the internet. At Ethiopia level there is the Federal Environmental Protection Authority and the structure goes down to regions. This also can be shared here. The situation at community level could be shared by the environment protection bureau, which is the governmental body responsible for this.

We need to focus more on issues close to the ground. One thing we can easily do is adaptation. Then we can think of mitigation. Estimation has bean done for East Africa (Ethiopia, Kenya, Somaliland, and Eritrea) for 50 years, including the temperature changes, crop production type-have been calculated. We can think of our share of that at woreda level. The figures are only forecasts. But they are better than nothing. So can we use this informant at woreda level? There are also research findings that can go with these changes. If we work on this line, we can solve problems. Climate change is hazard emergency as well as long term development. one body we can involve in this effort is meteorology bureau. This may be handled by the agriculture or the early warnings bureau. If we can get a 30 year forecast we can feed this to communities so that they can adopt and cope with problems.

Secondly, personal observation of climate change in Kamashi was motioned. But this has to be assessed properly. If this house believes in the assessment, it can do it. If it is already done it has to be shared. At community level, awareness and adaptation related jobs have to be done. Then we can share experiences.



Regarding carbon trading, if you think it is worth looking into, try it. You can either go to A.A. to World Vision or even go to southern Ethiopia to the community itself to get first hand information. When you do that, focus on the challenges also. Think if it can be practical in this region. Bodies concerned could go there and get the experience that will help them decide whether or not to try it. It doesn't cost much. This network can accommodate these issues. If there is a targeted skill, you either go to the skill or bring the skilled person here. As long as it is to fill technical gaps and build capacity it can be tried try it. If it works, good , if it doesn't learn from it. There is no need to fear failures. If you also think there is a need to conduct climate change assessment, and if it has not been done already, you can do it. But do it only if there are information gaps. You can then give it a regional shape. Both GOs and NGOs can think of this. From ideas raised here on can sense the gap in information. We all need to know who is doing what. The focus then should be on practical sharing of experiences.

* We have seen that the environment is in danger. The community is poor. So what may happen tomorrow is a worry for all concerned. We need to act, and act quick. This network has double accountability. All we are hearing is about policies. But if these are not put into action, it is a problem. The danger is getting more serious by the day.

* Such networks help the government. They are like mirrors. They can even force policy changes. But they have to be strengthened. Stakeholders have to be serious. For example the focal persons should not be changed every time there are meetings, because anew person has to learn every thing from scratch.

* The focus on indigenous knowledge is good. My question is regarding the women. How is the possibility or chance of replicability? Can others do it?

* I want to say that what we know in theory is practical with the farmer. We have to give credit to that. I also know something similar to that in areas like Kombolcha. They use their oxen for ploughing, and when the *tse tse* season comes, they sell them.



V. ActionAid Ethiopia

INTRODUCTION

ActionAid is an anti-poverty agency that works around 47 countries across Africa, Asia, America and Europe

It implements development programs in partnership with poor people and their institutions, government bodies and non-governmental organizations that operate at various levels

It has been operating in Ethiopia since 1989 mainly in six regional states and other urban and pastoralists' areas where the majority of the people lack basic necessities

ActionAid focuses on strengthening poor people's and their organizations' capability to own and lead their own development

VISION: A poverty free Ethiopia where women and men realize their potential and live in dignity and prosperity.

MISSION: To work in genuine partnership with poor women and men to eradicate absolute poverty.

Mission Objectives:

1. Develop the capabilities of poor women and men to secure sustainable livelihoods.
2. Enhance collective capacity to respond to the needs of poor people through working with development partners and stakeholders

VALUES:

1. Courage of conviction
2. Equity and justice
3. Integrity
4. Solidarity with poor people
5. Mutual Respect and Trust
6. Quality
7. Humility
8. Independence

KEY PRIORITIES

1. Food Security & Emergency Response: Crop development (especially small-scale irrigation), Livestock development, Co-operative movement, and Emergency response.
2. Education: Strengthen ACCESS, Promote adult literacy(REFLECT), and Promote education quality
3. Primary Health Care and HIV/AIDS: Promote Community Based Aids Program (CBAP) model to mitigate the impacts of HIV/AIDS, and Provision of safe water and sanitation
4. Women Development: Women Economic Empowerment, and Actions Against Harmful Traditional Practices (HTPs)



Core Strategies:

Participation: Genuine participation of people; especially the poor

Addressing Immediate and Basic Needs: acting to address the immediate needs of communities with whom we work.

Capacity Building: capacitating poor people to deal with poverty and its causes through sharing skills, knowledge and resources

Partnership and Networking: developing partnerships with Government, NGOs, academic and research organizations, CBOs etc.

Knowledge generation, Documentation and Sharing: generating knowledge through conducting action researches, program appraisals, assessments, case studies and participatory review and reflection processes with communities and partners.

ActionAid has its own strategy for ensuring transparency, information sharing, accountability and collective decision making among the partners and stakeholders regarding development interventions that it carries out Participatory Review and Reflection Process (PRRP).

Participatory Review and Reflection Process (PRRP) is a key instrument for monitoring, evaluation, and shared learning activities. It is conducted twice a year at three levels.

The practice of documenting and sharing of the outputs of PRRP helps us to see our gaps and also for our future planning.

ActionAid suggests this strategy be scaled up and sold out to partners and stakeholders

Testimonies from reached communities & partners as well as internal & external evaluations/reviews made to various development programs revealed that concrete & positive changes are observed in the lives of the people as a result of the interventions.

Questions, Answers and Discussion

Q.

* Can you talk on organizational problems, especially regarding women? Experience so far shows not more than two out of 40 are successful. Funds (global) are wasted. Most projects tend to fail because of poor organization, lack of the involvement of women. Women (approximately 99%) prefer to work alone, not in groups. Even in Kamashi, women come together to form groups, but only for sharing of ideas. But actual operations are individual, and this proved successful. So how is his fact seen?

Firstly, we know that funds, although they come from western countries, are expiated to go down to the ground. But only little reaches the poor. Why, for example, is the focus only on goats? Is this the interest of the community? Is it based on surveys conducted? In other words, can we talk about community needs and actual practices?



Secondly, I think CRRP is a good idea. Sometimes projects are evaluated after a lot has been damaged. So to learn from successes as well as failures, this evaluation at different levels is essential.

Thirdly, addressing basic needs is presented as one of the strategies of ActionAid. How are the immediate needs of women, and gender issues in general, addressed?

*There are different views on organization. Are we doing this based on ICA rules? Is it participatory and based on community needs to create self-reliance, allowing gradual detachment from aid? We once had a case where women were organized outside of the rules, using the organizers' own knowledge, resources, wants and needs. Are we imposing our own ideas on the community?

* My question relates to CRRP. Is it any different from previous efforts? Can we talk of any tangible impacts? If there is any success, which strategy did contribute to this?

*We know ActionAid works a lot on food security. How do we prioritize needs? We have projects on goats and donkeys. If we think your projects are successful, we need to scale them up. In addition, can you say something in line with weaknesses and failures?

Moderator: We need to consider the regional context. We know there could never be 100 percent success. Therefore we expect failures, but we have to be able to learn from both aspects. We also need to distinguish between donor –driven and community-driven projects.

Responses, Reactions and Further Comments

Regarding organization, we do not have the mandate. There is a government body responsible for this, so we only involve technically, having advisory roles. We did observe problems in organization. There was no uniformity in income and interest as the membership was open. They were given about 30,000 birr, cash. There were those who were interested in receiving the money only.

Why focus on goats? It is their own preference. They do not have experience in other fields. They do not have business mentality. In short it is the potential of the area and their own interest. Regarding the revolving fund, they could not continuously save, so they generate income and save some for the revolving fund.

Regarding tangible changes, they themselves say they can now afford to send their children to school. They have managed to build assets, e.g. from two goats to about 14 or 15. The members used to be about 20; now they are about 32.



VI. PRESENTATION BY THE REGION'S OFFICE OF COOPERATIVES

General Points about the office of cooperatives

I have already touched up on many of the points I have prepared in the discussions on other issues. So I will try to make the presentation brief. May be I have to mention that we received the invitation to attend this workshop only two days ago. That, however, doesn't mean much as what we do is practically visible. Let me give you some general figures on the region.

- Number of certified cooperatives associations = 10+
- Associations in process of certification = 200 +
 - 8 unions established (3 credits on saving, 4 multipurpose 1 vegetable and fruits)
 - More than 2 unions already finished the steps to be recognized soon.

In total, we have over 10 unions in the region.

Recently we took part in a national conference of cooperative in Mekelle, and we were recognized as holding a better stand among both developed and emerging regions, including Addis Ababa and Dire Dawa.

The main problem of our association relates to capacity, and this is the major area we need assistance in. This problem of capacity mainly relates to finance for seed capital. The majority of our people are poor.

We are therefore inviting NGOs to help us fill the gap in Knowledge through short and long term trainings as well as tours both in the country and outside. That is what the people are demanding. We have stated that journey in the right direction but you need to support us. NGOs have to really understand this and help the people.

We process the applications of cooperatives following cooperatives sciences as we draw lesson from previous experiences. We follow ICA principle only. We try to force cooperatives.

Which are five four politics, ethnicity, and boundaries? (We can cooperative with Sudan, for example). If there are connection grounds ICA principles do not take boundaries as criteria I would like to reemphasize our demand for capacity related assistance four Ngo.

Having said that let me share with you our experience in two areas.

The first one is Oxfam GB in working with us and we are seeing tangible results.

As you all know Assosa and B/G region in general) is known for its oil seeds including sesame, ground nuts, haricot beans etc. (Cash Crops)



Cooperatives are basically formed to solve two basic problems which are common to developing countries. One problem is the absence of a fair market system, the other is the absence of fair financial systems.

The farmers have no spendable cash, nor do they have access to lending institutions ; or banks. It is the same with civil servants. Our banks serve the rich, not the poor. So the poor need to create their own finance systems or banks.

Access to loan means creation of capital and capital investment. Improving the marketing system creates a better market for the farmers to sell their products at better prices which in turn help increase the financial stand of the farmers. This leads to the possibility of using technology which improves productivity as well as product quality.

This is a way towards growth and development. People who have money, people who have saved, people who have benefited for the making system will create assets. But the key factor for all this to happen is the improvement of the two aspects I maintained above. If the market system favors speculators only ignoring the masses, and if the finance system favors only the rich, the masses lose.

So the farmers should be able to sell their products (may be with added values) for better prices. Until recently in this regard, in Assosa, not much was done people had to sell their products at whatever price the market offered, however unreasonable. It was just like throwing their products away. Later when the cooperatives were formed they proposed a new idea. Instead of simply selling the oil seeds, why don't we process them and sell the oil.

Oxfam GB was the first to respond to this call. They really brought the idea and offered their whole support including the preparation of the proposal and finding of donors. Following so many ups and downs again thanks to the unreserved support for Oxfam GB, we now have a factory with a capacity of processing 300 quintals of oil seeds. This agro processing factory is now fully operational and is producing up to 500 jerry cans of edible oil per day. Currently, we are awaiting clearance from the national standards authority to fully enter the market. Hopefully this will be done this week. Then the demand in the area will be covered.

You have to visit this big factory. We are using it as a training center and a tour site. This factory has multi purposes.

- It process about five types of oil seed
- It sells the residues for animal feed
- It empowers women (women are already organized and awaiting to take over the marketing process).
- It has a ground nuts processing machines (it is renting one to the ECX now)

This is the first practical example I want to share.

The second one a project we jointly executed with World Vision. It relates to mango. In Assosa, mango was a fruit which used to be excessively produced, at the same time



excessively wasted. Now mango is, so to speak, pure gold. What World Vision did was to find a market and come to us. What we did following this was to establish a cooperative union and hand them to World Vision.

To show the contrast, a kilo of mango used to be sold for 0.25 birr. But after the creation of the union it is sold for 1.60 birr. That is why we sometimes notice shortage of mangos in the market now.

Secondly, there are now steps being taken to start agro processing. In 22 cooperatives trainings are being given on manual processing of mango to produce juice, marmalade, beverages, etc. Now the trainers are getting ready to receive the machines and start the business at household level.

World Vision has used its own funds to also build a big modern cold chain for preserving of fruits. This cold chain will soon start to function.

Regarding the agro processing, we have agreed with an investor from Germany, who has receives 20 hectares of land to build a factory.

These two are tangible experiences worth sharing. In our office we refer to Oxfam GB and World Vision as “*developmental NGOs*”.

Another experience relates to micro finance. Farmers are now creating their own financial institutions/ their own saving and credit organizations (SACOs) which are very effective. SACOs are helping the farmer to save, to send children to school. They are effective as well as easily accessible. There are also ASCOs that have started savings for children. This is a very good experience we took from the Amhara region which we have to scale up. This also helps the children develop the habit of saving.

Questions, answers and discussions

Q.

*Was the process of establishing the union participatory, and what were the criteria you used?

How can you adequately distribute consumer goods?

How is your capital or financial stand?

Prices of goods are stabilizing, but how reliable is the supplies stock?

*Can the union accept mangoes from individuals?

Now that vehicles are on forced duty elsewhere, what are your plans as the mangos are ready for harvest?

*Can you tell us if there were problems you faced in the process of organizing the union?

There are two types of settlement in our region: close and scattered. NGOs working with the latter are facing problems. What does your situation look like?



*How do you plan to deal with the issues of sustainability and marketing? We know that the unions now get adequate government support. But when the number of cooperatives grows obviously the amount of support from the government reduces. what plans do have for such an eventuality?

*What is the approach based on? Is it intervention-based or potential-based? Oxfam GB has only installed a machine, is that it?

Can you talk on decentralization in terms of both resources and capacity?

*How are beneficiaries selected? How are women-headed households treated?

*We know that unions are profitable. We can also expect to see more associations and unions in the future. How is the profit shared or the dividend paid?

*The government office helps a lot but the office is not available (structurally) down to woreda levels. So NGOs also organize people. Then they go to the government office for certification. So although the idea is good, the accessibility of the office is questionable. So some gaps exist.

*How can risk be averted in relation to goats? My experience is that when the women are asked almost all of them want to be involved in more than one job. They do this to avert risks. A woman mentioned areas like hens, goats and small businesses

*So focusing only on limited areas leads to risks. They use their own wisdom. It is also a form of insurance.

*Micro finance has interest, revolving fund does not. People in micro finance also think revolving funds are interfering practices. So have you come across such problems?

*There is what is called supervised credit program. “Don’t give credit to the poor unless...”

“If you give the right means to the wrong person, it leads to the wrong direction”

How much back up is there?

** : The questions forwarded broadly fall in two areas principles and practices.

The question mainly is of practice. Nice principles may be there, what happens when we put them to practice? For example, how is the link between micro finance and revolving fund -is it interference or synergetic?

If we feel gaps, can’t we take measures like organization (where the government office is not available)?

- How do the beneficiaries use the cash given to them?
- How do they invest it - on whose will?
- Group Vs. individual

We need to focus on short as well as long term issues.

*Women may have diversified interests. So diversity is encouraged. We actually have a few cases where woman are involve in different components.



Micro finance and revolving fund have different producers, so the view of conflict of interests so far has not been reported to us.

*SACOs, are bank of the public (proc. No147/91) gives them specific mandates, so the question of conflict of interest is out of question.

Q. How are the women selected to benefit from the projects? How are women -headed households treated? Capacity building in relation to man power is needed. Training is needed for all of us. How is this approached, as the usual focus is on non-human aspects? Education and training should not be ignored.

Q. These 32 unions were not formed overnight. The union is profitable. More associations and unions will come. How is the dividend distributed or profit shared?

Responses, Reactions and Further Comments

My focus is on two specific projects. The office had faced lots of ups downs, but now we are a strong office.

Establishing unions has its own procedures .Association – union – federation – apex. Among the criteria are: living in the same area, having common problems and pains (market and finance pains).

Credit / Loan are easily available to numbers. In our case, it is when challenges got tough that the need for a union came up by itself. Eight unions were established first; now the number has risen to 14; five will be added soon. Our major struggle is against speculators. We have managed to bring the price of teff from 15 birr/kg down to seven birr/kg. We still have problems but we are successful. Mango is supplied to Etfruit and an Arab plc. Our principle is to make association self reliant, but we shall be with them at all the steps

Association in Oromia and SNNPRS operate on government support Benishangul is better in this regard. Following the recent implementation of the BPR conducive structure has been put in place at four levels: Region – Zone – Woreda - Kebele

The certification will be decentralized, and our consultants will be around. We will make the whole process handled by professionals

One problem we have is that we have no vehicles for transport. The main job of the associations is to serve poor women.

Experiences sharing is always encouraged .Our best example is World Vision followed by ActionAid. We also invite others.

Dividend distribution follows specific formulae .People are benefiting at all levels.



VII. CPAR

CPAR is a Canadian based, international, non governmental organization dedicated to the promotion and development of healthier community in Africa.

It was founded in 1984 by Canadian Physician, in response to the extreme famine and poor health conditions faced by Ethiopian.

CPAR has delivered a range of programs over the past 27 years in a total of eight countries including Ethiopia, where it has been working since 1985.

CPAR- Ethiopia is the pioneer country program of CPAR-international, which has been working towards fostering development to destitute communities in Ethiopia, since its early intervention days of 1995.

The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) stands out to be the major donor with others (World Vision, Water can, the Irish Embassy, Ned, METAD, and the Federal and the BGRS HIV/AIDS prevention and control Beroua

Vision: CPAR- Ethiopia aspires to build a healthy, self-reliant society in which people live in harmony with their environment.

Mission: Enhancing the livelihood of Ethiopia's deprived, in a spirit of partnerships.

CPAR-Ethiopia works in Oromia Region-Selale and Wera jaso district, as well as Benshangul-Gumuz Regional State - Dibate district (September 1999 to present)

Dibate was selected because it is isolated and marginalized; it has high rate of illiteracy, high burden of disease, high food insecurity, low accessibility of infrastructures and services, poor resource management, low institutional capacity, there are recurring inter and intra-ethnic group tensions, etc

Program interventions of CPAR include: community based water supply and sanitation project, community based HIV/AIDS prevention and control project, community conversation for effective sensitization project, empowering women and community through integrated Alternative Basic Education project, conflict management and peace building project, and Integrated Food Security program.

GOOD PRACTICES TO BE SHARED (one): *Promotion of Community based Natural resource management/Forestation*

Causes of the problem of deforestation are fuel wood, forest fires, extra land for crop, income source, etc



Approaches followed include providing training, establishing community based groups, supply inputs, and monitoring. More than 500.000 different tree seedlings are produced and planted for different purposes.(2008-2010)

GOOD PRACTICES TO BE SHARED (two): Promotion of High value crops (Haricot bean and Sesame)

Causes of the problem of low production and productivity are shortage of planting materials, poor farm management, etc

-As a solution, access to improved seeds of Haricot bean/ Awash Melka/ and Sesame/Abasina/ varieties was promoted.

Approaches followed:

Partnership was established with PRC and WARDCO to conduct seed multiplication of high value crops on selected farmers; training was provided for 18 selected farmers; 12 ha. land was covered (10 ha. haricot bean and 2 ha sesame).

As a result, more than 120 quintals of Haricot bean and 12 quintals of sesame was harvested

Scaling up this activity currently: 2009/10

Sesame: 989 ha. of land was covered in 1008 beneficiaries

Haricot bean: 264 ha. was covered in 561 beneficiaries

Questions, answers and discussion

Q. I know CPAR works in water related areas. In your presentation you mentioned health, but nothing was said about clinics, for example. Can you comment on this?

Q. You work on seedlings. How do you see sustainability? And why do you not consider other options?

Q. What are the seedlings focused on, and what are their impacts on the environment? How do we explain the disproportional increased focus on sesame compared to haricot beans?

Q. The idea of communities working on their own is good. Aforestation is very essential. We heard a lot about deforestation. So in light of this, the project is good. Secondly, how sustainable will that be? Seeds sold to neighbors is a good practice. Quality wise, is it compared to what investors are doing?

Q. Can you describe the traditional defense against termites?

Responses, Reactions and Further Comments

The word “health” in the context used here does not simply refer to clinics. It is best on UN definition. It is a border concept.

A natural resources team must establish nurseries for seedlings

Awareness raising was conducted first.

There were farmers already preparing seedlings. There were more demands which we could not meet. People saw that eucalyptus using people are benefiting, so they wanted to



do that also. So we made it community- based. We trained them, the trained, in turn, trained others. Seeds are prepared individually as well as groups. People have already stated marketing.

Haricot beans and sesame are not the only ones we focus on. There are others like *Roba - I* and soy beans. But that are the preference of farmers.

-The proportion difference between haricot beans and sesame is accounted for by the increased demand for the latter. - Quality is also related to price.

We used to apply insecticides, but now they use stones to prevent the termites from reaching the seedlings.

VIII. BIOECONOMY AFRICA

Empowerment of farmers to improve their food security status, productivity and environment restoration using innovative and Integrated Bio-economy System for Benishangul-Gumuz Regional State.

The project focuses on building the economic, social, knowledge and ecological capital of the communities, through the adoption of integrated bio-economy system.

It also focuses on equipping the community with problem solving skill and technology through practical training and demonstration and further providing various technical supports.

The project beneficiaries are 500 model farmers in 60 kebeles of Assosa Woreda. It started in September, 2009 and will end in 2012

The essential interventions planned by this project are demand driven, transfer of integrated bio-farming system technologies. This intervention constitutes basically three components, these are: Tsetse/Trypanosomiasis control, malaria control, and promotion and adoption of integrated bio-farming systems by offering training for farmers at the demonstration centers

The development problems in the region could be cited as prevalence of diseases, limited economic and social infrastructures, limited access to productive assets like training, capital and research and the deterioration of the natural resources.

The integrated bio-economy system attempts to systematically and holistically address the issues of Tsetse fly/tyrpanosomiasis and mosquito control, HIV, TB management and food security with strong consideration for environment rehabilitation.

PROJECT GOAL: Contribute to the poverty alleviation, health improvement and environmental rehabilitation of Benishangul-Gumuz regional state.



The objectives of the project were: to improve in the food security and nutritional status of the farmers and environmental management of the region; to improve significantly livestock health, fertility and productivity; to enhance capacity of the community to deal with the local farming problems; to give training for model farmers on technologies and systems of Integrated Bio-farm so that diffusion of process of the integrated Bio-farm technologies is institutionalized.

Theoretical and practical problem-solving training on IBS technologies was delivered to 440 model farmers and 60DAs. The training address issues basically related economical, social and ecological which are pillars of development.

Topics covered during Training session were: animal husbandry, human health (malaria, communicable disease, HIV/AIDS), animal health (tsetse) and vegetable Gardening/urban agriculture:

- container gardening, shelf gardening, tyre gardening, and micro gardening
- Composting and use of Organic Fertilizers
- Alternative Energy: Bio gas , solar energy
- Poultry Production,
- Beekeeping
- Water harvest and Irrigation, and
- Soil conservation and Agro forestry

The transfer of integrated bio-farm technologies follows adaptive management systems, step by step familiarization and adoption which is facilitated in learning –by-doing fashion, therefore, the following approach will be utilized: identification of opportunities and challenges, capacity development packages/systems, establishment of model IBS, ensuring post training follow up and backstopping, impact assessment of adoption and utilization of technologies, and creation of opportunities for auto replication and scaling up.

Some of the results of the project are compost preparation, horticulture, shelf gardening, sack gardening, and tsetse fly controlling activities (Traps were deployed to minimize the prevalence of the Tsetse/Trpanosomiasis in ten hot spot identified kebeles)

Experience sharing

Model farmers who have taken training on IBS participated at international workshop held on Oct, 18-20/2010 on the topic of the role of IBS towards sustainable agriculture, food security and mitigation/adaptation of climate change, organized by Bio-economy Africa and UNDP.



The farmers have acquired different experiences from fellow farmers from Ethiopia and Switzerland, who came from different agro-ecological zones and they have discussed their challenges with international scientists

Based on the Preliminary Assessments, the financial benefits that an individual farmer can expect to accrue upon receipt of IBS training are significant, apparent and immediate. So far, monthly income of the trainee farmers has increased by an average of 102.6% in rather less than a year since training and it seems the effect of the training is not gender specific

IBS training encourages agricultural business diversity and efficient whilst minimizing resource use.

Horizontal knowledge transfer has resulted in the indirect training of farmers.

Limited capital of the trained farmers to implement the components of the integrated bio-farming such as biogas, modern poultry production, and modern beehives production coupled with the scattered settlements of the community were the main challenges the project faced.

Questions, answers and discussion

Farmers are selected in collaboration with woreda agriculture bureau. There is integration and follow up, theoretical and practical training, and it is systematic, which is good.

Q.

*Metekel is very prone to tsetse fly. If you have plan to come to Metekel, that would be good (now woredas are told to do it by themselves)

*Can the traps be prepared locally or are they imported?

*You are applying traps to deal with tse tse fly. Can you integrate other approaches as well?

*Your work in 10 locations. Tse tse is trans –boundary, so do you think of involving others?

* I saw only traps in the presentation. I think this is helpful for research purpose. Farmers use targets and pesticides. Farmers are purchasing and using medications without even knowing the dose. Para -veterinarians are giving it to farmers. There is a danger of adaptation on the part of the flies. There are people who think of training for the farmers properly, because they fear long term effects.

*Budget has been mentioned for modern beekeeping (bee hives purchase.) Can't you think of local skills? I know a farmer who invented similar hives. I think you can use the skill of such local skills.



*Sustainability- How is your relation with other organizations (partnerships)? Regarding compost from dry waste, do you work with stakeholders? There is another organization in Addis Ababa that works in the same area. Do you know it?

* The region is located in what is called belt. There was another Italian organization that worked a lot in the areas of fighting against tsetse fly. Do you know their experience? They did manage to minimize the risk. But when they left the problem returned within a year.

Have you assessed the training gaps? Were the farmers not aware of that? Do you think you have added any values to them, or was it just trainings for the sake of giving some? In other words, do you think you filled any gaps?

Responses, Reactions and Further Comments

There was a shortage of knowledge, and skills. We have used agriculture professionals to train with them to achieve both identification of gaps and for follow up.

By the way, we work to minimize, not to control. That is why we are involved in 10 localities. As was said, the problem is trans-boundary. It definitely has to expand. The use of bamboo is just for stands of the traps, not the actual nets. We are young, but we surely will try to work with research institutions. We are trying to acquaint ourselves with relevant stakeholders like the environmental protection bureau of Assosa.

BioEconomy Africa is a sister organization of Bio Farm Africa, located in Addis Ababa.

IX. EPLAUB EXPERIENCE ON COMMUNITY BASED ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROJECT

The name of the NGO and areas of operation: - UNDP GEF, SGP /community based Sustainable Environmental management project. The project is implementing in four kebele's of Asossa woreda. It was established in June 2009

The thematic areas of the project are: biodiversity loss, climate change, degradation of international waters, land degradation (sustainable land management), and Persistent Organic Pollutants.

Approximately 587 house holds are benefited from this project, which has a two year life period, from June 2009 to May 2011

To attain the thematic area of the project, the following activities are planned by the CBO's to be implemented throughout the project life time:

- a) Implementation of bio- physical soil and water conservation measures



- b) Improving alternative rural energy utilization
- c) Agro forestry and Reforestation
- d) Income generating through improved fruit tree development and modern honeybee production
- e) Growing vegetables and seedling production around homesteads
- f) Improved Forage production
- g) Compost making to boost crop production

Component of the project/program with the good practice:-

- The community has done the area closure in all the 4 CBOs and developed bylaws regarding its administration and use.
- Developed a good habit concerning not to cut trees in contrary to the past experience and now they are initiated to plant trees like bamboo, mango and gravilia.
- The community trained on bamboo hand craft so that they now starts to make house furniture with better quality.
- The CBO members now starts to use mud brick to build their houses and office so that the pressure on the forest resources decreased
- The community has their own bylaw and now begins to run the project budget by themselves and they already develops good technical knowledge and skill on community based projects management.

The overall objective of the project is to restore and manage the utilization of the environmental resources in a sustainable manner through integrated approach of sustainable natural resource management, while improving the livelihood of the CBO

Specific Objective

Objective I:-

- To conserve biological diversity and combat climate change and land degradation caused by erosion, intense cultivation and deforestation in all of the four kebele's under the project.

Objective II:-

- To improve living standard of the community through increased agricultural production and diversification of livelihood bases.

The major inputs planned during the project appraisal are agricultural equipments (spade hoes, plastic bags, hand wheel cart, plastic sheet etc), multi-purpose indigenous tree seed species and materials for seedling preparation etc., and forage grass species and vegetative grass species (vetiver and elephant grass),



There are some problems concerning the quality of materials purchased nevertheless there is no problem on the accessibility of the resource.

Major Challenges while implementing the project

1. Lack of Awareness

The wrong perception of the community on the way the project is organized and implemented is found quite misleading since they perceived the project is funded by external foreign agency(NGO) once the project finance is released they thought that they are going to divide the amount on equal basis.

2. Conflict of Interest

There is conflict of interest among the CBO members on benefit sharing. On benefit sharing most of the CBO members perceive that all of which they produced should be given to them. This is not done. Then most of the CBO members leave the CBO because they were saying that “If we are not given for our effort the CBO has no function for us.” Others were waiting for a payment for each and every activity they accomplish.

3. Planning Related Problems

The project planning team seemed to have missed the role of stakeholders, assumption, risk, risk mitigating strategies, historical trends, similar community organizations, alternative strategies, coordination as well as potential supporting resources, missing activities like training to each component of the project and potential conflict areas. When we come to the assumption and risks, except those assumptions and risks related to administrative matters, significant attention was not given to those risks and assumptions related to major project activities and result areas.

4. Skill and Knowledge Gap

The CBO mostly phases lack of technical knowledge regarding the accomplishment of the planned activities such as:

- Transferring bee colonies from cultural bee hives to modern bee hives
- Termite problem
- The other problem area of the project is its poor procurement administration which resulted in discouraging impact on the commitment and hope of the community from the beginning. Those farm tools and equipments purchased and distributed to the community found poor in quality and high in price.

5. The introduction of other related but different projects in the project area.

- When we see the behavior of this project it dose not allow payment for the activities accomplished by the CBO’s members. It just allows the members to be benefited on sustainable manner after starting to have an output.



6. Data handling

- Some of the CBO's did not construct their own office as a result the data's and some procured equipments and materials are found in each executive committee house. This result in destruction of recites and some important financial and other relevant document of the CBO.

11. The effects/outcomes due to the implemented activities and strategies/approaches:-

- Multipurpose tree seedlings produced and planted on homestead, bare land, farm land and around watersheds
- Different soil and water conservation measures
- Modern bee hives for honey production
- Vetiver Grass planted on degraded land and on the farm land for soil and water conservation activity
- Fuel saving stove is disseminated to CBO members to mitigate the consumption of fuel wood at household level

Approaches used to encourage the communities participation is that the benefit gained made to be shared to the members according to their participation.

Technologies adopted while implementing the project were using energy saving stove and mud brick for construction of house

Constraints and Barriers faced

- The community's livelihood is to survive and depends on their daily activities so that they are not interested to spend time for the activities that has no immediate payback.
- The introduction of some projects which prepared payment for each activities of their plan. This makes the community to divert their attention to those projects.
- The unfamiliarity of the community based projects to the people.
- The technical knowledge gap faced to implement the projects activities.

Solutions Adopted/Lessons Learned

- During the project lifetime there should be a timely monitoring in order to take a timely correction measurers through the project progress.
- There should be technical support.
- Awareness creation activities at any instance.
- There should be a clear and transparent working environment.
- There should be a good working plan and the community should be well informed.



- The CBO leader's election should be democratic and time bounded.

Comments and Questions

Q. Environmental issues are complicated. It is good to see they are focused on on. I think the issue of wild fires is crucial.

Benishangul is better in other areas. You need to really focus on the environment and really work on wild fires.

Q. It is encouraging to see community based projects, though only in 4 kebeles
You know that forests from Guba to Gilgel are burnt down. Not just the environmental protection, but the agriculture bureau should also get involved. We need to think of ways of mainstreaming the effort. The destruction is continuing; it is very worrying. How do we regenerate the forests? Discussions are important, but they are not enough. We need to act quickly. Can we think of community bi-laws? If the community accepts it, it does it.

Q. There are nurseries - acidity is below 3.2% which means certain crops can grow no more on it. Is there anything planned on this line? We need to think of out puts. Most vulnerable spots are identified.

As the main victims are women, is gender issues mainstreamed? Projects start and face challenges (as was presented) How is the community effected including the saving -can't we make it revolving? For example we went to Konso with Oxfam Canada. They showed us their best practice. They were given two she- and one he -goat. They used them to a good effect. They established a card system, networked with hotels, sold goats and built the terraces.

Q. What is the mandate of the EPLAUB? It is a funding agent. We saw failures e.g. in Beekeeping but there they could go to the agriculture bureau for partnership and solutions. There are lots of complicated problems/ challenges. We need to revitalize efforts and work together.

Q.
Mud brick technology is indigenous; It makes the house warm in cold seasons and cold in warm seasons. If plastered with clay soil it can last up to 30 years. Mud bricks can be used to prepare many structures (e.g. stores).The technology is very convenient in light of conditions in our surrounding.

Q. Have you decided to expand these to other areas? The houses are better suited to prevent fires than other types. The mud brick technology is now seen in the town also. Can't you organize and form mud brick producing associations?

Responses, Reactions and Further Comments



When the kebeles were selected it was done on the basis of fairness- old and new. Women are better participants. Women's affair office has arranged to plant mill for them. They are given seedlings, they use their own land, sell their products, and return the principal to the association. Savings are handled this way.

Regarding the environment we have prepared bi-law which incorporates key points. Land has been prepared, and is being guarded against animals.

There are also plans regarding soil and water conservation- composite mandate and wild life.

Forest fire is a serious problem in the region. There is approved strategy to fight against it. A forest fire task force has been established at all levels. we cannot solve the problem of forest fires overnight, so a certain number of areas will be selected as models, studied for a few years. The practice can then be expanded. This is included in the 5 years plan.

The agriculture and disaster prevention bureaus, and the police, among others are to be involved. The preparation process was good.

Mandate wise parts will be played by different bodies. We can be involved only as models; we can not cover everything. Technical and material support can be give. Implementation of the support is the duty of the woreda.

The selection of the kebele indigenous and settlers (that is what was meant by old and new)

X. Wide food Experience

Wide food experience is a reference to what communities do to survive difficult times or tough challenges. The reference is mainly to food types which do not constitute part of the daily dishes in normal situations, but are eaten when conditions worsen. The idea here is that such experiences deserve due attention and have to be scaled up.

While the experience is very feasible, nowadays, it may not be easy to apply because the wide spread destruction of forests has made the plants and trees needed difficult to get.

Roots, Bamboo shoots used to support communities when food shortages occurred. – Now their availability is questionable. Medicinal plants are also disappearing. Over 40,000 hectares of forest has been burnt down in recent times.

Once, elders practically cried saying our lives are based on the forests, not grains aid organizations bring to us in the form of food aid.

The challenge now is to accept these facts and rehabilitate the forests before we lose them forever.

XI. Kamashi Project on Orphans



Kamashi Project on Orphans started in 2005. Donor of the project was a Korean NGO called Food for the Hungry International (FHI). FHI did not have a work permit at the beginning, so it partnered with a local NGO. When it got its license after two years it continued its support for all round development of the child.

It started with 500 children; now 940 children are being helped. In the target areas there are other community related supports like building schools (5 block schools each having 4 rooms), purchasing desks, stationery materials, supply of potable water for children, water wells sinking programs , provision of vegetable seeds and modern bee hives, etc.

Food security is relative - agriculture and family focused. To make it feasible we are training the children in handicrafts, sweaters making, etc.

Poor children who could not go to school because of food problems are supported. 48 beehives have been provided for 24 households in cooperation with agriculture experts. Agriculture professionals train the people before the provision. In Chabi the project just begun but is being successful.

Some failures were observed, and some plans were not as successful as expected

XII. Assosa Environmental Protection Association

There are seven associations and 50 members working with us. Membership is open for individuals as well as associations. The basis for everything is the awareness that food security comes when the environment is safe.

Visit and project creation, encouraging and providing technical support like bamboo, mango 'moringa', polythene tube, seedling preparation are among our areas of focus.

Job creation for the young following rules and regulations in response to repeated complaints was also focused on. In relation to food security, trainings are given to the youth on environmentally friendly plants like cassava and bamboo shoots, which are edible.

The youth are also involved in carpentry and construction. Traditional hives are being turned modern. We have prepared plans that create value chain systems from production to markets. We are about to get started in this regard.

Wild fires are raging in our region, and they need very urgent attention. Most edible plants which used to be so commonplace are now disappearing at an alarming rate. This is the cruel reality we find ourselves in.

XIII. MIJJIGA LOCA WOMEN DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION



Mijijiga Loca women development association now works in four woredas. It started in Mandura and Dangur; later Pawi and Guba were added.

The association mainly works to minimize and abolish harmful traditional practices. There are about 157 harmful traditional practices identified. The main ones are the practice of kicking women out into the forest during menstruation and child birth (Mandura and Dangur); FGM (Guba); and early marriage (Pawi).

Three areas the association works on are: constructing alternative schools and handing them over to the government, helping fistula patients get treatment, and organizing self help associations and building their capacities. In all these community (participatory) dialogues, awareness raising and capacity building play major roles.

Best practice: In 17 kebeles (Metekel and Mankush) FGM used to be practiced. To deal with this practice, first elders were picked, convinced and trained. They were then sent back to their communities. The effort proved so effective that on Tir 5, 2003 E.C. it was announced in Guba that FGM is no more practiced.

After the attitude change was effectively achieved, women started to avoid early practices and stay home during menstruation and child birth. To mark this achievement, Mothers' Day was celebrated on Tir 3, 2003. 40 women (20 each from Mandura and Dangur) were given awards on the occasion.

In Pawi, to stop early marriage, girls' groups have been established. Self-help teams have also been established in Mandura (32), Pawi (30) and Dangur (32), which is being encouraged. They have understood the benefits of organizing. Facilitators are assigned to keep the momentum and avoid disintegration. Agricultural and irrigation activities have started.

There was some indicators in Pawi of the community being aid-dependent, which is now beginning to change.

Other activities that started include: saving, agriculture, handicrafts, animal husbandry (mainly goats), poultry, and bees. Seedling related works are in the pipe lines.



XIV. CONCLUSION AND THE WAY FORWARD

At the end of the two day workshop, the participants took time to deliberate on the numerous issues raised, the challenges ahead and the appropriate way forward. Accordingly, the following points were raised by the participants of the workshop.

- *There is a need to develop membership format for potential future members of the network that has been established. Organizations working on food security and the environment need to be invited.
- *Network members should single out relevant core issues (could be policy related) for discussion.
- *Members need to establish and maintain regular information sharing practice in order to minimize and eventually avoid duplication of efforts.
- *Members of the steering committee should meet as per the schedule in the MOU.
- *Environmental issues, which should be mainstreamed, should always be in focus.
- *Discussions at the network level should focus not on plans of members' respective offices, but on tangible best practices. We need to think out of the box and avoid traditional focus on paper work. The focus should be new (unique) experiences that can bring about changes if scaled up. Communities need new information (e.g. *shiferaw* in the context of wide food)
- *We need to focus on wide foods. We have to identify edible plants and leaves and properly document the findings. We have to take a close look at the feeding traditions of the people. Nutritional and medicinal values of plants should be developed.
- *We really need give immediate attention to wild fires.
- *I used to know women's problems of this region only on reports. Now I have seen it for myself. I want to ask all participants in this workshop one question: How many of us put women's problems as a priority in our work?

Environmental issues make sense when we have people. And women are at the center. Let us think of helping each other. Let us feel and really try to solve women's problems, because it can be done. Women's issues should not be treated as side issues. They should be at the heart of everything we do.

Oxfam Canada's motto is essence says poverty is alleviated when women are protected. This is true. So today I want all of you to promise me to put women's issues first.



*The project I work for in Mao-Komo is called Education for Development. Starting from 2007 we have been working against FGM. We also promote women empowerment. Currently we are working with 46 women.

*This network needs strategies. We need to work out before we disperse detailed activities as well as who should do what.

*A plan and a PIP are needed. We have identified major hazards like wild fires. We have also related them to the coming of investors. We have discussed resource related issues and emergency responses. All these ideas are good but they need to take shape.

*The network should be strengthened. It needs strong and committed members. The ideas should be translated into action. They should not be ideas we throw away as soon as the workshop is over.

*If there are solution ideas to deal with wild fires, from CCRDA and ActionAid for example, we are ready to take them to the grass roots level and apply them.

*We know that fires also have traditional reasons. They were used as a means of protecting people from dangers. Now the dangers are gone but the fires are killing people.

*We can implement solution ideas through others by opening for a, but first we must internalize the ideas ourselves.

*Political and administrative bodies can play great roles in what we are trying to achieve. They should buy our ideas. They can even be made members of the network. These people can be best partners as well as worst obstacles.

*Let us give the assignment of working out the details of who should do what, when, how, where, etc.