

Accordingly, from 1951 to 1976, Mr. Edwin and other missionaries had planted fruits for own consumption in the Center. Unfortunately, no one attempted to expand the fruits among the communities at a wider area. The fruits were just confined within the campus of Chencha Kalehiwot Office. In 1976, a missionary woman hailed, Mrs. Decklerk distributed apple and plum seedlings among five people in Chencha. Subsequently, another missionary man named Mr. Brus Bond planted Apple, Peach and Nectarine trees on a wider plot of land in Chencha. Unluckily, his effort aborted by the 1974 revolution erupted in the country. On the heels of the revolution, the church at Chencha closed and consequently the apple farm also folded up. However, after the overthrow of the Derg, the church restarted its usual spiritual and community development program in a better status and started to plant high land fruits on four hectares of land; especial emphasis given to apple.

During the indoor orientation session, the farmers learnt about nutrient value of apple; the required favorable climatic condition, and suitable soil type for the plant. On top of this, they were provided with full information on how to prepare and transplant seedlings from seedbeds to farm plots and in general agronomic character of apple. Issues such as how to develop nursery sites, prepare seedlings and manage grafting have also explained.

On the field, techniques of multiplication of apple seedlings have been demonstrated practically. Ato Mellesse, a young man but with sufficient knowledge on apple development explained to the farmers and EDA staff members about the different methods of apple multiplication. Mellesse clarified that apple is multiplied through two type of rootstock propagation, root stalling and root layering/leaning. He further explained the two types of rootstock multiplications practically on the field: "cutting the rootstocks and leaving them open for sun light". "As eucalyptus germinates several young trees on its stall," he says, "the stalls of the rootstocks as well germinate several new plants". The other method is leaning/layering the plant along the ground and covers it with 10 cm soil. After sometimes, the leaned rootstocks germinate in to several seedlings.

Ato Mellesse informed that there are 6 types of rootstocks known in the country (MM 111, MM104, MM 106, M 26, M 9, M 27). MM stands for a research company's name: Mailing Merto. Mellesse added that rootstocks are plants which are the base for seedlings preparation. He noted that care in selecting rootstocks' varieties is very important to have strong, disease tolerant and productive seedlings. Clarifying with an instance, "varieties such as MM 106, MM 111 and MM 104 are excellent rootstocks. These varieties are strong enough in their endurance to withstand a pest named Wily Aphids,"

said the expert. It was told on the event that Wily Aphids is a pest which ravages the entire plant/farm within a short time. He warned that once a plant is infested by this pest, the only remedy is to close the ranch. "Therefore", said Ato Mellesse, "farmers have to try to get seedlings

produced on rootstocks which are tolerant to a pest known as Wily Aphids." He recommended the farmers that MM 106 is the best of all the varieties for Ethiopia high lands to endure Wily Aphids. In general, from the visit, the farmers and EDA staff gained a lot and grasped enough knowledge on apple farm. As a result of the visit and the discussion, farmers could understand:

- 1) Soil types suitable for apple production (loam and well drained soil)
- 2) Compost application, and water management
- 3) Advantage of enough light, water and avoidance of excessive canopy and wind
- 4) Selection of good varieties of root stock (MM106, MM 111, MM 104)
- 5) How to produce scion (shoot, bud) plant
- 6) How to select the productive scions
- 7) Methods of multiplying rootstocks (direct stalling and leaning rootstocks along the ground)
- 8) Different methods of grafting rootstocks with scions (fix scions to the rootstocks, or wedge cuts of scions in to the rootstocks or fuse buds of scions to rootstocks)
- 9) How to plant seedlings, watering and apply compost around the plant
- 10) How to prune unnecessary branches and budding



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NEWSLETTER

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EDA & SHA IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT

INTRODUCTION

Emmanuel Development Association (EDA), in collaboration with Self Help Africa (SHA), CFTC and Oxfam Canada has been striving to improve the livelihood of Kewot and Tarmaber Woredas' farmers of North Shoa Zone in Amhara region. Since 2010, it has been supporting over 12,000 people facing food insecurity.

EDA and SHA have provided various trainings, door to door technical assistance, facilitated experience sharing visits, supported formation and enhancement of cooperatives, established bee rearing center, rendered home economics and marketing consultancy services, organized mungbean food promotion events, aware beneficiaries on gender issues and HIV/AIDs, provided various agricultural inputs, small scale water development and water pumps in order to improve the lives and livelihoods of the smallholder farmers.

As a result, 2037 households have accumulated assets worth of 41,470,000 birr; thousands of people have ensured food security sustainably. Hundreds of penniless farmers have diversified their farms and became productive and profitable. Spouses' relation and their role of decision on family affairs and household economy have been tending to improve.

Children of the beneficiaries managed to go to school regularly and attend classes without interruption. Performances of the children have been improved substantially. Major food insecurity indicators have been minimized steadily: Anemia among pregnant women and children, low birth weight, growth retardation and wasting seemed to be checked among the target households.

In this newsletter, EDA would like to give readers brief information on key activities and achievements which are believed to bring considerable change in the life of poor farmers and contribute to the effort exerted by the government and other bilateral organizations to diversify and transform the rural economy.

EDA Supports Transformation of Traditional Apiculture to Modern One through Establishing “Bee Rearing Farmers Cooperative”



A farmer on the process of rearing bee at night

In the Ethiopian apiculture history, bee rearing has not been as such familiar business for several years. Farmers used to start beekeeping businesses by snaring wild bee colonies which is entirely dependent on chances. The practice is similar to the fruit

collections and hunting during primitive communal society era.

To reverse this situation, EDA has established a Bee Rearing Cooperative with a membership of 45 farmers in Yelen Kebele of Kewot Woreda in North Shewa Zone of Amhara Region. It is the first and the sole bee rearing center in the zone and the second in the region. In support of EDA's effort, Kewot Woreda Land Administration has given the cooperative 10,000 sq meters of land for free.

The cooperative is now well equipped, furnished and its members are well trained and experienced to rear bee colonies, multiplying queen bees. This technique has enabled farmers to secure bee colonies as required and contributes to planned, substantial and sustainable apiculture businesses in the Woreda and even in the Zone and thereby in the region.

EDA and its Partners Nurture Farmers' Cooperatives for Better Life

One of the activities accomplished by EDA and SHA during the pilot project of year 2010/2011 was establishing new cooperatives and strengthening the existing ones. Accordingly, a cooperative named Yelen Yeatikiltina Firafrie Gibiyet Mahiber (Yelen Fruits and Vegetables Marketing Cooperative) was established in 2011 by the collaborative act of EDA, SHA and Kewot Woreda Micro Enterprise Development Office (KWMEDO).

After the establishment of the cooperative, EDA, SHA and KWMEDO exerted continuous efforts to nurture this cooperative so as to enable it to be strong entity to run business by purveying farm inputs to farmers and provide them with credit facility. EDA, in collaboration with SHA, constructed a store for the cooperative and delivered various trainings for the cooperative leaders and members on cooperative principles and business management. Accordingly, this cooperative is now doing well in purveying farm inputs like improved vegetable seeds, water pumps, different types of hoses and other related farm inputs and materials to farmers of the area. Currently, the cooperative has 183 members (male 158, female 25) and a capital of Birr 426,846.00.



Some agricultural inputs purveyed by the cooperative

Revolving Fund Scheme Exercising Communities Capacitated to Check Livelihood of “Aid Dependency Syndrome”

Establishing a revolving fund scheme and inflexibility of EDA and SHA to influence beneficiaries to pay the value of assets they received has been considered as EDA's & SHA's unique merit, which has never been observed by other NGOs in the area. The scheme has helped to check emergence of dependency syndrome and ensure project sustainability and thereby contribute to the nationwide Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP).

EDA and SHA have been working hand in gloves to ensure project sustainability and prevent dependency syndrome through establishment of a revolving fund scheme. From the outset, beneficiaries have been well informed about the ill effect of defaulting and dependency syndrome. On top of this, continuous awareness and persuasion have been conducted to convince and encourage beneficiaries to pay back the value of the inputs they received from EDA.

Accordingly, most of the beneficiaries have paid back their debts to multipurpose cooperatives. The role of the cooperatives is to keep the revolving fund and re-loan out when approved by a committee established to administer the revolving fund. The committee is composed of Woreda Agricultural office, Woreda Cooperative Promotion Office, and EDA Office.

In three years time, Birr 348,770.00 (283,770 from beneficiaries supported by SHA Funded project, 65,000 from beneficiaries supported by CFTC funded project) has been collected and deposited at bank accounts of the multipurpose cooperatives to be re-loaned out up on approval of the above mentioned committee.

EDA and its Partners Organize Mungbean Crop Promotion Event in Shoa Robit



Mungbean Promotion Workshop in Shoa Robit Town

Mungbean food promotion event was conducted on November 24, 2013 in Shoa Robit Town. 302 Shoa Robit town dwellers (male 30, female 272) and representatives of nine government sector offices have attended the event. On the event, Ato Mulugeta Sefinew, Amhara Program Manager of EDA opened the event introducing the purpose of the occasion and EDA's vision and mission. Following Ato Mulugeta's opening speech; nutritional value of mungbean was explained by Ato Endalkew Sisay, a nutritionist. After the explanation of Ato Endalkew, varieties of foods prepared from mungbean were served to the attendees. Subsequent to the food testing program, Mirikat Getachew, Assistant Agricultural Team Leader for EDA's Shoa Roabit Project Office, explained on how to prepare varieties of food from mungbean. Immediately after her explanation, there was warm discussion on mungbean and its nutritional value. From the discussion it was possible to understand that all of the participants were convinced that they will use mungbean in their diet for the future. At the end of the day Ato Ababush Wondwoson, representative of the woreda council

delivered a closing speech. In his speech, Ababush expressed his cordial gratitude to EDA and SHA for their efforts and endeavors to organize such educative event.

Northern Highland Farmers Travel South for Experience Sharing on Apple Plantation

Eleven high land farmers from Kewot Woreda and eight EDA staff have attended a five days experience sharing visit in Chencha Woreda of Gamogofa Zone. At Chencha, the farmers and EDA staff first met Kalehiwot Office representatives, Ato Israel Wogaso and Ato Melesse Matiwas, who gave explanation about history of apple and other high land fruits at Chencha. Ato Desta Birihanu, Gamo Kalehiwot Office Coordinator, joined the group later on the discussion and field visit. The visit took place from 07 to 12 November 2013.

During the briefing session, Ato Israel and Ato Melesse explained about the history of high land fruits in Chencha Woreda. According to them, in 1951 high land fruits such as apple, pare and plum were introduced to Ethiopia (Chencha). Mr. Edwin Ratslaf, the then Head of Chencha Development Center planted the fruits at the center for the first time.