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**Winrock International**

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

**1<sup>st</sup> Quarterly Progress Report  
October - December 2002**



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## **Quarterly Progress Report (October - December 2002)**

### **1. Introduction**

Winrock International (WI) has been implementing its program of Ethiopian Management of Participatory Opportunities for Women in Extension and Research (EMPOWER) as a result of the cooperative agreement signed with the Ethiopian Government and USAID/Ethiopia mission. EMPOWER program is tailored to meet Ethiopia's critical needs of enhancing food security and complements the mission's strategic objective (SO) #7- "**Household production and productivity increased**". Also the program's project components - On Farm Agricultural Resource Management (ONFARM), Short-term Training and Scholarship are closely linked with the mission's SO #7 intermediate results.

EMPOWER program operates in two regions of Ethiopia - Southern Nations, Nationalities and People's Regional State (SNNPRS) and Amhara National Regional State (ANRS). The project sites in the SNNPRS are Yem Special and Gimbo *weredas*. On the other hand, three project intervention sites have been established in the ANRS - Libokemkem and Enebssie Sar Midir *weredas* and a Regional Coordination office in Bahir Dar. ONFARM project component implements its activities only in the specific *weredas*, while the other two project components are crosscutting and involve all zones and *weredas* of these regions.

This quarterly progress report of October - December 2002 presents major activities accomplished during that period of time.

### **2. Program and Components Activity Accomplishments**

#### **2.1. On Farm Agricultural Resource Management (ONFARM) Project Component**

##### **2.1.1 ONFARM activities in SNNPRS**

Yield data collection and evaluations of the last cropping season's demonstrations have been started in both *weredas*. So far, based on the data gathered, yield reduction has been observed in some crops due to rainfall shortage during flowering and seed setting stages. Yield data collection of seed multiplication activities has also been in progress at both sites. At Gimbo, efforts have been made by the project staff in acquainting farmers with the preparation and uses of organic fertilizer. Hence, 22 farmers (13 male-headed and 9 women farmers) have prepared compost and used it for vegetable production. The project office at Gimbo has also assisted 4 farmers (3 married-women and 1 male-headed) to use tobacco leaves and protect their crops from aphids' damage. In the area of weevil and storage pest control using botanicals, both project offices have assisted over 500 farmers (55% women) to protect their produce from storage pests.

In the area of vegetable production, 27 participants at Yem have planted 35ha of land with various vegetables using irrigation and 85 farmers (65MW and 18FH) who have planted the same during the past rainy season, have harvested 3821 kg Vegetables. This enabled them to earn income of birr 4,147 and to consume 321 kg vegetables to diversity their food habit. In poultry and sheep production activities, follow up and data collection on benefits gained was among the major duties of the project staffs. Therefore, 24 poultry production and 71 sheep production participants (100% women) have earned income or birr 109 and 2,081 from the sale of eggs and sheep (lambs) respectively during the quarter. In bee keeping activity, the period was conducive and partner farmers were involved in harvesting honey, constructing beehives and introducing bee colonies to newly constructed beehives. Thus, 9 existing participants have harvested 79 kg honey and have earned 821 birr income from honey sale and two of them have bought a heifer and sheep with the income. In addition, 27 new participants have constructed 35 improved beehives with bamboo and 7 of them have introduced bee colonies to them.

At Gimbo, 99 farmers (92 women and 7 male-headed) have harvested 12,897 kg of several types of vegetables. Out of this, they sold 9,449 kg for 7,451 birr and consumed 3448 kg. With the income they obtained, 27 farmers (24 women and 3 male-headed) have bought 11 sheep, 11 goats, 1 ox, 1 heifer, 5 chickens and house furniture. On the other hand, 62 farmers (53 women and 9 male-headed) have obtained 1,209 birr from the sale of 2,448 eggs and 19 chicks. Moreover, they consumed 519 eggs at home. With the income they obtained 9 women farmers have bought 1 cow, 3 sheep, 2 goats and 5 chicks. A woman project partner farmer who raised coffee with the technical and material assistance given to her by the project has obtained 300 birr from the sale of 1000 coffee seedlings.

Regarding appropriate technology dissemination, accomplishments at Yem are beyond the quarter's plan as compared to other component activities. Introduction activity of 78 improved grain storages, 28 improved mud stoves and 72 improved *enset* decorticators have been accomplished during the reporting period. Through these technologies, 178 farmers (141 female) have benefited. At Gimbo, the construction of 132 energy saving 'mirt' stoves has been accomplished through the active participation of farmers, WI and *wereda* office of agriculture field staffs. A total of 132 women farmers took part in the construction of stoves. In addition, 177 farmers (80 women and 97 male-headed) have constructed 208 improved storage structures that protect stored grain from rodents. Moreover, 42 fireless cookers, 7 iceless coolers and 7 local shelves were constructed by 56 farmers (54 women and 2 male-headed).

Other ONFARM activities included technology acquaintance and diffusion and field days. During the reporting period at Yem, lateral acquaintance and diffusion was higher in the areas of improved storage, stoves and *enset* decorticators dissemination. All in all, 464 farmers (56% women) have been acquainted to various ONFARM technologies and 39 of them have practiced the technologies that they have been acquainted with. At Gimbo, 1,097 non-target farmers (650 women and 447 male-headed) have become acquainted with one or more technologies. Of these, 11 farmers (10 women and 1 male headed) have built 11

'mirt' stoves. In addition, 26 farmers (23 women and 3 male-headed) have bought 125 eggs and 10 chickens to have their own improved breeds. On the other hand, ninety-three farmers (31 women and 62 male-headed) have constructed 4 iceless coolers, 2 hives and 87 improved storage structures.

At Yem, 3 field days (two at two specific PAs and one across the *wereda*) have been conducted to acquaint farmers with improved technologies and share experiences among themselves. At the occasions, 132 farmers (70 females) drawn from 15 PAs and 16 development agents and experts from *wereda* stakeholder offices have participated.

At Gimbo, the project in collaboration with Gimbo *wereda* office of agriculture have organized and conducted a field day on 26/12/02. Unlike the previous year, the field day program was entirely led by two project women partner farmers. The field day brought some 115 participants drawn from 11 PAs, representatives from *wereda* office of agriculture, administrative council, cooperative promotion desk, zone agriculture desk, administrative council, cooperative promotion desk, all DAs, WI-Gimbo field staffs and Farm Africa. In addition, the project has also facilitated 2 cross-visits and 9 inter group visits. A total of 455 farmers (46.6% women) have participated during the visits.

**Practical training:** This was organized and conducted at Yem project site in the last week of December. The training was focused on practical citrus seedling grafting and associated agronomic techniques. A trainer from Melkassa Research Center handled the training given to ten development agents, including those of Yem project site. In addition, grafting of over 700 citrus rootstocks with improved citrus cultivars was accomplished. Field planting of several citrus and papaya varieties was also done for future transplanting and grafting purposes.

**Public awareness:** An account of Gimbo project activity in the southern region was aired on Ethiopian Radio morning agriculture program on Wednesday, December 18, 2002. The report focused on grain storage and post harvest loss problems being evident in the *wereda* and WI's efforts in introducing technologies to avert the problem. The project site officer, Ato Wubshet Adugna was interviewed in the same program.

### 2.1.2 ONFARM activities in ANRS

In both *weredas*, during the quarter under report almost all crops, except chickpea and lentil, which were under demonstration and adaptation trials have been harvested and data compilation is underway. In Enebsie Sar Midir, farmers' selection has been carried out to distribute mango (256) and papaya (712) seedlings. Farmers, who were trained and sensitized on improved seed multiplication, have produced 173.35 quintal of improved seeds of barley, wheat, field pea, faba bean, and linseed in Enebsie Sar Midir *wereda*. Due follow up has been made by WI and the agricultural staff to ensure the quality of seeds.

**Vegetable production (income generation):** In Enebssie Sar Midir *wereda*, eight women (MW) who participated in vegetable production last year have gained additional income of birr 2453.00 from the sale of onion and have consequently bought eight goats (created asset), while the group producers (8FH, 16MW) have earned 221.20 birr from the sale of vegetables. Similarly, in Libokemkem a woman obtained 58.50 birr from the sale of papaya fruit.

In Enebssie, during the quarter under report, 25 individual women (1FH, 24MW) farmers and one newly formed vegetable grower group having 14 members (8FH, 6MW) have been involved in vegetable production. In Libokemekem, 168 individual vegetable growers and one group vegetable growers (11FH, 4 MW, 1MH) have been involved.

**Credit and Saving:** In Enebssie Sar Midir *wereda*, farmers who are involved in sheep (62), poultry (92), and bee keeping (30) have earned additional income of 4,098.00, 2,063.45, and 1,224.00 birr, respectively, from the sale of lambs, eggs and chickens, and honey. Similarly, in Libokemkem, farmers obtained income of 2151.00, 219.75, 192.00, and 385.00 birr from the credit activities of sheep, poultry, bee keeping, and fishery, respectively. On the other hand, credit beneficiaries of farm oxen (4), sheep (12), beekeeping (6), and poultry have paid 5,428.70 birr to settle their loan. Among the income generating activities in Libokemkem, fishery and poultry were affected by malaria epidemic and poultry disease (*coccidiosis*), respectively.

**Irrigation micro enterprise:** The irrigation pump credit beneficiaries (irrigation cooperatives) at Birra PA are growing onion, potato, tomato and irrigated-barley on 6.7 hectares of land. Their crops and irrigation management practices are very good. Winrock International has provided them with 10 qt. of potato tuber for planting, which will be paid back in kind at harvest.

**Capacity building/skill-up grading:** Trainings were offered to 43 farmers (11FH, 13MW, 19MH) on "irrigation and vegetable production" and to 32 DAs and experts on "Land-use planning and watershed management" in Libokemkem *wereda* for 3 days.

**Natural resource management:** In both project *weredas*, forest seeds collection and nursery seedbed preparation have been carried out. Moreover, seedlings of *Cupresus lusitanica*, *Olea africana*, and vetiver grass in Enebssie Sar Midir, and *Juniperus procera*, *Cupresus lusitanica*, and *Olea africana* in Libokemkem have been raised.

**Lateral diffusion of technologies:** In Libokemkem *wereda*, 302 farmers (21% female) were introduced with various agricultural technologies while 61 farmers (48 females) have adopted some of the technologies. Similarly, in Enebssie Sar Midir 40 and 794 farmers have adopted and been acquainted with the technologies, respectively.

**Field days:** Three and two farmers' field days involving 302 and 143 participants were organized in Enebssie Sar Midir and Libokemkem *weredas*, respectively.

## 2.1.2 Short-term Training Project Component

Though no regular training has been started yet, some planning activities have been carried out.

The Training Coordinator attended *wereda*-planning meeting in Libokemkem and discussed over achievements, plans and mechanisms of sustainability with *wereda* stakeholders and farmers.

During the quarter, the Training Coordinator visited Bekoji Training College and had discussion with the Dean and LFC Task Force members on gender and female students assertiveness.

### Other field activities

**Amhara National Regional State:** Group vegetable growers at Ginaza and Silikisa PA. Since the very inception of the project in the region WI has been working in close collaboration with the staff of the office of agriculture. Especially, development agents are complementing activities, which can't be fully handled by the project staff owing to the series of training offered for them and the understanding created due to the same. In this regard W/ro Marie is the one who can be mentioned. She has been dealing with teaching farmers about gender, traditional and cultural barriers for production, traditional harmful practices, etc. Among such efforts, the awareness she created on the importance of forming saving groups by farmers at Ginaz and Silkisa PA deserves special mention.

Among the invited farmers W/ro Workie Abate is a pioneer resident of the Ginaza and Silikisa and she is the chairwoman of the PA. W/ro Workie had the opportunity of participating in 'Management Leadership' training offered in Libokemkem *wereda* last year. This has given the woman an additional strength to mobilize women in forming vegetable producers group, which has 16 members (11 FH, 4 MW, 1MH). To start with establishing the group, each member has contributed 13.60birr and rented 1859m<sup>2</sup> plot of land at a price of 192.00 birr per annum and is undertaking cultivation of tomato, swiss chard, lettuce, potato and carrot. Surprisingly, most of the female-headed households are landless. The crop management and growth condition was very attractive such that they are expecting good return from their investment provided that market opportunity is reliable.

Besides, this group vegetable growers have started saving by contributing 2.00 birr per month.

**Saving groups:** Establishing farmers' saving groups is important to save their minimum income and transform into other income generating engagements or introduce new technologies that enhance their farm productivity. Such initiation has been sparked by the "Community PRA Days" that has been conducted

during the month of previous August. In this quarter, WI staffs have further dealt with this the subject and were successful for the establishment of three saving-groups at Shina Tsion, Angot, and Bura PAs. Each saving group has formed an ad-hoc committee. Membership is open to all eligible persons, and the contribution of each member for saving is 3-5 birr per month.

Each saving group has a monthly meeting to enhance group experience sharing among farmers and discussion WI's project activities and on issues such as harm full tradition, gender, HIV/AIDS, family planning, etc. The three saving-groups have opened saving account at the nearby bank, and until this time the groups have 65 members (40 MH, 16MW, 9FH) and have saved 459.00birr. Legal registration is being processed through the facilitation of the *wereda* service cooperative desk.

#### **HIV/AIDS Awareness**

During the conduct of farmers' field day on October 20,2002 at Yifag, orientation on HIV/AIDS has been given to 93 farmers (79 males and 14 females) by staff DA (Ato Fekadu Sisay). The points dealt were about:

- Social and economic impacts of HIV/AIDS,
- Modes of transmission of HIV/AIDS,
- Care and support of HIV positive persons,
- Protective measures, etc

### **2.3 Scholarship Project Component**

**Completion of studies:** Ten B.Sc. scholars who have been studying at Mekelle University completed their studies and returned to their respective working areas in October 2002. These were in the fields of Animal and Range Science, Dry Land Crop Science and Soil and Water Conservation.

**Backstopping visits of WI sponsored scholars:** The WI sponsored scholars of Alemaya University were visited during the reporting period. During the visit, a series of discussions have been held with the scholars and university staff. As a result, the following were achieved:

- Tutorial needs of scholars identified and communicated to the Department of Extension for its timely commencement.
- Enhanced networking for strengthening peer support among scholars. To that end, a club has been established in order to serve them as a meeting forum for sharing experience regularly. The meeting agreed to be held every 15 days for an hour. This club was named WIN-club by the scholars. The name "WIN" was selected due to the assumption of holding dual meanings: one is to indicate their successes, and the other is to show that they are Winrock scholars.
- Scholars have faced a challenge in copping-up living with very young female students. They however sought two solutions for it - future dormitory

arrangements and devising mechanism for helping young female students. Scholars have suggested that all mid-career students need to be assigned together so that constraint related to age gaps could be minimized.

- Mechanism for supporting female students. Scholars brought a strong point that a mechanism need to be developed for helping young female students who are facing a number of constraints during the first and second year of campus life. Some scholars were determined to be pioneers for initiating actions for supporting this group together with university staff. To that end, this idea has been communicated to the University officials for its proper follow-up.
- It was found out that three scholars two-second year and one new entry had terminated their studies. The former was for academic and the latter for pregnancy reason.

**Planning workshop for WI sponsored graduate scholars:** Planning workshop for post-training engagements have been convened at Ghion Hotel, Bahir Dar on December 23 and 24, 2002 for the nineteen graduate scholars of the ANRS. The specific objectives of the workshop were to:

- exchange relevant experience and impact brought after training,
- network among scholars,
- develop their action plans for post-training engagements, and
- link to and with the professional women association - Ethiopian Association of Women Leaders in Agriculture and Environment (EAWLAE).

WI Bahir Dar Regional Project Coordination Office together with the Scholarship/Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator organized the workshop. In addition, the Agriculture and Training Coordinators have participated in the first day discussions and presentations of key areas of relevance - networking and gender concept.

**Some outcome and lessons learned:** The experience sharing session indicated that scholars have been upgraded professionally from non-to professional and from low to higher posts/positions. They have got increment in salaries, and claimed to have added moral values. They also reported to have won acceptance at different levels- at home, workplace and communities. Among the challenges encountered by participants, some have been suspended (not yet assigned posts) due to problem related to re-structuring. This problem came to the attention of the BoA through the deputy head of the bureau who was present during the workshop. As a result, some of the problems were resolved during the workshop and promise was given to others to get support and follow-up by the BoA.

Scholars who were not registered as members of the EAWLAE have been registered and became members of the association. They also took assignment to solicit more members' from the respective working areas as being EAWALE alumni.

Leadership for Change (LFC) training was found to be instrumental in developing self-confidence of participants and for initiating risk-taking actions. Six out of the nineteen participants had taken the LFC training given by WI in the year 2002. Thus, the remaining scholars have demanded to get similar training in the future.

The scholars agreed to start producing their own newsletter for regular exchange of information among themselves. The newsletter was named "WIN" and the scholars have elected editorial committee for its follow-up. Finally, tentative plans of action were developed and presented.

**Tutorial supports:** The scholars of Alemaya and Jimma Universities have been given tutorial supports.

**Need assessment:** formats were developed to gather relevant data for new scholarship project development and that will be administered by next quarter.

**Backstopping the EAWLAE:** The Ethiopian Association of Women Leaders in Agriculture and Environment (EAWLAE) that was established in July 2001 has got its certificate of legalization on December 2002 from the Ministry of Justice (MOJ).

**Dutch Ph.D. Scholarship:** The selection process of candidates for the AWLAE Dutch Ph.D. scholarship to Ethiopia has been completed during the reporting period. As a result, two awarded candidates were selected and granted a five-year scholarship award to study at Wageningen University using a "sandwich construction model".

## 2.4 Monitoring and Evaluation

**Reporting Performance data:** With regard to reporting on performance data of the EMPOWER, three reports were prepared in consultation with USAID/E Agriculture Information Activities Manager. The detail annual monitoring report based on previously approved performance indicators, the summarized monitoring report based on few selected indicators and target vs. achieved figure on three selected ONFARM indicators for the year 2001, 2002 and the 2003 targets.

**Draft strategy for sustainability/phasing over:** Based on the experience of the Yem and Gimbo projects of the SNNPRS, a detail document for phasing over the different project activities for Libokemkem and Enebssie Sar Midir *weredas* was developed. The word "sustainability" has been used instead of "phasing over" in order to maintain stakeholders' interest for joint responsibilities/actions. The document clearly discusses about the current status of each project activity, the potential gaps and the future directions to ensure sustainability.

**Institutionalizing the phasing over process:** The Amharic version of the sustainability strategy had been shared with the stakeholders – representatives

of beneficiaries, line offices and *wereda* council in Lebokemkem and Enebsie Sar Midir. At the end, the project steering – sustainability committee which will eventually serve as a phasing over committee was formed at both *weredas*. The Regional Project Coordinator from ANRS and the Agriculture, Training and Scholarship/M and E coordinators from head office have participated in the establishment forum.

**TraiNet:** Monitoring data of the short and long term training database activities were filled by the respective coordinators in the USAID/E TraiNet.

## **2.5 Administration/ Management and other activities**

### **2.5.1 Major administrative activities accomplished**

- Field activity reports were submitted to headquarter on a timely basis and funds released as requested. Several trip arrangements were made during the quarter for various component activities.
- Insurance cover, renewal premium was paid and renewed.
- Annual audit of books of accounts was conducted and Audit report distributed as necessary.
- Request for renewal of registration and audit and annual plan of operation reports was submitted to Ministry of Justice and Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Commission.
- Provided materials support to Jimma University College of Agriculture in order to upgrade WI sponsored girl student's skills.
- Replacement of Training Officer at Bahir Dar was made.

### **2.5.2 Strengthening Partnership, Networking, Meeting and Conference Participation**

- To strengthening the Onfarm and training activities of the EMPOWER program and as a phase over strategy plan, five Saving and Credit cooperatives have been organized in Yem in collaboration with the service and cooperative promotion office. These cooperatives have managed to secure their legal certificates from the concerned office. The associations now have 507 members and have managed to save Birr 10,683. They are actively managing the distribution of vegetable seeds collecting and disbursing credits and other technological inputs to farmers at cost.
- **Visits:** Stakeholders visit program was organized from October 14 to 17, 2002. During this occasion, both *weredas* were visited and Stakeholders had the opportunity to explore the impacts made on the lives and skills of farmers as a result of WI's Onfarm and Training project activities intervention and in valuable feedbacks have been obtained from the visitors. Moreover, the USAID/E staffs have made two visits to WI project sites in November (15 - 16, 2002) and December (23 - 25, 2002). Women's Affairs Office team leader and

the Regional Project Coordinator have paid a visit to Libokemekm *wereda's* micro-enterprises (13-14/12/2002), too.

- **Networking on Gender Leadership and Decision-Making:** Organized by IIRR, October 22, November 29 and December 22/2002. Meetings were also attended by the Training Coordinator.
- **WI Annual Planning Meeting:** WI organized annual progress report and planning meeting from October 23 to 24, 2002, where WI/ANRS Regional Project Coordinator and field officers were present. The annual progress report and plan of action of EMPOWER program was submitted to the Chief of Agriculture and Natural Resource, USAID/Ethiopia Mission during this reporting quarter.
- Regional Policy Consultation Workshop on "Destitution in the North Eastern Highlands of the Amhara Region" has been organized by Save UK in Bahir Dar from November 7 to 8, 2002. WI was represented by the regional project coordinator (Ato Ambachew Dametie).
- The RHPP monitoring workshop has been organized by USAID/E in Bahir Dar (18-19/11/2002) for NGOs funded by USAID. In this workshop, the staff of WI who participated were Dr. Tekalign Mamo (Agriculture Coordinator), W/ro Yewubdar Hailu (Scholarship, Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator), and Ato Ambachew Dametie (ANRS Regional Project Coordinator).
- **Violence Against Women Workshop:** Organized by Panos Ethiopia on November 25, 2002. The Training Coordinator attended the workshop.
- The First Pastoral and Agropastoral Research Strategy Workshop in Somali Regional State was organized in Jig-jiga between December 10 and 12, 2002. WI was invited for the workshop and was delegated by its ONFARM Coordinator.
- **Stakeholders meeting:** Meeting with stakeholders was conducted on December 19 in Libokemkem and December 20/2002 in Enebsie Sar Midir *weredas*. During the discussion activity progress and achievements were presented by farmers and line ministries and WI site offices respectively. Action groups were also formed to work with Winrock and to promote sustainability during phase out.
- Finance and Administration Coordinator attended the Jimma University College of Agriculture 50<sup>th</sup> years Anniversary celebration on December 21, 2002.
- Finance and Administration Coordinator also attended SNNPRS Emergency Action Response Consultative Meeting on December 24, 2002 at Awassa.

- **Alemaya Congress:** The Scholarship/Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator has participated in the two days workshop of the mid-career extension graduates Congress that was held at Alemaya University. The congress culminated by establishing the Almuni Association of Mid-career Extension Graduates of the Alemaya University.

### **3. Action Plan for the next reporting quarter (January – March 2003)**

- Conduct ONFARM trainings.
- Conduct model soil and water conservation activities.
- Collect and finalize yield data interpretation.
- Conduct sustainability strategy committees meetings.
- Conduct seedling nursery activities.
- Introduce appropriate technologies.
- Prepare quarterly reports.
- Participatory Training Methodology follow-up in Bahir Dar.
- Monitoring and Evaluation follow-up, Bahir Dar.
- Participatory Rural Appraisal follow-up, Bahir Dar.
- Strengthening saving and credit cooperatives for sustainability, Enebsie Sar Midir.
- Strengthening saving and credit cooperatives for sustainability, Libokemkem.
- Planning workshop for the graduate scholars of the SNNPRS and Federal ministries will be carried out at Awassa.
- Facilitation and backstopping for the timely commencement of Supervised Extension Project (SEP) for the second year scholars of the Alemaya University.
- Sign Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) with the BoA of the ANRS and SNNPRS for undertaking SEP.
- Follow-up the implementation of phasing over plans and the activities of the committee.
- Facilitate joint internal evaluation of the projects.
- Finalize staff PPO.
- Field backstopping visit.
- Prepare monthly field reports and submits it to HQ on a timely manner.
- Get renewal of registration with MOJ.
- Prepare annual quarterly budget by each *wereda* and component.
- Visit project site SNNPRS/ANRS for supervision and fixed asset registration.
- Finalize HIV/AIDS prevalence study.