

PD-ABU-077
111054



Winrock International

Ethiopia

**Ethiopian Management of Participatory
Opportunities for Women in Extension and
Research (EMPOWER) Program**

**Quarterly Progress Report
April - June 2001**



*July 2001
Addis Ababa*

Quarterly Progress Report (April - June 2001)

1. Introduction

The Ethiopian Management of Participatory Opportunities for Women in Extension and Research (EMPOWER) program is implementing its ONFARM, Scholarship and Training project components' activities, since January 1998. The program complements Ethiopia's primary concern and the overall goal of USAID/Ethiopia mission of enhancing food security. It directly implements the mission's Strategic Objective # 3 *rural household production and productivity increased*. It operates in two regions of Ethiopia - Southern Nations Nationalities and Peoples Regional State (in two specific sites- Yem and Gimbo *weredas*) and in the Amhara National Regional State (in three sites - Bahir Dar Regional Coordination Office, Libokemkem and Enebssie Sar Midir *weredas*). Scholarship and Training project components are crosscutting and involve all zones and special *weredas* (sub-district) of the regions that Winrock International Ethiopia (WIE) operates, while ONFARM works only in specific *weredas*.

This progress report presents the major activities accomplished during this reporting period of time (April- June 2001).

2. Major Activities Accomplished During April - June 2001

During the reporting 3rd quarter different activities accomplished were orientation seminar given to WIE field staffs on June 28 and 29, 2001 and finalizing and submission of the EMPOWER annual performance monitoring and evaluation to USAID/Ethiopia mission. The other particular activity completed during this reporting period of time is the project-launching seminar conducted in Enebssie Sar Midir and Libokemkem *weredas* of Amhara region. Details of these and other activities accomplished during the April - June 2001 reporting quarter are stated below.

2.1. ONFARM Project Component

ONFARM activities in the ANRS - The ONFARM component activities have been in progress in the Region since the beginning of the third quarter. WIE project orientation program was organized and conducted at Enebssie Sar Midir (June 3, 2001) and Libokemkem (June 5, 2001) to partner farmers, peasant association chairpersons, and representatives of the co-signatory offices, and other invited guests from relevant zonal and *wereda* offices. WIE headquarter was represented by the Agriculture Coordinator. The program ended successfully.

In the quarter under report, peasant associations (PAs) were selected from representative PAs within the intervention *weredas* (Libokemkem and Enebssie Sar Midir) to implement the WIE designed projects. In these PAs partner farmers who were determined to participate in any of the ONFARM project component activities were identified and registered. Both adaptation and demonstrations trials have been conducted at both sites involving many cereals, pulses and horticultural crops. About 69 varieties of 19 crop

*Funded through a cooperative agreement with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
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species are being tested. Moreover, acquisition of 31 forage and forest seeds, several farm inputs and other technologies have been accomplished.

Four individual skill upgrading training's have been given to selected farmers in both *weredas* and development agents/supervisors in Enebssie Sar Midir *wereda* on improved agricultural technologies. All together, 186 farmers (140 women) and 38 development agents and supervisors (3 women) were trained at Enebssie Sar Midir while at Libokemkem 132 farmers (46 women) were trained.

ONFARM activities in the SNNPRS: During the quarter, close to 300 demonstrations and several adaptation trials have been conducted both at Yem and Gimbo. In addition, establishment of group and individual vegetable gardens, introduction of bee colonies into mud beehives, organizing women for credit activities etc. have been some of the activities implemented at both project sites in the SNNPRS. Over 3 km conservation structures were constructed and bund plantations with vetiver grass performed as well. In both *weredas* over 10,000 forage, 5000 coffee and 100, 000 forest seedlings were raised and most of these distributed to partner farmers, or plant at some sites.

Two training sessions on seed multiplication techniques and fruit and vegetable production were conducted for farmers and development agents at Yem and Gimbo. At Yem, 17 female and 16 male farmers as well as 17 male and 6 female development agents were trained in seed production. At Gimbo, the number of farmer trainees was 27 male and 27 female. In fruit and vegetable production, 40 female farmers (Gimbo) and 25 female and 5 male farmers as well as 9 female and 14 male development agents/supervisors (Yem) were trained.

Other ONFARM support activities:

- In order to support the farming system with meteorological information, two classes meteorological stations were established at the project sites in the SNNPRS and sites were selected and official requisition was made to the National Meteorology Services Agency in Addis Ababa to install the same at the two project *weredas* in the ANRS.
- During the period under report, memorandums of understandings were signed with *wereda* stakeholders for the implementation of WIE sponsored credit activities.

2.2. Training Project Component

Short-term training is intended to promote capacity building initiatives of professionals, planners, development agents, farmers and community leaders that in one way or another work towards the enhancement of food security. To this end, a total of seven training activities had been conducted during this 3rd quarter both in the SNNPRS/ Gimbo *wereda* and in the ANRS mainly in Libokemkem and Enebssie Sar Midir *weredas*. All the training was conducted according to plans and successfully. One thing that made the training unique this time was the active participation of zonal and *wereda* council members and community leaders.

Activities accomplished

Saving and credit - It was conducted in all the three-project *weredas* (May 18-20 Gimbo *wereda*, May 29-June 2nd Libokemkem *wereda* and June 5 -8 Enebssie Sar Midir *wereda*). Participants were drawn from women farmers, cooperative organizers and WIE-field staff. A total of 83 participants have taken part in the training. Of these 62 were females, which was 75%.

Objectives -The main objective of the training was to promote the basic issues and principles of saving and credit cooperatives promotion and thereby enhance the financial management and organization capabilities of rural women.

Lessons learned -Among some of the lessons learned was that women want to really get organized into cooperatives and involve themselves in credit schemes with very little assistance. For example, four women trainees from Enebssie Sar Midir *wereda* in the ANRS have already registered not less than 50 partners to form saving and credit units.

Participatory Rural Appraisal training - It was conducted in Bonga/Gimbo from May 14-23. A total of 23 participants (of which 4 females) have participated in the training. The trainees were composed of Agricultural Department Heads, team leaders and experts.

Objectives- the main objectives of the training included:

- Familiarize field workers and extension agents with the basic PRA tools to be used in field exercise.
- To give PRA trainees the opportunity to exercise PRA tools in the farming communities.

Lessons learned-some lessons learned from this training were

- Development agents and trainers realized that farmers really understand their community problems than any body else.
- Farmers are capable of drawing their own community maps and can locate resources.
- Development agents have stressed that they have now believed that any development activity must be people centered.

Gender and Traditional Cultural Barriers training -This training took place from June 6-8 in Enebssie Sar Midir *wereda*. The training was conducted as a result of the suggestions made from the women associations and *wereda* leaders. A total of 31 participants (14 females) have taken part in the training.

Objectives - The main objective for conducting this training was to explore the major cultural constraints that hinder women participation and hence keeping them subordinate.

Lessons learned - When women and men discuss together issues, there is more chance to come to a common understanding. Some cultural barriers could be removed if community leaders discuss on them and are convinced .The training was concluded

successfully and the *wereda* decision- makers commented that attitude changes is more likely to take place when common local problems are discussed in such an open forum.

Management /Leadership Training For Rural Women Leaders –Venue - the training was conducted in Gimbo/ Southern Region and from June 18-26 /2001. Twenty-six female participants have been involved in the training. Twenty-four of the participants were farmers while two came representing women affairs office.

Objectives

- The main objective was to help women develop self-confidence as development participant.
- Encourage more leadership skills in rural women.
- Encourage rural women to take part in community affairs and involve themselves in decision-making.

Lessons Learned

- Participants were very much inspired by the discussion that women can as well provide leadership in the rural communities.
- Women were convinced that they could involve themselves in decision-making.
- When participants had a field discussion with community members towards the end of the training, they showed confidence that women can lead a meeting, which can be concluded with decisions.

2.3. Scholarship Project Component

Pre-departure processes - the pre-departure processes (visa, medical, travel arrangements etc.) of the three overseas scholars had been facilitated through concerted efforts of staff of Winrock Ethiopia, Philippines and Nairobi offices. As a result, all scholars have left for Philippines via Nairobi as per the schedule.

Pre-departure orientation - pre-departure orientation was given on May 16, 2001, to the three WIE sponsored overseas scholars who are going to Philippines for M.Sc. (two) and B.Sc. (one) studies. WIE, USAID/Ethiopia and former scholars organized the orientation. The participation of former scholars had given first hand information to the out going scholars in providing relevant information about life in Philippines and academic environment.

Follow-up the admission- reapplication had been made to the Adventist University for the B.Sc. overseas scholar due to change of the Dean. Despite added pressure to all involved given short time period left, the candidate has been admitted for B.Sc. study in the field of Home Science and able to leave without much delay.

M.Sc. Research - four M.Sc. scholars had carried out their field research in Ethiopia. The research areas were highly linked to the issues of food security and rural women.

Debriefing seminar - debriefing seminar had been organized on 24 May 2001 for four M.Sc. scholars who were undertaking fieldwork in Ethiopia for their M.Sc. thesis. The presentations of the scholars include highlights about their experiences of studying at Philippines, brief presentations on their research and field works. USAID/Ethiopia mission, WIE staff and WIE senior advisor had participated in the seminar.

SEP project supervision and SEP workshop - WIE senior advisor, representing WIE had attended SEP workshop organized for supervisors at Awassa and did a joint supervision of WIE scholars at their respective field sites with Alemaya and BOA staff.

Field exercises of diploma scholars - in the efforts of linking scholars to issues of rural women, food security program, and linking theory with practice as well as field exercise was planned for diploma scholars. To that end, operational guideline with its detail - background, objective, activities and budget framework has been prepared, shared with Component Coordinators and field staff. Letters were also sent to notify scholars about the field activities.

Amendment to MOU - amendment to the original Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Jimma University was made in order to accommodate WIE sponsored advanced standing degree students in the campus.

New scholarship grant (Lucas Scholarship Grant) - this Lucas Scholarship grant is a matching fund for EMPOWER scholarship grant that was acquired through fund raising efforts. For its implementation, proposal has been developed and submitted to WI Headquarter. Upon securing approval from head office, WIE planned to give 4 and 2-scholarship opportunity for eligible women drawn from ANRS and SNNPRS, respectively to study agriculture extension in the mid-career program. To that end, invitation has been sent, and placement was secured from Alemaya University.

2.4 Monitoring and Evaluation

EMPOWER Performance Monitoring Plan (PMP) - through the concerted efforts and support of Winrock Head Office (Mr. Chris Kopp), and WIE's Component Coordinators, the EMPOWER monitoring plans has been finalized, presented and approved by USAID/Ethiopia. Different monitoring forms developed so far had been distributed to field staff to solicit their comments.

Field visit to Gimbo and Yem to monitor the data gathering had not been carried out during the reporting period. Instead, presentation was made to WIE staff regarding Monitoring and Evaluation, EMPOWER M and E frameworks, M and E indicators and M and E tools during WIE field staff orientation seminar.

2.5. Management/Administration

ANRS visit

During this reporting period, the ANRS coordination office, Addis Zemen and Mertule Mariam were visited to discuss administrative issues and to train field staff financial reporting and petty cash handling.

Staff Recruitment

A total of 8 staffs were recruited for the ANRS project during this quarter.

Procurement

During this reporting quarter different office furniture were purchased for ANRS Coordination office, Enebssie Sar Midir and Libokemkem WIE project sites.

Routine activities

Field activity reports submitted to HQ on a timely basis and funds released as requested. Several trip arrangements made during the quarter without any problem.

2.6 Networking and Conference Participation

- **InterAction International Workshop Participation** - During this reporting period of time the Program Coordinator/WIE Country Representative, Dr. Wudnesh Hailu, was nominated to attend the African Liaison Program Initiative's (ALPI) Washington Week and Interaction Annual Forum Workshops held from May 28 –June 6, 2001. The objectives of the workshops were:
 - to enhance the effectiveness and promote professional capacity of InterAction members (NGOs) engaged in international humanitarian efforts and development.
 - to create dialog and improve development relationships among NGOs and donors that makes sustainable development in Africa an achievable goal. Also to create awareness among the African NGO delegates in order to increase effectiveness of US development assistance to Africa by linking current practices to more effective policy.
 - ALPI strives also to create a safe space where participants can discuss sensitive but important issues, share current practices and leanings, and link good development practice to the formulation of more effective policies in the US and Africa. The workshops were very useful and have exposed the Program Coordinator to many people with rich ideas and experiences, which she has learned more about mutual accountability, constraints in working towards mutual accountability, development trends and issues of men gender mainstreaming.

- **EARO International Workshop on the 2nd SPAAR/FARA** – On April 1-6, 2001 an international workshop was held in Addis Ababa to discuss on Special Program for African Agricultural Research /Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (SPAAR/FARA), which was organized by EARO. Winrock International Ethiopia Program Coordinator was invited and had the opportunity to participate in this important workshop. The objectives of SPAAR/FARA special program were to:
 - refine the proposed African model for agricultural research ,
 - design a framework for facilitation of policy dialogue on African perspectives on international agricultural issues,
 - become credible and effective interlocutors with national African governments, where advocacy is needed to stimulate interest in agricultural renewal and create the commitment and political will. Raising awareness will encourages public support of policy initiatives such as good governance and political decentralization and build a credible apex African forum for agricultural research.
 - Facilitate the transformation process of NARIs to NARSs, including universities, NGOs, CBOs, local private sectors etc. and
 - Support CGIAR's transformation in sub-Saharan Africa.
- **CRDA Gender Working Group Meetings** – The Gender working group committee, where the WIE Program Coordinator is the member of the committee met several times during this reporting quarter. Most of the meetings focused on various issues like, gender aspects of the Poverty Reduction Strategy Document, gender working group representation on the consultation of study on CRDA working groups, why need of working groups and what makes them stay together.
- **Women in Development Fund Launching program** - Dr. Wudnesh Hailu represented Winrock International Ethiopia on May 2, 2001 at this official inaugural day of the program, which was organized by the Women's Affairs Office at the Prime Minster's Office.
- **American NGO Forum** - On May 16, 2001 the American NGO Forum meeting was held at the US Ambassador's residence place and discussed on issues like USAID ISP and role of our partners, security, Internate access, NGO concern, and heard presentation on PVO programs of VOCA and SCF/USA.
- **Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE) Ethiopia Chapter meeting** - Winrock International Ethiopia is a member of FAWE Ethiopia and is represented through its Program Coordinator. The June 30 and July 1, 2001 meeting which, Dr. Wudnesh attended and revised the constitution of the organization, annual report and elected executive officers of the organization.
- The two ANRS site project officers and the Regional Project Coordinator represented WIE in the workshop organized by the ANRS Bureau of Agriculture (BoA) under the title "**Government and Non-Government Organizations Joint Agriculture-Focused Workshop at Woldia (June 7-8, 2001)**". The major objectives of the workshop were to create awareness among NGOs about the government policies and to indicate the areas in which NGOs could complement the development efforts of the Regional Government, and to learn and share

experiences of NGOs which have got the record of outstanding performance in different development and social service provision efforts.

- WIE Agriculture Coordinator Dr Tekalign Mamo representing WI regionally in Africa, participated in the **Eastern African Fine Coffees Association Sustainable Tree Crops Program Conference (EAFCA-STCP)** held 17-23 June 2001, Kampala, Uganda in collaboration with USAID Africa Bureau. The conference objectives were to develop strategic plans for STCP, build public and private partnerships in the coffee other tree crops sector, and determine who will be the lead in each country in coordinating the STCP and set up working groups. Participants were close to 150 and they were drawn from the six African countries (representing coffee and other tree crops research, coffee development offices and associations, etc). Others who came from Europe and North America included USAID staff, coffee marketers, as well as ACDI/VOCA staff. From Ethiopia, six participants were present in the conference representing several institutions. During the five-day meeting, several presentations were made and regional as well as country strategies developed. Of the focal areas (Research and Technology Transfer, Grower and Business Support, Policy Change and Implementation, Market System and Information System Development, Cashews and other Tree Crops Development), WIE has shown interest to be involved in the technology generation/dissemination and other tree crops programs.
- **Women Professional Association taskforce:** - had held two meetings during the reporting period.
- **Consultative meeting at CRDA:-** SMEC had attended a half day consultative meeting on the study made regarding CRDA working groups : challenges and future direction. Comments and relevant feedback provided from all members NGOs for enriching the report.
- **General membership meeting of CRDA:-** SMEC had attended a half day general membership meeting of CRDA. Among other, guest lecture was given on "*private organizations /business community and NGO community/volunteer organizations*".
- **WIE Field Staff Orientation Seminar** – On June 28 and 29, 2001 WIE Addis Ababa Office organized a two-day seminar for its Regional Project Coordinators, and Site Project Officers. The aim of the seminar was to capacitate and have common understanding and procedures of implementing WIE project activities at the field sites. The specific objectives of the seminar were:
 - To update field staff with WIE's gender focused mission of enhancing household food security,
 - To orient field staff about WIE and its component activities so that they would have similar understanding and work approach,
 - To orient field staff about Monitoring and Evaluation, Administration and Finance procedures and overall reporting formats,
 - To share experience among WIE staff and get feedback about their fieldwork, and other related issues.

NARMSET conference: in the efforts of professional development, SME coordinator, chairperson for the interim secretariat for the network of the natural resource managers in

Ethiopia has been engaged in various activities. The network was renamed to be Natural Resource Management Society in Ethiopia (NARMSET) for which, SMEC was again re-elected to be a president. To that end, the first conference was organized on 4-5 June 2001 on the theme: “*Natural Resources Management and Livelihood Security*”. Seven international participants drawn from Norway, Asia and Africa had participated and shared their experiences. The Deputy Ambassador to Norway and Director of Environment Authority provided opening and keynote address. WIE had been officially acknowledged for serving as contact point.

2.6. Plan of Action

- Follow-up and agronomic data collection on the established demonstration and adaptation trial sites.
- Conduct demonstration and adaptation trials on improved crop varieties and agronomic practices.
- Seedlings distribution (multipurpose trees, fruits).
- Demonstrate the use of improved farm implements and appropriate technologies.
- Select partner farmers and form credit groups to start micro enterprises.
- Provision of credits.
- Purchase of onfarm inputs irrigation pump, rice dehulling equipment, and fishing equipment.
- Identify resource persons for the training programs and conduct ONFARM training for farmers and development agents/supervisors.
- Telephone line installation at project sites in ANRS.
- Carry out soil sampling and analysis for three project sites.
- Conduct farmers’ field days and organize cross visits.
- Conduct needs assessment surveys and prepare annual progress reports, action plans.
- Conduct Leadership For Change Training in the ANRS.
- Conduct PRA training in Libokemkem and Enebssie Sar Midir *Weredas*.
- Conduct HIV/AIDS Awareness training in Libokemkem *wereda*
- Conduct Monitoring and Evaluation Training in Enebssie Sar Midir *wereda*.
- Finalize the application and admission of the scholars for the new grant.
- Facilitate entrance examination.
- Finalize M and E tools for data gathering after receiving feedback from field staff
- Work on profile of WIE scholars.
- Follow-up the field exercise of diploma scholars.
- Complete TraiNet data base for all scholars.
- Follow-up of the taskforce of Professional Women Association Formation: - organize workshop, endorse constitution, place election of the standing committee.
- Prepare monthly field reports and submits it to HQ on a timely manner.
- Close books of accounts and prepare draft receipts and disbursements statement for audit.
- Participate in a consultative Round Table discussion AWLAE project proposal and scholars’ research priorities to be held in Nairobi, Kenya.