

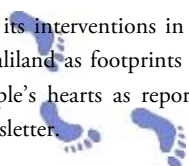


A bi-monthly newsletter of ADRA Somalia

March/April 2010

ADRA 'Greens' Local Farmer Training Institute in Somaliland

'**RAAD**' is the Somali word for '**footprints**'. ADRA Somalia iconizes its interventions in Somalia/Somaliland as footprints left on the people's hearts as reported by this newsletter.



Agriculture is an important economic activity in Somalia not only in terms of meeting the food needs of its population but also for income generation and provision of agricultural labour opportunities. Of the four primary agricultural zones in Somalia, the Northwest parts are high potential areas for crop production. Rainfalls range from 400mm to 600mm per annum. However, the rains are becoming inconsistent and minimal to sufficiently support crops, pasture and browse conditions.

In 2007, ADRA supported Arabsiyo Farmers Training Centre (AFTC) - a farmer training institution based in Borama District of Somaliland—by providing a windmill to facilitate crop irrigation at the centre. The windmill has proved to be very helpful in the intensification and diversification of small holder agriculture at the centre and based on this success, ADRA decided to sustain these subsistence gains by scaling up the initiative.

The Project plans to organize farmers into groups to be strengthened by committees governed by agreements and will target heads of families who do not have reliable sources of income. The farmers will be trained and provided with farm inputs and implements to start greenhouse farming at the centre.

The enterprise development component of the Project is aimed at stimulating market for the farm produce to sustain the Project as an Income Generating Activity (IGA). Farmer groups will be responsible for marketing while ADRA will facilitate trainings in entrepreneurial development.

A wooden greenhouse superstructure has already been set up at the institute. It is anticipated that the project will reach out to about 5,377 indirect beneficiaries upon completion.

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With funding from the ADRA Africa East and Central Division (ECD), ADRA Somalia recently began implementing a Greenhouse Project at the Institute aimed at sustaining agricultural development in Somaliland through training functional farmer groups, improving agricultural productivity through greenhouses and entrepreneurship in farm



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Nurturing Seeds of Success through Promotion of Biomass Technologies

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Biomass is the main source of energy for over 70% of the population in Northern Somalia. Somaliland and Puntland face serious environmental problems caused by removal of forest cover for lumber and charcoal production. To a large extent, this problem has been caused by heavy demand for charcoal by the urban population and the Middle East. Although there is some effort to control export and to reduce tree cutting, there has been little wide-scale success in addressing the problem.

There have been several efforts over the years to promote improved cookstoves in Northern Somalia. A number of small scale producers have continued to produce the stoves, but with minimal impact. In addition, there are several challenges to the growth of the sector, such as weak quality control, low production capacity, scarcity of capital for investment and low awareness among end users about the benefits of improved cookstoves. There is a need to support enterprises with simple tools and technologies to enhance their productivity and also support mechanisms for accessing funding.

Creating Partnerships, Fostering Linkages & Building Capacity

ADRA is seeking to tap into the improved cookstove industry's potential to reduce biomass energy demand for households and institutions; provide employment opportunities for men, women and the youth; and as a means of gender integration in the supply chain. In doing this, ADRA has been working with cookstove producer groups in both countries. So far, ADRA has trained a total of 54 artisans on better cookstove production techniques and after the training, ADRA provided trainees with funds to assist them purchase materials for the production of quality stoves. ADRA is also providing support for construction of kilns and working sheds, especially for the small producers who are currently using their homes for production of the stoves.

Barely over a year into the partnership with cookstove producers, there are already some notable results. The support provided to the cookstove producers by ADRA was instrumental in reviving production which had stalled due to lack of financing, and this is evidenced by the renewed activity by all the groups.

The cookstove business has proven to be a viable means of livelihood, and majority of the groups have continued to re-invest funds received from the sale of stoves into the production of more stoves, which is an indicator that the business can be self sustaining. The stoves are sold at fairly good prices ranging from US\$5-US\$10.

Although there is still work to be done, awareness on the improved cookstove is now beginning to take root as a result of radio advertisements and word of mouth. Local retailers are willing to stock the stoves in their shops and market stalls, and have confirmed that the stoves are a good product which moves fast. In addition, ADRA in late 2009 partnered with local NGOs in Somaliland and Puntland to organise mini-trade fairs in 4 major towns in order to boost awareness among the general public. These mini-trade fairs were a great success not only in terms of awareness creation but also in sales volumes too and based on this success, it is envisaged that cookstove producers will continue holding similar events jointly in future.

A critical mass of improved cookstove technicians is beginning to take root in the region. Expertise is now locally available and those trained by ADRA are able to train others. The training of artisans locally is also likely to become a major source of income for the improved cookstove producers.

Challenges

Despite these notable achievements, there are several challenges that still exist. Majority of the groups expressed the need for working sheds, and all the groups are in need of improved kilns. ADRA is working with the producers on a cost-sharing formula for putting up the sheds.

Quality control is a challenge, as there is no proper system for certifying quality in goods produced locally. However, ADRA is working with the cookstove producers to encourage them to enforce quality control by benchmarking against each other and discouraging sub-standards stoves from being marketed. Some of the producers in Somaliland are in discussion to introduce branding, which will simply be a special mark on stoves that meet the basic quality.

The producers require further training in business and entrepreneurship in order to be able to engage in the business for the long term. Such training would enable them to develop production plans, set targets that would be appropriate for internal control and evaluation, begin saving scheme, keeping proper records and accounts.



Training of Cookstove Producers in Hargeisa, Somaliland



Cookstoves on Sale during the Garowe Energy Trade Fair 2009



One of the kilns constructed for Cookstove Producers in Hargeisa, Somaliland

Drought Emergency Response Project Launched in Somaliland

A drought response Project was recently launched in Somaliland. The Project ‘**Drought Emergency Response in Somaliland (DERPS)**’ is a one year intervention aimed at increasing water availability, accessibility and food security for 11,700 (1,950 families) beneficiaries in Biidhaaley and Sahil areas of Somaliland who are facing a severe drought.

The April/June 2009 Food Security and Nutrition Assessment Unit (FSNAU) Report showed that there was an emerging drought and acute food and livelihood crisis in northern areas of Somaliland and the situation was getting worse due to recent rain failure which was compounded by three previous seasons of relatively poor and patchy rainfall. The DERPS Project is therefore an intervention aimed at responding to this crisis.

The DERPS Project is funded by ADRA Switzerland and Swiss Solidarity and is being implemented by ADRA Somalia. Project activities will include rehabilitation of a total of 17 water points (15 shallow wells and 2 boreholes), training and strengthening of 10 Water and Sanitation Hygiene (WASH) Promotion Committees and 20 Village Health Promoters (VHPs) as well as testing and chlorination of 40 water points. In addition, Non Food Items (NFI’s) will be distributed to 43 internally displaced families to help them alleviate the effects of the drought.

In implementing the Project, ADRA will be working closely with the Somaliland National Environment Research and Disaster Preparedness Management Authority (NERAD), local NGOs and Community Development Committees.



Top: Assessment of a borehole in Faradero and (above) distribution of Non Food Items to IDPs at Wadajir Camp

CREDITS:

Editor:

Samuel Muthamia

Contributors:

Hannah Ndungu, John Ndezwa, Patrick Balla, Waeni Kithyoma, Moses Kaibe and Mohamed Hamoud Adan

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