





PROMISING PRACTICE REPORT

Diversified Food Production at Homesteads

<p>Date [16/3/2023]</p>	<p>Contact details! Tesfa Binalfew (tesfa.binalfew@giz.de)</p>
Subject	Key Facts & Figures
 <p>Geographical coverage</p>	<p>The GIZ Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture Project was working to improving the nutritional situation of women of child-bearing age and their children in the Tigray and Amhara Regions. Vegetable production at household level was successfully demonstrated in the districts of Sekella, Banja, Ebinat, East Belessa, West Belessa and Gondar Zuria of Amhara.</p>
 <p>Actors and Stakeholders</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close collaboration with Regional Bureau of Agriculture and Woreda Office of Agriculture • Seqota Declaration • Consultant, International Potato Center (CIP), and seed suppliers
 <p>Target beneficiaries</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rural households with women in childbearing age, pregnant or lactating women and children below the age of two, have interest, have reasonable size of space for backyard gardening. • A total of 22,893 (96.9%) farmers addressed and benefited by the project. • 7,862 farmers got OFSP cuttings through CIP
 <p>Context</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undernutrition in Ethiopia remains a major challenge. Although there have been remarkable improvements over the last 10 years, only 7.3 percent of children aged 6-23 months consume a minimum acceptable diet. Overall, 7 percent of children in Ethiopia are wasted, and stunting rates in Amhara are as high as 43 percent in Amhara. • One of the key drivers of malnutrition is low access to a nutritious diet such as fruits & vegetables and animal source foods.
 <p>Objective</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To improve the availability of diverse food particularly women of reproductive age and infants (6 -23 months of age) in the selected kebeles of the project woredas
 <p>Methodological approach</p>	<p>To ensure a high level of ownership and capacity development, the following approaches were applied:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target beneficiaries were selected based on the criteria. • Training of trainers (intermediaries) provided were provided with appropriate training materials. • Training cascaded to target beneficiaries at each kebeles. • Vegetable seeds/ cuttings and other inputs (watering can, motor pump, rope pump) were provided. • Home garden and keyhole garden established, and selection of seeds based on the agro-ecology. • Vegetables produced with technical support of experts from Woreda and kebeles. • Harvesting, post-harvest handling and consumption practiced with technical support of experts. • The agricultural practices were monitored and evaluated from GIZ. • Regular feedback sessions with Woreda/ Kebele experts (every months)



Results

- More than 70 % of the beneficiaries received eight types of trainings (home gardening, keyhole garden, postharvest management, nutrition, etc.) established their own garden, and grew vegetables
- More than 67 % of the beneficiaries cultivated at least two crops suitable for the area (head cabbage, lettuce, OFSP, swiss chard, carrot, tomato etc.)
- More than 90% of beneficiaries practiced water saving measures (rain or non-rainwater)



Success factors

- Inclusion of and implementation by decision-making parties, such as the offices of agriculture (Region and Woredas) through small local subsidy contracts
- Motivation of farmers for self-consumption of vegetable products
- Keyhole garden is a good water saving technology adopted by farmers in drought affected woredas of East Belessa, West Belessa and Ebinat
- The pre-distribution packaging of seeds into small packs (more than 33,000) and distributed during training found good for its easily handling, avoid seed mix, time saving.
- Multisectoral participation and regular review/ learning workshops strengthened the project implementation.
- Selection of seeds and gardening techniques based on agro-ecology
- Access to water in different techniques
- Involving men strengthens the acceptance of the intervention



Constraints

Lessons learned to enhance sustainability:

- Vegetable seed accessibility
- Limited availability of water among households targeted
- Interventions need to be carefully discussed/ planned with implementing partners to avoid overburdening of government structures
- Stronger emphasis on working with private sector partners to improve availability of quality seeds in small quantities at the Kebele level



Sustainability

The potential for sustainable implementation is shown in:

- Working with government structure enable farmers to get technical support on production and strengthens local service delivery.
- Both men and women have a good understanding of it



Replicability and potential for upscaling

Scalability must be considered from the beginning of every measure. Here, the potential for up-scaling via Buearu of Agriculture is guaranteed through:

- The government has special attention to reduce malnutrition.
- Consumption of vegetables is increasing both in rural and urban areas.
- Well prepared training materials produced and distributed for experts and can used as reference materials for further replication
- Expanding exemplary farmers festivals (field days and experience sharing)