

1.0 CRDA/Sida Funded Projects

Sida (Swedish International Development Association) has extended its two-year project support to ADHENO by one more year (2008). Planned activities include expanding the Tree Gudifecha project in the Workegur village, support to bee keeping, rain water harvesting, raising vegetables and highland fruits.

1.1 Planting and Nurturing Economic Trees

This project strives to reverse land degradation and generate revenue by planting and nurturing indigenous and economic trees for production of fuel wood and construction timber for home use and sales.

The tree Gudifecha system under which farmers will be given incentives via payment of a small sum in cash annually for every indigenous tree that survives under their care until the trees are old enough to survive on their own. This will pump much needed cash and food into the community. Farmers can use the income generated through the Gudifecha system and sales of economic tree products for alternative income-generating activities.

1.2 Fruit Trees

ADHENO has secured funding from SIDA (Swedish International Development Agency) to work with farmers to plant fruit trees suitable to the highland ecology of Ethiopia. The goal is to diversify the economy of the region and create new revenue-generating operations for the local community. In a pilot project, one farmer, Bezu, was able to harvest and sell 80 - 100 apples. Current plans are to plant seedlings for 200 apple trees as well as 400 peach and plum trees. The water collection pits will provide water for the fruit trees in the dry season. In addition these fruit trees will make the area more attractive for bees and support the bee-keeping enterprise recently started by the youth.

Fruit Trees are taking hold



1.3 Rainwater Harvesting

Much of the water shortage in Ethiopia can be attributed to lack of efficient capture and storage of water when it is available. There is almost total dependence on rain and once the rain stops, there is no access to water.

ADHENO is working with local communities in Northern Shoa to develop mechanisms to capture and store rain water to ensure continuity of supply of water during the dry season. Current activities include:

Digging Water Collection Pits -

ADHENO is working with farmers to dig water collection pits ("Wuha Makoria") that will capture and store rainwater. These pits are either trapezoidal or hemispheric. Once they are dug, the inside surfaces are water-proofed so they are able to store the water with minimal loss. So far a total of 8 water collection pits are being dug in Goshebedo including seven 60-cubic meter trapezoidal pits and one hemispheric pit. With the ground in Goshebedo being extremely rocky, digging these pits with very basic tools is a very labor-intensive and challenging undertaking, but the farmers (and especially the women) have shown admirable effort and enthusiasm in this difficult task

Yeshimebet Kifle dug this water collection pit by hand with some help from her husband. She has started to grow carrots, onions, and beets.

Collecting Rainwater from Roofs -

ADHENO secured individual donations in Ethiopia to purchase and install modern water storage tanks that channel and store rain-water from the roof of the Workegur Primary school. A tap provides access to water from the tank during the dry season. In addition to use by villagers, school children use this water for the trees they have planted around their school.



Water collection pit



Rain-water reservoir at Workegur Primary School

1.4 Gulley Erosion Protection

ADHENO is working with local farmers to build stone bends to prevent gulley erosion. During the rainy season, strong rains wash down the top soil since there are no trees to keep the soil protected. These stone bends are barriers that prevent the washing away of the soil.

Stone bend at the village of Workegur



1.5 Bee-keeping

Modern bee-hives were introduced to take advantage of flowers from the economic and indigenous trees conserved in communal unproductive land that will be enclosed. At full maturity, these bee-hives will introduce alternative income sources that enhance the livelihood of inhabitants of the project area while at the same time protect the land from further degradation.

1.6 Community Conversation (Ye Mehabereseb Wuyiyit)

The goal of these community conversations is to encourage local communities to solve their own problems by meeting and discussing their issues and exchanging ideas. These community conversations are also used as fora for education with a focus on HIV/AIDS. These community conversations were initially started by UNDP (United Nations Development Program). The role of ADHENO has been to expand and continue these conversations and to increase attendance by leveraging the cultural role of coffee drinking in Ethiopia. In Ethiopian culture, drinking coffee is a very social occasion where neighbors gather to talk about the affairs of the community. Building on this tradition, ADHENO provides coffee, tea, bread, and "kolo" for community conversations and calls these discussions "Buna Tetu" (the traditional invitation to neighbors to come over to "have coffee"). This has been effective in gathering the community together. ADHENO Community Development worker Irgech Mamo has been trained on facilitation of these "Buna Tetu" sessions. In addition, two local health extension officers have also received the same training. Thus far 3 sessions have been completed in Metkoria by the health extension workers, and Irgech has completed one session in Goshe Bado.

2.0 GEF/SGP Funded Projects

ADHENO has started a new "Gudifecha of Trees" project in the Metkoriya kebele with funds received from GEF/SGP (Global Environment Facility Small Grant program). Other projects include fuel-efficient stoves and sheep fattening.

2.1 Seedling Station

A seedling station has already been built at Metkoria and local farmers (including women) have been trained and are actively engaged in maintaining and running it. The plans are to grow up to 300,000 seedlings including over 65,000 indigenous trees such as Wanza (*Cordia Africana*), Girar (*Acacia Abyssinica*), and Tikur Inchet (*Pygeim Africanum*). Farmers receive remuneration for each tree they plant and nurture in designated areas. Remuneration is received only for trees that survive. Indigenous trees take longer to get established (typically 8 - 10 months). Farmers are allowed to plant Eucalyptus trees for firewood and timber so that the indigenous trees are allowed to thrive. No remuneration is provided for planting Eucalyptus.



Seedling station at Metkoria with villagers who run it

2.2 Water Source

Based on past projects, key success factors for these reforestation projects is the availability of water as well as protection and nurturing of seedlings. The Gudifecha site at Metkoria is well located near a local spring (Shola Minch) and has very good access to water. ADHENO has started building a concrete reservoir and is piping the water to the seedling station. The project will also install taps so villagers have easier access to the water, and a water trough will be built for cattle



Local woman using water source that is being developed at Metkoria

2.3 Fuel Efficient Stoves

The goal of this project is to build and distribute fuel-efficient stoves. The project site is in the district of Metkoria in Northern Shewa. The biggest reason for deforestation in Ethiopia is the need for firewood for cooking, so this initiative is especially critical in addressing the root-cause of deforestation. ADHENO received funding from GEF (Global Environment Facility) for this initiative. The key current activities in this project are:

Training - Five men and five women have been trained on the building of fuel-efficient stoves based on designs by GTZ (a German Enterprise for Sustainable Development). As part of the training 8 stoves were completed.

Production - Though initially delayed due to constraints on supply of cement, full scale production is now starting. Raw material will be provided to the trained men and women, in turn they are required to sell the stoves at 50% discount to make it more affordable to local farmers

2.4 Sheep Fattening

This initiative by ADHENO focuses on providing training and capital to farmers to raise and sell sheep in the most economical way. ADHENO received funding from GEF (Global Environment Facility) for this initiative. 25 farmers have been selected for this initiative. Sheep will be purchased from the local market and a local expert from the district office will provide training to the farmers on modern techniques. Local committees of farmers responsible for the management of the Gudifecha of Trees projects will ensure that the sheep are only allowed to graze in permitted areas, and that the protected and reforested areas remain closed to all grazing

3.0 Dir Biyabir Funded Projects

Dir Biyabir is a US-based non-profit that has been raising funds to sponsor various ADHENO projects including youth and women entrepreneurship, education, and environmental rehabilitation.

3.1 Youth Based Gudifecha of Trees (Christensen Fund)

Youth Based Gudifecha of Trees. The purpose of the project is to engage rural youth (young men and women) in the environmental rehabilitation and biodiversity conservation of their homeland. This project is sponsored by Dir Biyabir who in October 2008 secured full funding for the project from the Christensen Fund. Project execution is scheduled to start in January 2009. Project goals are:

- 1) Recovering the rich indigenous environmental bio-diversity of this severely at-risk region of the world.
- 2) Actively engage the local youth and keep them connected to their land and culture. Provide them a viable option to fleeing to the cities.
- 3) Helping the fertility of the land to recover and allowing the continuation of a culture and livelihood that has been based on the land for centuries. Without active intervention, the area is at risk for complete desertification and abandonment.
- 4) Fostering a culture of environmental conservancy among the youth who are then most likely to pass it on to their families and lead the community in environmental stewardship. Such a culture of environmentalism is severely lacking in the region and is much needed.
- 5) Develop a local water source to make adequate water available for tree nursery, as well as for use by the local community.

3.2 Youth and Women Entrepreneurship

A key problem in Ethiopia today is the migration of rural youth from the villages to the few cities in search of opportunity. With no support structure and few opportunities in the cities, these youth often wind up homeless on the streets. Providing opportunities to these youth in their own villages is critical to ensure the stability of these communities. ADHENO has been working closely with the women and youth in the rural communities of Northern Shewa to foster entrepreneurship as a means for developing self-sufficiency and providing opportunities for women and youth in their own communities. A total of 770 men and women (335 in the women group, 435 in the youth group which includes men and women) have formally registered as an umbrella organization (Inat Mehaber) known as the "Goshe Bado Tsigereda Yewetat Hibret Sira Mehaber" (Goshebado Youth Coopertaive). Under this umbrella organization there are 14 sub-groups (Gilgel Mehaber), with each sub-group focused on a specific enterprise. They have been granted 37.5 hectares (about 93 acres) of land by the local

administration for their activities. The youth were raised \$3,000 ETB (\$316 USD) based on monthly contribution of \$0.50 ETB (\$0.05 USD) of their members. The youth and women groups have been working with a local micro-enterprise office to develop business plans. However based on the very low income level of the area, it is clear that they are unable to raise the capital they need to fund their enterprises. Thus these groups rely on ADHENO for training and capital to implement their business plans. Business plans that have been developed thus far include bee-keeping, irrigation-based horticulture, stone grinding for roadwork. They have also proposed a Gudifecha of Trees project to be run by the youth. Current entrepreneurial activities include:

Bee-Keeping: One of the youth sub-groups known as "Goshebado Tsigereda Wetatoch Nib Irbata Hibret Sira Mehaber" (Goshe Bado Youth Bee-Keeping Cooperative), submitted a business plan to ADHENO for bee-keeping enterprise. ADHENO was able to secure funding for this project from Dir Biyabir, a US-based non-profit. Please refer to their web-site for status and project details.

Bee-keeping

Mekuria Gizaw, coordinator of youth bee-keeping enterprise, shows his bee hives

Irrigation based horticulture: The youth group "Goshebado Tsigereda Wetatoch Ye Magwasha Got Inideg Atakillt ina Firafire Hibret Sira Mehaber" (Goshe Bado Youth Fruits and Vegetables Cooperative), submitted a business plan for pump-irrigation based horticulture enterprise. ADHENO has been able to secure funding for this project from Dir Biyabir for this enterprise.



Additional business plans are being developed by women groups as well as other youth cooperatives.

3.3 Basic Education - Supporting the Primary School at Workegur

ADHENO built the first modern primary school in the village of Workegur in Goshe Bado in 2006 with funding from the Japanese Embassy and additional support from [Dir Biyabir](#) and [way2help.at](#) members. Though the school is a modern facility, books and equipment are severely lacking. ADHENO is working with Dir Biyabir to secure funds to purchase text books for the students and to build a school library. So far Dir Biyabir has provided 65% of the funds required for textbooks for the 335 students for the 2008-2009 school year. The priority will be to ensure that the girls each have a textbook of their own as household duties make it more difficult for them to share books.



School kids of Workegur Primary

ADHENO is also working with the school to encourage students to plant and care for trees around their school. Students are graded based on the status of their trees.