



Winrock International

Ethiopia

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

**1st Quarterly Progress Report
October - December 2001**

*January 2002
Addis Ababa*

Quarterly Progress Report (October - December 2001)

1. Introduction

Ethiopian Management of Participatory Opportunities for Women in Extension and Research (EMPOWER) program has been actively working to realize its goal of enhancing household food security, since the cooperative agreement between the Ethiopian Government, United States Agency for International Development (USAID)/Ethiopia mission and Winrock International. EMPOWER program is tailored to meet Ethiopia's critical concern of food insecurity and complements the mission's strategic objective (SO #7) of "**household production and productivity increased**".

It aims at achieving its objectives through its three project components - On-farm Agricultural Resource Management (ONFARM), Short term training and Scholarship awards, which are implemented in two regions - the Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Regional State (in two specific project sites - Yem Special and Gimbo *weredas*) and Amhara National Regional State (in three sites - Bahir Dar Regional Coordination Office, Enebsie Sar Midir and Libokemkem *weredas*). ONFARM operates in specific project site *weredas* of each region, while Scholarship and Short term training are cross cutting and involve all zones and *weredas* in the selected regions.

This quarterly progress report of October - December 2001 presents major activities accomplished during that period of time.

2. Major Activities Accomplished during the First Reporting Quarter (October - December 2001)

2.1 Program activities

2.1.1. On Farm Agricultural Resource Management (ONFARM) Project Component

Activities in the SNNPRS - Following the implementation of demonstration (crop variety, agronomy, IPM) and crop variety adaptation trials during the last two quarters, some farmers have harvested and threshed their trials and demonstration plots at both sites. All agronomic data except yield have been recorded. As reported in the previous quarter, 54 farmers have cultivated forage legumes as intercrops in the maize plots at Gimbo. In this connection, farmers who began to feed forage legume to their sheep are observing appreciable results, and most of them have promised to cultivate improved forage in wider plots of land. In order to seek solution to pest problems, WIE in collaboration with Ethiopian Science and Technology Commission (ESTC) and PHARMACURE PLC is testing promising botanicals (one of them is a product

not publicized yet) at Gimbo site. In addition, over 6,000 neem (*Azadirachta indica*) seeds have been planted for further use.

In the area of income generation, target farmers at Gimbo have sold 1523 kilograms of vegetables for 2060 birr and, seven women farmers have bought 5 sheep and 2 goats. In the same way, 66 farmers (of which 62 are women) have sold 2321 eggs and chickens for 929.20 birr. As a result of this, 2 women have bought two sheep. In addition, 121 new baby chickens were hatched through natural brooding using indigenous chicks. At Yem, 71 women target farmers have produced 2426.3 kg of vegetables and sold 1046.35 kg (birr 761) while they consumed the rest. In addition, 588.00 birr was obtained from the sale of 2740 eggs. Farmers have consumed 637 eggs at home. Moreover, 8 women farmers have produced 50 White Leghorn chicks through natural brooding.

In bee keeping activity, 132 target farmers (35 men 97 women) have constructed 132 "Aykefam" beehives of these, 10 farmers have introduced bee colonies into their hives. At Yem, 15 transitional beehives have been constructed, in addition to the income obtained (444 birr) from the sale of honey by 5 farmers. Bee keeping training was given to farmers at Gimbo. After brief explanation and demonstration farmers were stimulated to make their own hives. As a result, 135 trainees in 4 PAs have constructed 135 hives using their own initiative. The same training was offered for development agents at Yem site.

Over 315 project partner farmers in Ufudo and Shomba PAs (at Gimbo) who organized themselves into saving groups have joined cooperatives through efforts made by the project's field staffs, *wereda* office of agriculture and cooperative promotion office experts. Twelve women partner farmers have assumed management positions in the cooperatives. In addition, 259 farmers who organized themselves in a saving group have deposited 3930 birr.

At Gimbo, the project office in collaboration with extension agents of *wereda* office of agriculture assisted 19 farmers (9 male-headed, 2 women household head and 8 married-women) to construct storage facilities with minimal input like rat battle. At Yem, six improved grain storage devices have been constructed. In addition, at the latter place, 12 mud stoves have been demonstrated.

Nine women farmers who bought eggs from direct beneficiaries have raised 43 new white leghorn baby chicks through natural brooding using indigenous chicks. Farmers' field days and cross and inter-group visits were also conducted at both sites.

ONFARM Activities in the ANRS: Almost all crop varieties that were under demonstration and adaptation trials at both sites were harvested and threshed. According to the yield data recorded, the performance of many of the newly introduced crop varieties both in crop demonstration and adaptation trials, are

found to be superior. Farmers have evaluated and identified highly productive crop varieties.

To implement income generation activities, site identification, beneficiary selection, and material purchase (irrigation water pump and rice dehuller) have been completed at Libokemkem. Nevertheless, since the Cooperative Promotion Office administers the credit, beneficiaries need to be organized into farmers' cooperatives. This organization activity has been found to be difficult and time taking. Consequently, the provision of credit to the micro-enterprises beneficiaries has been constrained. On the other hand, partner farmers at Libokemkem are currently managing income generating activities such as poultry, sheep and bee production. These partner farmers are gaining extra household income. Six partners have taken credit for bee colonies and have constructed transitional beehives/Kenya top bar/ and those who have participated in poultry production activities have started getting benefits. At Enebsie, thirty-three partner farmers have started growing four types of vegetable crops (cabbage, onion, carrot, and tomato). Moreover, 976 seedlings of mango and papaya were distributed to 199 households, while guava, mango and citrus rootstocks are being raised in the nursery. At Libokemkem, mango and papaya seedlings have been distributed to 23 farmers, for the office of Agriculture, for the Addis Zemen Health Center, and the Elementary School at Ambo Meda. Besides, vegetable crop demonstrations were initiated on 27 partner farmers' fields.

Also, due follow up is being given to the credit beneficiaries. Among the offered credit services sheep and poultry production have begun showing the desired effect. Out of fifteen lambs borne at three PAs two were sold for 130.00 birr, while the income generated from the sale of eggs was birr 372.15. The overall performance of the Tilili chickens (which were distributed to farmers on credit basis) is not as good as the pure Rhode Island breeds, but still they are better than the local ones.

Following the appropriate technology training given earlier, 30 partner farmers have constructed fuel and energy saving stoves from available local materials. This technology has gained encouraging acceptance by rural women and is being disseminated to many other farmers. At Michael Debir the technology spill over has reached more than 100 households. At Enebsie, the use of fuel saving stove (*mirt*) has got good acceptance by the farmers. Those who have been trained in "Household food and fuel management" are making a modified *mirt* stove out of mud and stone. But to further diffuse the technology into the community additional *mirt* stove mold construction is underway. At Libokemkem, 30 farmers have constructed fireless cookers and are currently making use of it.

At Libokemkem, for the purpose of natural resources management watershed sites have been selected, type of conservation structures to be constructed has been identified, and two training sessions for about 100 farmers residing in the catchments have been arranged. The nursery site establishment at Michael

Debir, in addition to the site at Addis Zemen, has been finalized. At Enebssie, seedlings of *Olea africana* (woira), *Cupresus lusitanica*, guava, citrus rootstock, and mango are being raised on forest nursery site acquired by WIE at Debre Tsion PA. Moreover, seeds of acacia, sesbania, and eucalyptus were collected. Practical trainings have been given to 16 farmers (10 female) at Yifag and 37 farmers (3 female) at Angot PA's on the utilization and nutritional value haricot bean, field pea (Tegegnech), and durum wheat varieties. Farmers have accepted these new varieties but are concerned about their market value if produced in surplus.

Two farmers' field days have been conducted in the *wereda* during the quarter under report. Crop variety demonstration, adaptation trial and soil fertility trial sites were visited by a total of 65 farmers (9 female) and 12 government sector experts. These field days were organized with the purpose of enhancing farmers' awareness on the different technologies introduced by the project. In addition, farmers were given the opportunity to compare and contrast the improved technologies with local ones, share experiences, exchange ideas and suggest further needs. This has facilitated the introduction and diffusion of new technologies/innovations within the *wereda*.

At Libokemkem, the number of non-target farmers who have adopted new ONFARM technologies by spill over effect/ lateral adoption is 129. At Enebssie, two food preparation and management demonstrations have been conducted by two women farmers who are former trainees. All in all, 132 farmers got orientation about food preparation, nutrition and family health issues. Farmers appreciated the efforts of the two individuals.

2.1.2 Short-term Training Project Component

Short-term training was not conducted this 1st quarter. However, some activities of planning, preparing and organizing for NGO day exhibition and attending workshops were some of the tasks accomplished.

WIE Training Coordinator and the ANRS Training Officer had actively participated in the annual planning meeting. In the meeting training achievements and challenges of 2001 and the training plan for 2002 had been presented and discussed.

2.1.3 Scholarship Project Component

A total of twenty-four new diploma scholarships for the SNNPRS and ANRS were sponsored (ten for SNNPRS and fourteen for ANRS) by WIE. The program is tailor made, which Winrock thinks that it will alleviate the attrition problem encountered at the regular program. The respective regions carried out application and screening of eligible candidates for these scholarships.

During this reporting period, WIE Program Coordinator made backstopping visit to Mekelle University – Mission of the back stopping visit to the university

was to assess WIE scholars' status and find out when they are finishing their studies as well as to discuss scholars' issues with concerned university officials and staff members. Both the Mekelle University and the scholars were happy for the backstopping visit of the Program Coordinator in bringing up the students' issues and they felt also that it was done at the right time.

The Finance and Administration Coordinator also visited Alemaya University scholars to give orientation for the seven newly granted scholars and discuss scholars' issues with scholars as well as University officials. In both visits, number of issues/concerns were raised by the scholars. After a through discussions on the priority issues with the scholars, problems like tutorial services, accommodations and medical services issues were further discussed with the University officials and promised to seek solutions to the problems.

2.2. Administration/ Management and other activities

2.2.1 Activities accomplished during the reporting quarter

- Field activity reports submitted to Head Quarter on a timely basis and funds released as requested. Several trip arrangements made during the quarter for various component activities.
- Insurance cover, renewal premium paid and renewed.
- WIDTECH small grant final financial report prepared and submitted.
- Annual audit of books of accounts conducted and report distributed as necessary.
- Vacancy announcement for Accountant and Development Agent posts had been advertised and applications reviewed.
- **Completion of the WIDTECH/DAI small grant award** – It was to recall that WIE solicited additional fund and conducted a study on appropriate technologies developed to increase women's production and productivity in Ethiopia. The Study has been successfully completed and all related activities have been reported to the donor during this reporting quarter.

2.2.2 Strengthening Partnership/ Networking, Visibility and Workshops/ Conferences participated

- **Regional NGO-Day** – A regional NGO Day was organized by CRDA in collaboration with the Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Regional State at Awassa town from December 14 – 16, 2001. WIE has fully participated in exhibiting its activities and in panel discussions of the NGO-Day activities.
- **Stakeholders' visit** - This was organized by WIE (October 15 - 18, 2001) to demonstrate practically what is being done in both project *weredas* with regard to ONFARM component activities. Finally, on 18/12/2001 a Kenyan top bar beehive constructed by a partner woman farmer from reed and mud was visited. The beehive was filled with colony. Finally, general discussion

was conducted at Winrock International Ethiopia's Enebssie Sar Midir *wereda* project site. Explanation was given to the participants about EMPOWER and the two *wereda* site officers highlighted the ONFARM component accomplishments in their respective sites. On the other hand, the participants appreciated Winrock International's activities and also gave invaluable and constructive comments.

During the reporting quarter besides the routine office activities, holding meetings with various WIE local and international guests like representatives of Spanish Red Cross NGO, FINIDA Ethiopia project, Africare and Micro nutrient technology promotion discussion with Ato Asrat Bulbula. WIE staff members have participated in various workshops and conferences.

- **CRDA Conference on PRSP Situation Analysis** - During the reporting quarter WIE Program Coordinator participated at the discussion on Situation Analysis of Poverty Reduction Strategy Program (PRSP) conference organized by CRDA on October 1, 2001.

A report on PRSP diagnosis, consultative and institutionalizing process was delivered by MEDAC and was discussed and enriched by the participants of the conference.

- Likewise, CRDA organized another meeting, which was held on December 6, 2001 to discuss on FAO/WFP national crop assessment report. The report indicated that food production for the reporting year was in general better, but market price of food crops like maize was very low. During this meeting five NGO representatives were elected from CRDA member organizations to follow up Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Commission (DPPC) activities.
- **Annual ILRI Open - Day program** - On October 6, 2001 WIE was represented on the Annual ILRI Open - Day program in partnership with other research organizations, NGOs, and local private enterprises held at Debreziet ILRI station. Theme of discussion of the Day was Better lives through better livestock. Putting Science and Technology to the benefit of the poor. The field visit was educative and WIE Program Coordinator had the opportunity to assess available technologies like the milk churner and other milk product processing tools that can be utilized by WIE contact farmers.
- **Ministry of Agriculture (MoA)** - Annual World Food Day was organized on October 16, 2001, at the Melkahida Farmers' Association, Wonji by the Ministry of Agriculture. The Minister of Ministry of Agriculture, Resident Representative of FAO, diplomats of various countries and distinguished guests were present during the ceremony. WIE was also one of those guests invited, where the Program Coordinator got the opportunity to watch successful farmers who won prizes for their contribution in promoting agricultural production.

Similarly, as a member of the National World Food Program Submit (WFPS) Technical Committee, WIE Program Coordinator attended two meetings organized by the MoA to review the five-year country progress report of the Ministry.

- **WIE Planning Meeting** - WIE organized annual progress report and planning meeting on October 29 - 31, 2001, where from Head Quarter Mr. Chris Kopp, Program Officer, WI Head Quarter, WIE ANRS Regional Coordinator and field officers were present. The draft annual 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.
- **Ministry of Health** - Launched house-to-house immunization program on November 8, 2001, where WIE was also invited to participate in the launching ceremony.
- **Joint WIE Workshop on the Study of Appropriate Technology Developed to Increase Women's Production and Productivity** - WIE in collaboration with Development Alternative Inc./WIDTECH conducted a one-day workshop on November 19, 2001. The objective of the workshop was to discuss on the findings of the study with collaborators of the study - Women Affairs at the Prime Minister's Office and Ministry of Agriculture, concerned technology centers, women farmer respondents, and professionals. The workshop was opened and chaired by H. E. W/o Tadelech Haile-Michael, Minister In Charge of Women Affairs in the Prime Minister Office. The study was enriched with the comments given by the participants of the workshop and the proceeding of the workshop was prepared.
- **Back stopping visits - Annual Progress Report and Planning meeting** - Mr. Chris Kopp came from the Head Quarter Winrock office to assist in the annual action plan and make courtesy visits to Bahir Dar and meet possible collaborators of the new ANRS/RFP (new project bid). During his visit to Bahir Dar he was accompanied by Dr. Bekele, WIE senior advisor, Program and Agriculture Coordinators. Meetings were held with the Head of Bureau of Agriculture, Regional Research Organization, and ORDA
- The WIE Regional Project Coordinator has attended the four-day research review workshop, which was conducted at Bahir Dar from December 25 - 28/ 2001. The workshop was arranged by the Western Amhara Agricultural Research and Extension Advisory Council, and research findings and proposals were presented by Adet Agricultural Research Center.
- Libokemkem *wereda* project site officer (Bayleyegn Gedamu) attended a workshop on Review of Long Range Strategic Plan of CARE Ethiopia. The workshop was organized by CARE-Gondar and it was conducted at Debre Tabor from November 27-28, 2001.

- The ANRS training officer (Belien Solomon) has attended a two-day awareness creation workshop that was organized by the Regional Micro and Small Enterprises Development Agency (ReMSEDA) at Bahir Dar, from October 8-9, 2001. The objective of the workshop was to create awareness in all government and non-government sector organizations within the region on the micro and small enterprises development strategy being followed by the ANRS.
- Mainstreaming gender and gender sensitive project planning - The training was organized by Christian Relief and Development Association (CRDA) at Ethiopian Management Institute, Debre Zeit, from 5 -10 November 2001. This training was attended by the Regional Project Coordinator (Ambachew Dametie) and the training was meant to planners and project staff who have been believed to have the concept of project planning.
- **Basic Bookkeeping and Accounting** - This training was offered to the ANRS Regional Coordination Office's Secretary/Accountant (Yeshalem Muluneh). The training was conducted at the Ethiopian Management Institute (Debre Zeit) from November 12-30, 2001. The major objective of the course was to introduce the basic concepts and application of bookkeeping and accounting to the trainees.
- **Visits** - The Western Amhara Agricultural Research and Extension Advisory Council had organized a three-day (October 9-11,2001) annual field visits. More than one hundred people who represented farmers, government organizations and NGOs have participated in this program, and the Regional Project Coordinator represented WIE.
- WIE Agriculture Coordinator and WI Africa Regional Representative made backstopping visits to the ANRS project sites, and took time to do program development activities in the region.
- WIE Agriculture Coordinator participated in the M.Sc Agricultural Extension Curriculum Review Workshop conducted at Alemaya University, Dec. 24, 2001.

3. Monitoring and Evaluation

Five different Performance Monitoring Tools (PMTs) were developed and used in monitoring data collections at Yem and Gimbo project sites (SNNPRS). The collected data were analyzed on the PC using SPSS statistical software. Based on the identified output indicators, most project achievements of 2001 were found to be beyond 100% of the annual target.

The ANRS project activities were started during the reporting period and thus it is too early to expect achievements in terms of impact and purpose level indicators.

4. Action Plan for the next reporting quarter (January – March 2002)

- Finalizing staff PPO.
- Printing and distribution of the document on Study of Appropriate Technology Developed in Ethiopia.
- Participation at the Regional PRSP panel discussion organized by the Bureau of Planning and Economic Development, SNNPRS.
- Field backstopping visit.
- Trip to Alemaya University to serve as a member of the Examining Board of MSc Thesis defense.
- Gather sources of information for developing concept paper.
- Finalizing crop yield data collection, farmers' assessments, analyzing and submitting reports.
- Continue with beehives construction and introducing bee colonies.
- Continue with popularizing mud and *injera* making stoves.
- Partner farmers selection.
- Input purchase and collection.
- Credit provision, Introducing Rhode Island Red Chicken.
- Facilitating seed purchase from partner farmers seed production participants.
- Continuing forest seedling raising and management.
- Continuing organizing women into cooperatives.
- Conduct capacity building training for farmers.
- Conduct physical soil conservation measures.
- Conduct planting material multiplication.
- Conducting Gender Awareness Follow-up workshop.
- On the job-review (for former trainees).
- Conducting MOE training for experts and professionals.
- Conducting Man./Leadership, Credit and saving training for women farmers
- MOU with ANRS Bureau of Agriculture for the SEP fund.
- Follow-up and signing of MOU with respective BOA of the two regions for the newly diploma sponsored scholars.
- SEP project presentation.
- MOU for Lucas scholarship grants.
- Visits Awassa and Jimma scholars.
- Prepare monthly field reports and submits it to HQ on a timely manner.
- Finalize recruitment of Accountant and Development Agents.
- 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.
- Sign project agreement amendments with SNNPRS and ANRS.
- The Performance Monitoring tools developed during the reporting period will be reviewed and revised as necessary.
- Statistical software compatible with EMPOWER program will be purchased and made into use.