



# HOPE - NEWS LETTER

SRHA PUBLICATIONS No. 4/07

## Project News in Brief

Under the theme 'There is no substitute for training', in this edition Hope-News Letter presents a summary of SRHA's training activities.

Maybe first thing first, Netherlands based Ethiopian organizations that are busy in development work in Ethiopia ought to ask them as what is required from them? What are the important development constraints and how the deep-rooted poverty could be tackled? In fact problems should be well defined and categorized in accordance to their priorities. Any attempt to solve undefined problems with wishful thinking and/or with more or less simple common senses may waste our limited resource.

To acquire meaningful results the participation of the people in decision making is unquestionable. This makes the project community-based. Community based development is a bottom-up, participatory process. The people must participate; otherwise the local knowledge and values are ignored and that is a mistake. The participation of the people warrants the success of the project and its sustainability.

When illiteracy governs the community life it seems it is difficult or rather impossible to circulate written materials. This means that people who are able to read and write are required to disseminate new information.

It needs repetition that projects should possess a training package. Training is the basement and cornerstone for all sorts of development. Training precedes.

## **Training on Home Gardening**

Training on cultivation of common vegetables was given for 109 women from 4 women's associations in Mekelle, Ethiopia from February 21-27, 2005. Training was on land preparation, Fertilization, sowing, weeding, harvesting, storage, transportation, food preparation, marketing, alley cropping and compost making.

The aim of the training was to minimize food insecurity through home gardening. The back yard could be economic as a source of vegetables for consumption and cash. Water could be harvested from roof-tops and house refuses could be used to enrich the soil. As pure subsistence does not exist some of the products may reach the market, thus information on marketing was also given.

The cultivation of vegetables was not new to the trainees; this was exhibited through their active participation. There was an overflow of ideas in common vegetables, some fruits and cactus production and use.

It is evident that there is no any valid reason to go hungry and to rely on 'Food Aid'. The chance to produce more per unit area is ample. The feeling of self-reliance and commitment of the people to help them selves is more than one could express. Ironically, with little help they can do the rest.

Trainees have expressed their satisfaction and the evaluation result of the Department of Urban Agriculture of Mekelle has reconfirmed the success of the training through their findings. By the end of the training small hand tools such as rakes, axes, shovel and watering-cans have been distributed to the trainees.

**Fig. 1 Distribution of Simple agricultural Hand Tools**



Because, the use of chemical fertilizers at subsistence level is not economic the alternative use of organic fertilization was sought. Therefore, information on alley cropping was given for a day. The use of legume trees/shrubs as a source of nitrogen fertilizer, energy and fence was discussed. Recommended legumes for alley cropping that grow luxuriantly in Mekelle were identified. Additionally, the uses of mulching and pruning systems were demonstrated.

**Fig. 2 Visit at a Demonstration Site**



Demonstration was on sowing, planting, harvesting, pruning and mulching. Trainees were active participants. The over flow of ideas and exchange of experiences were greatly appreciated. It was promising to observe how the trainees were committed to help themselves. To work with them was rewarding, no reason to go hungry and to depend on "Food Aid".

**Fig. 3 Home Gardening Training on Session**



## **II Training on Shoe repair and polishing**

In cooperation with 'Human to Human organization' training on shoe repair and polishing was given for 46 'Street Children' from 28 February - 2 March 2005 at Mekelle. Besides, to shoe repair and polishing information on discipline, basic hygiene and school life was given. The children are very decent and eager to learn. Certainly, they will mature as good citizens.

By the end of the training materials such as beds, blankets, bed sheets, mattresses, school uniforms, shoe kit and establishment cost were given and distributed for 30 children.

It has been realized that children need shelter and other basic necessities. Therefore, the extension of this project and establishment of training centre is recommended.

**Fig. 4 Demonstration on Shoe Repair**



**'Together we stand'**

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