

PD-ABN-033
90853

EVALUATION OF

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICE ETHIOPIA

ASSISTED FOOD FOR WORK PROJECTS

IN GURAGE AND ADABA-LUBO

(Eastern Shoa) AREA.

BY MULUGETA ZELEKE

AND

TADELE BIRRATU

ASSISTED BY DR MERID MEKONEN
CRS/ ETH. PROGRAMME OFFICER

Table Of Contents

	Page
Introduction	1
Methods Of Assessment	3
a Site inspections of the work site	3
b Discussions	3
1	3
2	4
3	4
Findings	6
A The attitude of FFW participants to land degradation, to conservation works and to Food For Work	6
<u>Corresponding to land degradation</u>	6
<u>Corresponding to conservation works</u>	7
<u>Corresponding to Food For Work</u>	8
B Execution of the project at community level with emphasis on the planning of activities the selection of participants and the handling of food payments	8
The procedures followed in the planning of FFW activities	8
<u>The procedures followed in the selection of participants</u>	9
<u>The procedures followed in the handling of food payments</u>	9
C The impact of the food payment on beneficiaries house hold economy local production and price of cereals	12
D The extent to which FFW commodities were sold by beneficiaries to provide for the necessities	13
E The social and economic impact of FFW on the community	13

F	The extent to which the provision of wheat has affected food habits in the assisted community	14
G	The role of women in the project The extent and the way the project help or hamper of women	14
H	The projects linkage with other types of CRS supported or other development activities in the respected regions	15
I	An issue whether responsibilities or activities had been neglected due to participation	16
J	Critical features of the project environment particularly the nature of its farming system ecological setting and community structure	16
	Comments on projects' field accomplishments	19
	Conclusions and Recommendations	22
	Conclusions	22
1	Attitudes of FFW participants to land degradations and conservation works	22
2	Community level planning of activities, selection of participants and handling of payment	22
3	Impact of food distribution on house hold economy, local production, and food habits	23
4	The role of women in the projects	24
5	General field performances of the projects	24
	Recommendations	25
1		25
2		26
3		26
4		27
5		27

Annexes

I Achievement Tables

II Questionnaires

The detail descriptions of the outcomes of the assessment are presented from page 6-16 in respect to major issues requested for the evaluation

The key issues treated in the report basically focuss on -

- the attitude of participants towards recognition of own area problems, conservation works and food for work program ,
- the degree of participation of farmers in planning of activities as well as in other affairs of projects works at all levels ,
- impacts of food payments on the community's food habits, house hold economy, local production, price of cereals, and the sustainability of development efforts ,
- the role of women in the project affairs and
- the linkage that the projects maintain with other similar organizations be it NGO or government institutions

Out of the above findings some conclusions and recommendations have been drawn out for considerations of possible actions The salient features of recommendations encompass the under mentioned issues

- a strengthen the extension effort to raise the low level of consciousness of the community towards environmental related development problems
- the loose relationship between food for work and conservation themes should be clearly spelt out to participants with a continuous endeavour to avoid any dependency sentiment on food
- for sustenance of conservation work farmers participations at all stages of accomplishments are essential To ensure this recommendation is implemented the experiences of related organizations should be explored and shared
- projects experience demonstrated that the food distributed through them had little impact on the questions of local production, cereal price, food habits But on the otherhand its contributions to household economy and as a supplementary food to their routine diet it was appreciated by most of farmers met It is therefore justified that similar programme can continue with better managment
- the role of women in the project affairs should be intensified by creating activities that suits their conditions

In order to improve the general performance of projects the following points need attentions

- * more on job training should be organized for field staff to upgrade their technical competence
- * farmers training should be organized to realize their participation and better performance
- * to improve the working relations and take advantage of others experience initiations should be taken from project authorities to develop more regular contact with concerned government agencies
- * some field staff members of counterparts have been overloaded with different responsibilities affecting their efficiency , arrangement should be made to ease the work load on them to serve the people effectively
- * to monitor, supervise, evaluate and attain regular feed back of field situations the establishment of standard reporting formats with a workable system is of a paramount importance

Introduction

CRS/Ethiopia being not an operational organ, has been involved in multidisciplinary development oriented functions by rendering assistance to its counterparts who are placed in a number of regions. Food assistance is one of the major areas of involvement of CRS in connection with a number of counterparts. Food has been and is being used for either relief or development purposes depending on the counterparts demand.

This report shall restrict itself to the situations of Food For Work Programme area.

CRS' counterparts carry out conservation work under Food For Work programme in areas seriously affected by environmental degradation and food scarcity. Southern Shoa, Western Shoa, and Eastern Hararghe which experience continuous food supply shortages were included in the programme. These regions have suffered from recurrent drought and had obtained relief assistance resulting also to get a special consideration to be treated as priority regions for the soil & water conservation projects initiations. Some activities were actually initiated as early as FY'1989.

This presentation will focus on the situations of CRS/Ethiopia's FY 1991-1993 Multi-Year Operational Plan (MYOP) for regular programme activities.

The program goal for CRS' FFW activities

- 1 To reduce the dependence of farmers on relief food assistance by mitigating the effects of drought and controlling environmental degradation

The accomplishments for FY' 1991 within the MYOP FY'91-93 appears to be of considerable magnitude

The MYOP update FY 1993 document indicate that tree plantation, check dam construction, cut-off drain and soil bund construction and access road construction were the major activities under operation. The rate of achievements of the activities ranged from about 29% - 91%. The accomplishment of cut-off drain being the highest of all.

It has been pointed out in the same document that the magnitude of the performance in general was low in comparison to the plan and this was due to various reasons on the part of counterparts.

The counterparts involved in the FFW program which this paper will focus on are the Archdiocese of Addis Ababa, the Fessa Adventist Church and Nazareth Children's Center And Integrated Community Development (NACID).

CRS/Ethiopia having gone through many years of both humanitarian and development task it found it necessary to evaluate its field work with a strong wish of improving its performance and arrive at its general goal with out much problems.

The successive portion of this report entails the methods of assessment employed, the findings of the assessment, the conclusions derived from the assessment and the recommendations for a number of issues discussed in the report.

Methods Of Assessment

General Considerations

Given eleven days field work period the areas suggested to be visited have a significant differences between them in the scale and types of programmes being executed

Large portion of the field work period was allotted to Fessa Adventist Church programmes where the intensity of work is prominently high relative to the other counterparts Addis Ababa Archdiocese and NACID programmes respectively

The field task was categorized and is shown below

a Site inspections of the work site

The objective of the site inspections were

- to see the appropriateness and the level of quality of the conservation measures undertaken in relation to the site conditions as well as its possible role in dealing with the community's problem that may have been identified
- to roughly estimate the cost involved in the execution of the activities against the inputs provided to the programme at the inception of the projects

The areas visited were selected based on the similarities in respect to micro climate, to the level of social acceptability and to the scale and quality of work This procedure is effectively applied to Fessa programme area

b Discussions

This include

- 1 Discussions with the counterparts' officials and their subordinates (include food for work promoters and animaters)
 - the purpose being to examine the status and the capacity of the counterparts' personnel in administering their programmes
 - the other purpose was to examine their technical competency

2 Discussions with a community's influential elderly people, peasant associations' officials and women group

- the aim of this procedure was to examine the role the interviewee have been playing in organizing the community's participation in an area programme

In this type of discussions the presence of counterparts field staff was not welcomed, this was done merely to enable farmers for free discussions and avoid any possible prejudice

3 On site discussions

This involves an interview of farmers who had participated in any of activities under field observation

The selection of interviewees were performed by making contact to an individual or group of individuals who is or are residing in the vicinity of work sites. Those key informants were identified randomly by the evaluation team who made the decisions right on the spot spontaneously

During the application of this procedure it had involved also people while they were busy on some work on the field

The aim of this action was to examine and determine

- the extent of farmers involvement in identifying their own problems ,
- the role the farmers had played in suggesting localized solutions for problems recognized ,
- the level of their consciousness and readiness on how to deal with their own problems in the future in case of an interruption of assistance of any kind from any organization,
- the degree and frequency of contact they had with any development organization in general and counterpart's field staff in particular ,
- the possible influential conditions (such as food distribution and the like) for the adoption of conservation measures ,

- the sustenance of assets developed through the adopted conservation measures (such as forests and the like)

The interviews and discussions were undertaken using a semi-structured open ended questionnaire to facilitate the task. The sample of the said questionnaire is annexed in the report. Given the short time allocated for the whole exercise, the evaluation team did not find it necessary to apply statistical data analysis in the interpretation of feed back informations gathered during the operation.

Findings

The findings of the evaluation exercise shall be presented corresponding to issues listed in the terms of references

Though it was not spelt out in the TOR some additional issues are also included in the presentation with the anticipation they might play in strengthening the projects performance in the forthcoming phases

(A) The attitude of FFW participants to land degradation, to conservation works and to FFW

In an attempt to get the true responses of farmers as far as the issue shown above is concerned on site discussions had been held with those farmers who had participated in the actual project activities and responded to the various components of the issue as presented below

Corresponding to land degradation

When questions were posed to give their opinions on land degradations almost all farmers met emphasize the shortages of cultivable land they encountered They see the problem in relation to the deterioration of food crop yields

Many of them associate land degradation to the soil fertility problem in which case a constraint they fail to overcome

It had been claimed by a quite large number of farmers that the poor status of the soil fertility added to the fragmented land holding had compelled them to limit their crop production to a very few crop types On the other hand only few farmers recognize the physical disappearance of useful land due to water erosion Gully erosion is the type of erosion that was easily identified by the community who were consulted during the survey This observation is true or applies to all Gurage areas of the project's performance

The situation of land degradation in Nazareth area is different Farmers in this area do recognize very well the land degradation problem they are facing with

The problems they mentioned normally were associated to severe limitations of moisture, to the absence of vegetation, and to the poor soil condition which can easily be washed away when there is heavy storm shower

Corresponding to conservation works

Conservation works in all instances of interviews and discussions with FFW participants it had been viewed as related to the launching of food for work programme in the areas. Many of them have the impression that conservation work will terminate with the termination of food assistance for development. It did not seem to have been understood adequately by several farmers the temporary nature of food for work programme.

The perception of farmers in regard to the ownership right of assets developed through the conservation work appears to be fairly recognized by a lot of participants. They feel whatever assets attained through this action shall be administered by them.

As far as their attitude concerning the role of conservation work that would play in relieving the land degradation was expressed on the basis of experience they had with the function of measures undertaken in their locality.

They did recognize that surface water flow could be regulated to avoid further damages of their land, and conserve water for use in the households and farm animals. The conservation measure taken to rehabilitate the degraded land have received the appreciation of a large number of farmers.

This impression of farmers could be observed in all the Gurage and Nazareth areas where the FFW had been initiated.

As the result of the prevailing level of consciousness in respect to conservation measures they have adopted, they responded positively for the sustenance of the works eventhough they understood some of measures will have long term effect.

Corresponding to Food For Work

There are mixed conceptions amongst farmers in respect to food for work. Most farmers believe that FFW is for a relief operation rather than for other purposes. Many of them thought that it was a wage for what they have done on their field and communal holding. Only few farmers were of the opinion that FFW meant for development and rehabilitation purpose.

As mentioned earlier food for work for participants was not a temporary in nature.

(B) Execution of the project at community level with emphasis on the planning of activities, the selection of participants and the handling of food payments.

The way activities were planned, the procedure how farmers were selected for participation and the nature how food payments were handled during distributions are the key elements that need to be addressed under the issue shown above.

The procedures followed in the planning of FFW activities

Farmers reaction concerning planning works had been sought. It had been found that they had little or insignificant contribution to the preparation of plans. Farmers have responded that normally activities were identified by the area food promoter or animators. They claimed that their ignorance of technical know had hampered them for full participation in planning of activities. On the otherhand field staff of counterparts have informed the group that activities were planned in consultation with the farmers. The discussions with farmers did not assert what has been declared by the field personnel. No defined system of planning had been noted during the survey. It had been anticipated the situation of planning activities would perhaps had different feature had there been sufficient and strong sessions with farmers.

In this respect the situation at Nazareth project area is different. According to the explanations given by the project authorities, farmers in the area appear to be participating fairly in the planning stage of activities through the locally established development committee. As for the rest of routine operations it was adhered to the MOA's extension system.

The procedures followed in the selection of participants

The process has two features.

It had been pointed out that ordinary participants for any defined activities were selected based on the registration for work they have made after an announcement usually made by animators. The number of participants were determined by the actual labour requirement that a work need to complete and those who registered in the top list would have the priority to participate. It had been found out on some of the sites in the Gurage areas that there is a shifting system introduced to accommodate as many people as possible as long as the work on the site was on going.

For any work undertaking participants were organized in groups. The group leader or foreman as it was commonly known was selected by animators of sites. The farmers have expressed their dissatisfaction with this particular arrangement. Almost all the farmers interviewed unanimously said the intervention by the staff on this particular arrangement should be suspended.

The procedure followed in the handling of food payments

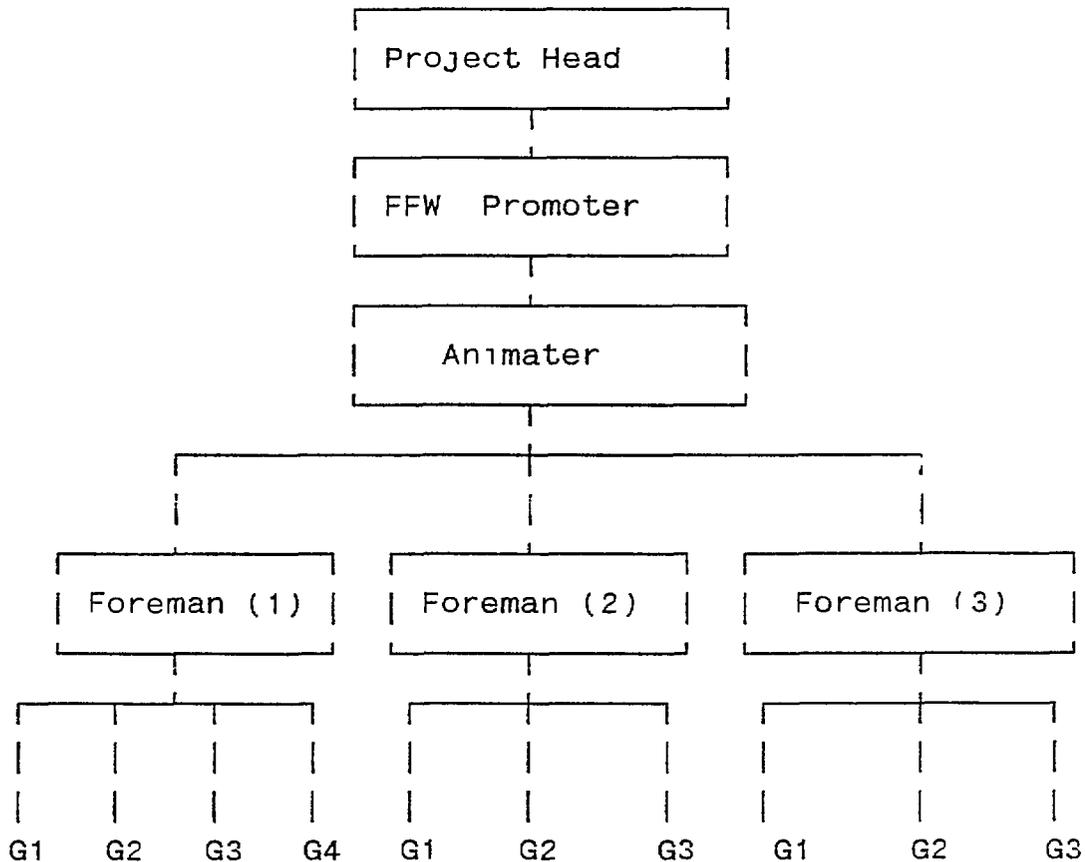
Food on the project area was received from CRS/Ethiopia by food promoters of the counterparts. The food stored at the project's warehouse was then distributed to the work sites on regular basis. The date in a month for redistribution to the beneficiaries was fixed by mutual arrangement made between farmers and field staff. The food payment was effected after a performance record was collected by an animator and given to the

food promoter The food promoter transports the requested food amount to the final destination centre by a vehicle he was provided with

Under normal condition the food at the last destination centre was expected to reach the beneficiaries However, the information gathered by the team from Fessa project area indicated that there appears to be a strange net work for food distribution had been established below the official foreman level

Its line of operation is briefly described below for illustration purpose

If one visualises the project starting from the head the line of command is exhibited in the following diagram



NB G - denotes farmers group

As it was attempted to explain earlier the picture depicts that, below the foremen boxes there appears to be gang leaders set for each farmers group who were apparently answerable to their respective foremen. Imagine how remote an individual farmer is from the supposedly technical disseminator the animator who is anticipated to carry out frequent contact with farmers.

As far as food payment under the system described was concerned it had been pointed out by participants that food used to be paid on daily work participation basis. This mode of payment had been altered and replaced by a payment on piece rate basis.

The later system of payment concurs with that of the Ministry of Agriculture's method.

During payments to beneficiaries farmers have expressed their concern with some sort of dissatisfaction about the double amount of payment made to foremen. Practically all the farmers that were met have said, for the on and off participation of foremen in an actual work the fixed rate of payment executed up to now did not weigh with their contributions to the work accomplished.

They had suggested a mechanism has to be devised by the project authorities to improve the situation.

The work norms established by MOA for a set of activities were used to calculate the total amount of food that a group deserves for the accomplished tasks. However, some deviations have been observed in the calculation procedure. Participants as well as the counterparts staff from Fessa area have witnessed that they have been calculating for participants' daily contribution on the basis of cash rate for a unit of work performed.

The total calculated cash amount was then converted to food amount based on the effective or on the on going local market price of grain. Finally the payment was effected to participants in terms of food. This style of payment has got its weakness and could be disadvantageous to both the beneficiaries and the project management as well.

(C) The impact of the food payment on beneficiaries household economy, local production and price of cereals

An attempt has been made to investigate the effect of food distribution on beneficiaries household economy, local production and price of cereals

The amount of food ration that a household receives was not uniform making an assessment of such kind difficult

It varies with a family size and the relative strength of the household economy. A family with a bigger size was likely to afford to send more people to participate in a given work and earn better amount of ration than that of a household under the reverse conditions

Under this circumstance of the area and with the time constraint that the team had, no detail assessment was made to make an affirmative interpretations on the issue. However, one can say with a certain confidence an additional income was generated to those households, who had the chance to participate in the FFW activities as many times as they could. Interviewed farmers asserted this view by saying that a part of the food ration obtained was monetized by them to meet a financial commitment that a family had. In many instances those incomes were used for payment of government taxes, for school fees, for medical treatment and other necessities

As far as the food payment impact on the local production was concerned it was understood to be insignificant. The amount of food pumped into the project area which was ultimately shared by beneficiaries did not have the capacity to waive the community's main engagement and affect their production level

The arrangement made for farmers participation in the FFW work activities to take place, during the slack periods of the farming season explains the less effect of food payment on local production. This statement had been supported by the views of farmers during the survey

Beneficiaries had stated that the price of cereals particularly wheat fluctuates with the season of FFW activities. The prices would reasonably fall when activities were executed with large magnitudes. The mono crop system mainly enses with less emphasis on cereals practised in the area did make also its contribution to make the price fluctuate or sensitive.

(D) The extent to which FFW commodities were sold by beneficiaries to provide for other necessities

According to most of the respondents view it was noted that they said they were not in a hurry to dispose of the FFW commodities by selling to provide for other necessities. Only a small portion of what they got are sold under a situation when the households were in debt or in other hasty pressing demand. The large part of the commodities were consumed in the household.

(E) The social and economic impact of FFW on the community

Some effort had been made to examine the behaviour of the community in connection with the FFW. The impact of FFW could be of mixed type. It was of negative type when respondents conceptualise FFW as an absolute identity of conservation activities. This phenomena has been observed during the field survey. It had been observed on one of sites that farmers were bitterly complaining for not receiving the FFW commodities on time for conservation activities they had undertaken. They threatened to the extent of abandoning their activities. This attitude of farmers perhaps was rooted due to the insufficient attitudinal change exercise undertaken in the overall programme.

The otherside of the impact of FFW could be explained by ,
 - that more awareness about environmental problems had been created at least amongst the FFW participating community ,
 - that more communal effort had been fostered for common community problems and a sense of unity had been enhanced ,

- that a safety net for unemployed community members had been automatically instituted ,
- the possible migration sentiment to urban areas were some how discouraged due to a job creation for some of unemployed ones

The FFW work impact as related to the household economy was explained under the item (c) and may not be necessary to repeat them here

(F) The extent to which the provision of wheat has affected food habits in the assisted communities

For the issue under question farmers reaction in all the project areas were that their food habits did not change as a result of wheat and vegetable oil distributions

In the Gurage areas participants claim that they still prefer to have their staple food locally known as enset rather than depending on wheat alone Farmers did not deny the useful contribution that wheat would make in the dietary system

They want to look at it as a supplementary food rather than as a potential commodity to replace their traditional food habits Respondents had reported that wheat was being consumed following various ways of preparations To mention few of the preparations they were, roasted wheat, cooked wheat, baked wheat bread, and drinks where wheat had been used as one of ingredients in the preparation

(G) The role of women in the project The extent and the way the project help or hamper women

It had been gathered that the role of women in the project appeared to be not significant The team had sensed this attitude during discussions held with women group in one of the sites of the Fessa project area Their participation at different stages of planning activities were not noticeable This feature of women role may had emerged as a result of weak consultations made by the project management as far as project affairs were concerned

The team members were also made aware that women participation in different activities were still far behind from that of men. It was known the weak role of women in project activities was not a deliberate manoeuvre. Women declared that since they had severe time constraint in their respective family affair their role in the project would had to be the way it was during the observation. In fact the project had help them to be part of the beneficiaries community at least for those women who had time to join works on the sites. They were thankful to the project authorities for what had been done so far.

(H) The projects linkage with other types of CRS supported or other development activities in the respected regions

The linkages between CRS supported projects did not seem to exist. The linkage question between the neighbouring projects in the Gurage area were raised. No positive responses had been possible to attain from either sides of the project. One of them had expressed its concern of being intervened in their project area by the other with a potential to affect their routine operations. The concern was actually related to the relief oriented FFW commodities distributions. It is not necessary at this juncture to mention the names involved and open debate. The matter was revealed just to display the prevailing relationships between the projects.

The tie with other development activities such as with the MOA was found to be relatively better and improved as of last six months. Discussions made with both sectors of the organizations indicate their working relationships had gradually improved and being strengthened to work harmoniously. The same situations prevail in NACID project area except with a certain occasional irregularities.

The evaluation team had been impressed by the enthusiasm attitude of the project officer of CRS/ET to develop a strong tie between MOA field staff and the counterparts whose contributions could easily be detected.

Linkage

(I) An issue whether responsibilities or activities had been neglected due to participation in FFW (i.e. one's own farming activities, child care, etc)

As it was tried to explain on related issue in the different sections of this presentation no sign of the elements of the above issue could be detected during interviews and discussions conducted. All contacted people did rule out the possibility of neglecting their responsibilities or activities as long as they were participating in their slack periods of farm activities. They had firmly stated that FFW being a temporary venture and functional few months of a year can not guarantee to substitute their mode of life. Therefore, they rather prefer to work hard and optimize the benefit they would accrue from FFW.

The same observation applies to women also. This negligence of responsibilities would perhaps be possible in areas where there are absolute poverty and a total dependency on FFW were created.

(J) Critical features of the project environment, particularly the nature of its farming system, ecological setting and community structure.

Detail informations on ecological setting, the type of farming system and the community structure should not be expected from the team under the given time schedule for the field work.

The Fessa and Addis Ababa Archdiocese projects are located in Gurage area. The Gurage area is spread in the Highlands between Lake Ziway and the Omo and Awash rivers. The projects area does not cover the whole of the Gurage area they occupy part of it. The topographic features vary from gently flat to mountainous land feature. The undulating surface feature is the dominant physical appearance of the two project areas.

From the field observations the areas could be considered as having the agroclimatic zones varying from moist Weyna Dega to Moist Dega.

The relative parameters of the indicated agroclimatic zonations are briefly described below

The altitude variation is estimated to be in the range of 1500 - 2600 meters above sea level. The average temperature is identified to be in the range of 12 degrees centigrade up to 25 degrees centigrade, with the annual rainfall variation of 900mm-1400 mm

The vegetation covers are very sparse with the exceptional better coverage around homesteads. There are remnant natural forest trees around churches and on some spots. These trees are various *Accacias*, *Cordia africana*, *Ficus vasta*, *Juniperus Procera*, *Hagenia Abyssinica* and *Prodocarpus*

The *Eucalyptus* trees which are widely spread over the area are basically planted trees and not native to the area

The soils are dominantly deeply weathered with colour variation of red-brown to brown clay soils. Because of the local precipitation the soils are highly leached leading it to have low Ph characteristics

There is no extensive agriculture in the area. Because the highly fragmented land holding system prevails in the area, the production level is basically a subsistence agriculture

The farming system is concentrated around homesteads. This particular farming system is known as The Enset Planting Complex. Enset cultivation requires intensive cultivation and, where it is the staple food crop, it is associated with home gardening and hoe cultivation. An average family, dependant on enset cultivates a plantation of 200-400 plants with a yearly consumption of 10-20 plants per capita

Two pointed spade and a wooden hoe are used for pulverizing the soil. Manure is collected from the stockyard and is regularly applied through out the year

Some cash and food crops are intercropped between the enset plants spaced 3-4 meters apart

The traditional economic and social life of the Gurage rests on the cultivation of enset which satisfies many of their essential subsistence needs

The land holding capacity of the projects area is excessively below its capacity. In order to overcome the economic difficulty in which this people were bound to face due to the status of the land holding and low level of production, they were forced, to migrate to urban areas and engage themselves with trade

The family ties in the Gurage community is so strong that part of the people who are residing in the urban areas do have frequent contacts with those of the people who are in the country side to deal with family matters

Community effort to win common problems is the typical feature of the society. The existing rural infrastructure of the society are significantly better than most of similar regions in the rest of the country. The prevalence of the infrastructures were basically the result of the community effort. Presently the Gurage society have various social organizations and development schemes to deal with their own social problem and development issues

The NACID project has detail informations on its operational areas based on some survey work. It is expected that a copy of this document should be available with CRS/Eth. The evaluation team then did not find it necessary to repeat what had been done and believes the document under question should be sufficient for CRS/Ethiopia's development intentions of that particular area

Comments On Projects' Field Accomplishments

As it was mentioned earlier, the team had the opportunity to assess the activities under the site conditions

At Fessa programme area the accomplishment emphasis had been placed on the rehabilitation of gullied land

Construction of brush wood checkdams, laying out of wattles along contour lines of the sides of gullies, grass sodding lines across the side slopes of gullies and spot planting operations are the major activities that can be observed in the gullies system of the project area

Labour based feeder road constructions were the other prominent components of accomplishments

Equally important as the other operations were tree seedling productions and plantations

The accomplishment at different fiscal years of the project are annexed in the report for detail informations

In all the past years of the project periods the records reveal that targets are met in almost all the activities situations. The allocated food rations had also been consumed all with out hardly any left over

The large portions of the allocated food were shared by the activities such as afforestation, road construction, checkdam construction, and wattling (locally called terrace) establishments. The average proportions of the food utilized for those activities are 27%, 25%, 22% and 14% respectively. Those activities as a group takes up about 88% the total allocations

Considering the prevalence of satisfactory road network conditions in the area the allocation of resources with about 25% for road did seem to be expensive and perhaps unnecessary

The deviations between target and accomplishments of different activities in the fiscal years shown in the annex is insignificant or very minimal. It is questionable to obtain a one to one related results under practical field conditions.

The data displayed in the tables appears to be a reflection of desk work instead of reflections of field experience.

In regard to the appropriateness of the conservation measures it was noted that most of the choices were suitable to the areas natural conditions.

Terrace constructions as a target was set in the projects' annual work plans. The mission however, could not witness of seeing any conventional type of terraces. What the team had been shown as a terrace was <wattles>. Wattles are structures made by interlacing flexible green branches, using upright stakes driven deeply into the soil. The wattles in some conditions appears to be satisfactory. On those instances where it was not established in a continuous manner they are likely to cause more erosion. The work norm used for payment of wattles constructions are equal to that of terrace building.

Effecting equal payment for both types of activities was not right. It incurs unnecessary extra cost to the project. Wattles do not require as much labour as terraces do.

Plant species selection for the plantation programme did not involve the farmers participation and preference. It is a malpractice that may affect the sustainance of afforested areas.

The main activities in the Addis Ababa archdiocese project area were road construction, spring development and tree seedlings production. As far as the standards of the accomplishments were concerned all of them were relatively satisfactory. The concern expressed regarding the road and species selection for Fessa Project applies also to this project.

The achievement of NACID project were impressive for a number of activities. The quality of earth bund constructions were quite high. The protection of closed area for natural regeneration of vegetations were also an appreciable effort.

The conservation measures undertaken so far were quite suitable to area's environmental condition. The effort being undertaken to dug more deep wells for the community use purpose was encouraging and very essential to the drought prone areas.

The income generating activities such as sheep fattening, and hollow block production were also being executed with considerable good results. It was learnt that the food commodities are being utilized to cover the labour cost of any development oriented activity in the project.

The soil conservation effort of the project was concentrated on the compound of the project which covers about 40 ha only. The rest of peasant association area did not seem to get equal attention as that of the areas in the vicinity of the project office.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Conclusions

The evaluation was undertaken under the condition that the projects considered were in various environmental setting and social conditions. The objectives of FFW were also varying among the projects. The NACID project food utilization purpose to some degree was different from that of the other projects included in the survey.

The inclusion of the FY93 MYOP in the evaluation exercise was not timely it was a bit early. The above situations of the projects may have an influence in the validities of the conclusions and recommendations.

1 Attitudes of FFW participants to land degradations and conservation works

In general the attitude of farmers to land degradation was associated with the size of their holdings and the land productivity problem. Those recognitions of the problems were indeed an essential elements in the overall degradation problems of the area. A lot remains to be recognized particularly as far as the underlying causes were concerned.

The farmers opinion on conservation works were closely related to the commencement of FFW programme in their area.

As to the long term benefit they would get from the functions of conservation measures appear to be recognized very well by most of the farmers.

2 Community level planning of activities, selection of participants and the handling of food payment

It was noted farmers participation and consultation in the planning of activities was not satisfactory in the two project areas except at NACID where its project document indicated the farmers full participation.

It has to be recognized by the field staff that the inadequate participation of farmers in the affairs of the projects would likely to put the sustainability of the activities under question

Farmers were uncomfortable on the selection of participants' task force leaders. It was strongly emphasized by many of them that a mechanism will have to be developed for better accommodation of their involvement. To carry out the activities under such circumstances would normally lead to less harmonization of the participants in their duties.

Food promoters were observed involving themselves in the handling of food payments. As their name implies they need to concentrate on supervising the activities of their subordinates and dissemination of technical informations.

The existing field network for food payment in Fessa Project area makes the animator to be placed at a distant from the farmer resulting loose communications between the two bodies.

The appointment of foreman to coordinate the duties of gang leaders of organized farmers group contributed to the existence of the above conditions.

2. Impact of the food distribution on the household economy, local production, and food habits

The meagre household economy of FFW participants can be claimed to have received some support from the commodity distributions. Though, for a non participant and an observer the benefit that farmers would secure from the programme seem to be insignificant, the reality was what would had happened to farmers to meet their financial obligations and food shortages. Certainly life would not be that much easy to look for alternative solutions. In this sense it can be concluded that food distribution had a positive impact in relieving part of the society's economic problem.

The magnitude of food distributed to the project area did not have the capacity to alter the area's production level as well as to change the food habits permanently. One would perhaps could say the food habits will certainly be affected from the fact that more wheat and vegetable oil was being consumed in the dietary system.

4 The role of women in the projects

The degree of women involvement varies from project to project. Relatively speaking for instance their participation in NACID project was more prominent than the rest of the project areas. In general terms however, their role was very low in the projects' programmes. There could be two reasons for the phenomenon.

The women were strongly tied up with family affairs hampering them to participate adequately even if wide opportunities were arranged for them.

The other explanation for their low participation was due to the absence of encouragement mechanism rendered to them in the routine operations.

5 General Field Performances Of The Projects

Broadly speaking the field performances of the projects included in the assessment were satisfactory pending however, for improvements of some issues that would contribute to better results.

- In connection with the technical backgrounds of the counterparts field staff, generally they were found to be at low standards.

This applies to animators in Fessa and Addis Ababa Archdiocese projects. The personnel enthusiasm for work and the effort they had made on to attain what has been achieved now was to be appreciated.

- The linkage with other local development organizations were not strong enough upto the expectations of the evaluators
- The farmers training component was virtually non existent
- The extension work so far undertaken in many of the projects area did not seem to be adequate
- The location of the main office of Fessa Project was not placed centrally and this hampers the project's monitoring and supervision work
- The team had sensed for a risk of overlap of activities and responsibilities between missionary and development themes when it was left to be executed for a person and or group of persons
- Well organized reporting procedures and formats were lacking in most of the project areas visited

Recommendations

- 1 In any development endeavour particularly when it involves a mass of people with different background and level of consciousness concerning their surrounding it is not easy to break through the problems by any suggested means. The more people understand their own problem the easier it will be to organize them for any development venture with a long lasting effect.

Accordingly to raise the low level of consciousness of the community regarding land degradation and conservation works it is recommended that project personnels strengthen their contact with the community and preach about development oriented themes. It is not a one time job and end there instead it requires a concerted effort and continuous work.

Farmers opinion on the relation between conservation work and FFW programme need to be changed if the continuity of efforts are to be ascertained. Dissemination of conservation ideals should always be in the fore front of discussions with the farmers. The food involvement in their development task

should be mentioned as a temporary support to meet their food scarcity. The loose connection between FFW programme and conservation work should always be emphasized in any incident. No food payment should be effected for any maintenance work.

All the above suggested measures are believed to improve the attitude of the people in regard to the issues mentioned.

- 2 For sustenance of conservation work farmers deep involvement at all stages of accomplishments are essential. To ensure farmers participations experiences of similar institutions should be explored by the projects authorities. There are ample experiences in the country in this respect. One area is to establish proper contact with Ministry of Natural Resources Development and Environmental Protection.

In the process of food distributions the network being used at Fessa project area need to be improved. As farmers rightly proposed, the foremen should be nominated by them and have to demonstrate that they are working with them. As far as their monthly payments are concerned it needs some kind of adjustments to the satisfaction of the community.

Food promoters should be free of food handling particularly around warehouses if they are expected to monitor and supervise the jobs of animaters. They were just overloaded with different responsibilities affecting their efficiency.

- 3 Projects experience demonstrated that the magnitude of food distributed up to now did not adversely affect the community in all respects of conceivable important issues considered. As long as food shortage prevails in the area it is justifiable that FFW programme continue in the area perhaps with a wider scope of activities.

To inculcate self reliance attitude among the participating community it is recommended that a mechanism should be

devised for communal works such as road work, water point development and etc where the community would share a cost for a venture. The sharing of the costs could be realized by different means be it in labour contribution or other ways

- 4 The role of women in the project areas claimed to be to a limited extent. It was good to note that their low participation was not due to deliberate actions. However, their participation still could be improved or strengthened by developing activities which will not detract them from their family obligations

Farmyard activities are an area to be explored. Seedling productions and farmyard compost preparations are other examples where women participation could be capitalized

As a general recommendation that can be said is they need to be encouraged to participate in any of the activities they wish to and project staff need to be convinced that their gender status will not bar them to be efficient as their men colleague are doing

- 5 In the concluding remarks portions of the report a set of issues related to the projects performances were raised for possible brief recommendations listed here after,

- To up grade the technical competence of the field staff it is recommended that they be provided with regular on job training. Field visits to areas where conservation works were claimed to be successful be arranged for them to enable them acquire more field experience
- The work linkage of projects with other similar institutions were not adequate. To establish somewhat regular contact with government ministries it will be to the advantage of the counterparts

The ministries concerned are normally happy to maintain such kind of working relationships

- Farmers training in all spheres of project activities need to be included. It is recommended that to realize this job done project staff should take the local initiations to be assisted by the MNRDEP by making proper contact. CRS/ETH can have a role of coordinating in this respect.
- The extension effort so far experienced in the various project areas were not adequate. Part of the recommendations mentioned earlier are basically applicable to strengthen the status of extension. Again if to MOA's system of extension are adhered to, the situation can be improved.
- The location of Fessa Project office is not conveniently placed to serve most of the P A included in the project. It is recommended that the office be established in one of lowland P A areas for the benefit of the people and efficient project management.
- To enable the Fessa Project authorities concentrate adequately on purely development activities it is strongly recommended that a development office similar to that of Addis Ababa Archdiocese project be established.
- To monitor, supervise and attain regular feed back of field situation the establishment of standard reporting formats are of paramount importance. It is recommended therefore, for the benefit of both counterparts and the financier a system be created where information flow can be guaranteed.
- In order to strengthen and improve the recording system of the project activities and for follow up of the progresses and evaluation of site activities it is recommended a that video recording and photographing of areas somehow be arranged.

EJA & WOLENE
 FESSA FOOD FOR WORK PROGRAM
 1991 ACHIEVEMENT
 SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION

ACTIVITIES	UNIT	PLAN	ACHIEVEMENT	ALLOCATED FUND		PAYMENT	
				WHEAT (Qt)	V OIL (Lit)	WHEAT (Qt)	V OIL (Qt)
ROAD CONS	KM	25	24 5	1,500	5,760	1,455	5,820
TERRACING	KM	80	62	360	1,440	259	1,030
CHECKDAM CONS	KM	12	10	540	2,160	495	1,980
GRASS PLANTING	KM	60	55 5	360	1,440	333	1,332
SEEDLING PROD	NO	500,000	500,000	247	988	701	2,804
PLANTING	NO	450,000	450,000	225	900	225	900
PITTING	NO	450,000	450,000	675	2,700	675	2,700
SPRING DEV	NO	10	5	816	3,264	279	1,116
SITE GUARD	HA	18	6	54	216	18	72
BRIDGE CONS	NO	2	2	200	800	200	800
TOTAL				4,977	19,668	4,640	18,554

23

EJA & WOLENE
 FESSA FOOD FOR WORK PROGRAM
 1992 ACHIEVEMENT
 SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION

Annex I
 Page 3

ACTIVITIES	UNIT	PLAN	ACHIEVEMENT	ALLOCATED FUND		PAYMENT	
				WHEAT (Qt)	V OIL (Lit)	WHEAT (Qt>	V OIL (Lit)
ROAD CONS	KM	20	12	1,200	4,800	750	3,000
TERRACING	KM	112	112	504	2,016	504	2,016
GRASS PLANTING	KM	65	65	390	1,560	390	1,560
SEEDLING PROD	NO	1,000,000	1,000,000	450	1,800	450	1,800
CHELKDAM CONS	KM	16	16	720	2,880	720	2,880
CHECKDAM MAINT	KM	15	15	135	450	135	540
ROAD MAINT	KM	24	23	240	960	345	1,580
POND CONS	NO	1	0 5	261	1,044	113 5	454
PITTING	NO	500,000	525,000	750	3,000	784 5	3,138
PLANTING	NO	500,000	523,000	227 26	903 26	237 72	950 88
DICHERA	NO	21	15	420	1,680	300	1,200
SITE GUARD		14	10	84	336	50	200
TOTAL				5,381 3	21,519 3	4,779 72	19,118 88

28

EJA & WOLENE
 TESSA FOOD FOR WORK PROGRAM
 OCTOBER 1992 - MARCH 1993 PLAN & ACHIEVEMENT
 SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION

Annex I
 Page 4

ACTIVITIES	UNIT	PLAN	ACHIEVEMENT	ALLOCATED FOOD		PAYMENTS	
				WHEAT (Qt)	V OIL (Lit)	WHEAT (Qt)	V OIL (Lit)
ROAD CONS	KM	23	7	1,080	4,320	420	1,680
TERRACE CONS	KM	163	111 5	734	2,936	502 5	2,010
CHECKDAM CONS	KM	23	23	690	2,760	690	2,760
CHECKDAM MAINT	KM	9	9	270	1,080	270	1,080
TOTAL				2,774	11,096	1,882 5	7,530

29

SUMMARY

Anne - I
Page 5

IA & WILFNE
ESSA FOOD FOR WORK PROGRAMME
1990 - 1991, MARCH
OIL WATER CONSERVATION

ACTIVITIES	UNIT	PLAN	ACHIEVEMENT	ALLOCATED FUND		PAYMENTS	
				WHEAT (Qt)	V OIL (Lit)	WHEAT (Qt)	V OIL (Lit)
ROAD CONSTRUCTION	km	83	59				
CHECK DAM CONSTRUCTION	km	71.2	71.2				
TERRACE CONSTRUCTION	km	485	382.8				
GRASS PLANTING	ha	200	195.5				
SEEDLING PRODUCTION	ha	1 500 000	1 500 000				
SEEDLING PLANTING	ha	1 300 000	1 283 000				
PITTING	ha	1 300 000	1 285 000				
SITE VISIT	ha	52	52				
REPORTING		1	1				
REPORTING		2	2				
ROAD MAINTENANCE		24	24				
HECK MAINTENANCE		24	24				
ROAD MAINTENANCE			0.5				
TOTAL ALLOCATED	UTILIZED			16 829.3	67 071.3	14 085.2	59 404.9

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

10

ADDIS ABABA ARCHDIOCESE (WESTERN SHOA)

Annex I
Page 6

FFW, ACTIVITIES & FOOD ALLOCATION FOR 1993 PHYSICAL YEAR

SITES - ENDIRER, DAKUNA, MEGENASIE, CHEHA - WUDMA, BURAT, JEMB, JEMBORD, SHEBRABER, MEKANA, SANDIKA, AGENA, GETCHOE)

ACTIVITIES	UNIT	TARGET	FOOD ALLOCATED	
			WHEAT (Qt)	V O11 (Lit)
SEEDLING PROD	NO	400	180	720
PITTING	NO	400,000	600	2,400
PLANTING	NO	400,000	192	768
SPRING DEV	NO	33	1,683	6,732
ROAD MAIN	KM	51	765	3,060
CHECK DAM CONS	LM	34,000	1,020	4,080
ROAD CONST	KM	25	1,500	6,000
TERRACING	KM	235	1,058	4,236
TOTAL	-	-	6,998	27,996

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

15

Questionnaire for participants and women in the project area

- 1) Do you participate in FFW programme?
- 2) Is it accepted that women can participate in working the same task as men if they wish?
- 3) What is the proportion of women working for FFW in the project area ? (From the total participants)
- 4) Do women work in the same team with men or separately?
- 5) Are there female team leaders?
- 6) Are there more women wishing to work than can be accepted?
- 7) Within the household who decides whether women should participate in FFW programme?
- 8) Are women paid a lower daily rate of payment than men?
- 9) Do you think that women are in any way treated unequally as men, regarding FFW?
- 10) Do the women work the same hours per day on FFW as men?
- 11) If you have children, how do you manage to look after them when you are working on FFW?
- 12) If your children are a problem for your participation in FFW, do you have any suggestion for a solution?
- 13) Does domestic work suffer while you work for FFW more than during your normal farm work?
- 14) Has FFW somehow changed the way you eat?
- 15) Since FFW began, do you eat more wheat than usual?
- 16) What is your general comment on FFW programme?
- 17) What is your opinion concerning the causes and effects of land degradation within your area ?

Soil Conservation

- 18) What was done individually by the people within the area to overcome land degradation before the FFW programme was initiated ?
- 19) Which of the activities or techniques you think are judged to offer the best results for conservation ?

- 38) What properties do you think is consumed directly by the household ?
- 39) If some people in your area sell FFW grain and oil, which one is usually sold ?
- 40) If people sell grain or oil, why ? what items do they purchase after sell of grain and oil ?
- 41) During periods of payment or distribution of food for participants in FFW, have you noticed any changes in prices of grain or food ?

The process for planning and selection of the project activities undertaken in the area

- 42) At the beginning, did P A ask the authorities to start FFW actions these, or was the P A first asked by the authorities
- 43) If the plan of activities of FFW has been discussed at a meeting of all P A members, when? had there been any subsequent making? for what purpose or reason?
- 44) Have women been involved in such discussions? How?
- 45) Does your area entirely depend on animaters for decisions about the plan of activities?
- 46) Would the P A committee like to see certain changes in the way the FFW activities are run ?
- 47) How has FFW affected voluntary work ?
- 48) Who decides on the timing of tasks ?
- 49) Do you think that there are disputes between and among participants of FFW concerning individual efforts ? (strong-weak, male ,female, etc)
- 50) What is your general comment on FFW ?
- 51) What advises would you give concerning the FFW programme ?

