



Ethiopia - Drylands Development Programme

April 2016

2016 Annual Report

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

CAP	Community Action Planning
CBOs	Community Based Organizations
CCT	Country Core Team
CY	Calendar Year
DA	Development Agent
DGIS	Directorate General of International Relations
DIP	Detailed Implementation Plan
DRYDEV	Drylands Development Programme
EECS	Energy efficient cook stoves
EOC-DICAC	Ethiopian Orthodox Church – Development & Inter Church Aid Commission
ETB	Ethiopian Birr
FMNR	Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration
FOs	Farmer Organizations
GIS	Geographic Information System
Ha	Hectare
ICRAF	World Agroforestry Center
IE	Impact Evaluation
IPs	Implementing Partners
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MFI	Microfinance institution
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
NLO	National Lead Organization
NRM	Natural Resource Management
OxC	Options by Context
PIP	Programme Implementation Plan
REST	Relief Society of Tigray
RUSACCO	Rural Savings and Loans Associations
RWH	Rain water harvesting
SWCs	Sub-watershed Committees
SWM	Soil and water Management
ToR	Terms of Reference
VC	Value Chains
VSLA	Village Saving and Loan Associations
WP	Work Package
WVA	World Vision Australia
WVE	World Vision Ethiopia

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During 2016, DryDev Ethiopia made significant progress and achieved most of its targets. The year started with timely approval of the Detailed Implementation Plans (DIPs) and subsequent release of funds, facilitating the commencement of various programme plans. The programme reached a total of **20,420 (8,296 women)** farmers through various interventions in 29 targeted sub-watersheds across six Woredas. A total of 2,740 ha of denuded areas is now under restoration through FMNR, enrichment planting and physical structures. On-farm soil and water management trainings have also been delivered to 1153 (189 Women) community members. In collaboration with relevant government departments, 4641 (1,958 Women) farmers were mobilised to undertake soil and water management on-farm. Technical training and construction of rain water harvesting and small scale irrigation structures benefited more than 2,019 farmers (1,570 in irrigation based structures and 449 in rain water harvesting initiatives). A total of 4,975 (1,382 Women) farmers were reached with various interventions to improve commodity production. Other interventions in this reporting period including improved input access to farmers, capacity development in value chains, saving group establishment, and awareness-creation sessions on policy-related issues. Participatory programme planning and regular monitoring took place to oversee programme implementation and to enable continuous improvement of programme performance. In the various monitoring mechanisms, 2,589 community members (594 Women) participated in field visits, participatory reviews and household monitoring. Documentation of data and information, and sharing of lessons through the DryDev website, public media and publications were also major tasks accomplished.

Despite the extended El Nino the DryDev programme has made substantial progress in programme implementation as well as financial expenditure. The programme spent USD 1, 533,260 against a total budget of \$1,696,351. Underspent DGIS funds remained at 10%. For WVA funds, USD 398,869 were spent against the WVA matching fund of \$384,631 (overspend of 4%). To ensure the programme is on track, implementation and financial performances were continuously reviewed and followed up by the Country Core Team (CCT) and Country Technical Team (CTT) in their bi-monthly and quarterly review meetings respectively.

The financial accounts of the DryDev programme in Ethiopia were also audited in this reporting period and received a very positive feedback from the external auditors who declared that the financial statements are a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the programme as at 31 December 2015.

Despite the drought-induced challenges faced during this reporting period, the programme achievements were significant during this year. Implementations of programme activities are beginning to translate into benefits to the communities. This annual report summarizes the progress and reflects on lessons learnt.

1. INTRODUCTION

The Drylands Development Programme (DryDev) is a farmer-led programme to enhance food security, water management and rural economic development in the drylands of Ethiopia. It is a five year (2014-2018) programme, funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands (DGIS) through the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) and with match funding by World Vision Australia (WVA). The programme is targeting a total of 29 sub-watersheds in six districts (or woredas) in two regions: Oromia (Boset, Gursum, Jarso woredas) and Tigray (Tseada Emba, Kilde Awulaelo, and Samre woredas). In Ethiopia, the programme has three implementing partners (IPs): World Vision Ethiopia (WVE), Relief Society of Tigray (REST) and Ethiopian Orthodox Church — Development and Inter Church Aid Commission (EOC-DICAC). WVE is additionally the National Lead Organization (NLO).

The programme made significant progress during 2016. Contributing factors included the timely approval of the 2016 DIP and Budget, and the foundational work undertaken with the communities in 2015. Therefore, implementation picked up immediately when activities commenced in February 2016. Despite the challenges faced due to factors beyond the programme control (i.e. El Niño drought), significant steps were taken and more farmers have been reached. This report summarizes the accomplishments, challenges and lessons learnt during 2016.

2. PROGRESS TOWARDS SUB-OUTCOMES AND OUTPUTS

Work Package 1: Sub-catchment level NRM

Activity Area 1.1: Establish and/or strengthen community sub-watershed teams

A total of 588 (113 Women) members from all 29 community sub-watershed team (CSWT) were provided with training on integrated watershed development and management, and how to actively mobilize and involve community members in sub-watershed (SWS) activities. Key government sectors were involved in the trainings, allowing them to share their experiences and support the CSWTs. The CSWT strengthening process also included developing or reviewing local bylaws. Some of the committees established by DryDev, such as in Jarso, have also been recognized by the woreda and now have accreditation to lead any natural resource management (NRM) activities in their SWS. The local court is also using the bylaws as a legal basis to deal with relevant transgressions.

Activity Area 1.2: Sub-watershed plan development

Sub-watershed committees continued to reflect and review plans during 2016. Several meetings were held to develop annual SWS action plans. Concerned government staff and the wider community participated in these meetings and discussions focused on budget, availability of alternative resources, community and government contributions, implementation schedule and integration of SWS interventions. A total of 219 (53 Women) CSWT members participated in action plan development and a further 289 (64 Women) participated in the review processes. As a result, 28 SWS action plans have been developed out of 29 (one was developed after the end of 2016); 8 of these have been reviewed for their mid-term performance. The action plan development event has also been used as an opportunity to leverage resources from the government and the community. CSWTs gathered bi-annually to review the performance of SWS and other DryDev activities in their SWS.

Activity Area 1.3: Rehabilitate degraded land through tree-planting & FMNR practices

Community participation in rehabilitation of degraded land through tree-planting and FMNR was extraordinary. A total of 7,780 (2,581 Women) were mobilized for FMNR and tree planting and 1,362 ha of land is being rehabilitated through FMNR area closure and tree-planting activities across all the 29 SWSs (Figures 1&2). Over a million multipurpose trees adaptable to each SWS were planted including: *Schinus molle*, *Grevillea robusta*, *Acacia saligna*, *Eucalyptus camaldulensis*, *Moringa stenopetala*, and *Chamaecytisus palmensis*.



Figure 1: Forest coop. leaders practicing FMNR, Boset **Figure 2: DryDev FMNR site in Gursum**

To support the proper implementation of various restoration activities such as area closure, FMNR, tree-planting interventions and physical measures, capacity building trainings on GIS and GPS technologies were provided to 77 (18 Women) woreda Agriculture Experts and Development Agents (DAs) in Boset, Gursum, Jarso and T/Emba. Capacity building events, including training and exposure visits to best practice areas, were also organized for community members and 713 (121 Women) community members and DAs participated in these events across all woredas.

Activity Area 1.4: Sub-catchment soil conservation & water-harvesting

Knowledge and skills of 1,047 (419 Women) community members on various context-specific soil and water management technologies were enhanced through training and demonstration in Boset, Gursum, Jarso and T/Emba woredas. Subsequently, 13,257 (5,568 Women) community members were mobilized and various Soil and Water Conservation (SWC) structures developed to restore denuded areas. In Gursum, 8 km of terrace, 1500 micro basins and 85,000 pits were constructed on communal lands. Similarly, in Jarso, 150 deep trenches, 1000 micro-basin, 10,000 improved pits, 183,600 pits, 100 m³ of stone check dam and 150 m³ of gabion check dam were completed. Similar structures were constructed in Kilte Awulaelo and Samre including 178 deep trenches (89 in each), 30 percolation ponds (14 in Kilte Awulaelo; 16 in Samre), 56 percolation channels (28 in each). Boset constructed loose stone check dams (800 m³), soil bunds (141 km), stone bunds (102 km) and 175 m³ of gabion check dam. T/Emba woreda developed stone bunds (25.9 km), half-moons (12,344), 16.5 km of deep trenches, and 785 m³ of gabion check dam. A total of 1,310 ha of degraded land was covered with these SWC structures in all woredas.

Activity Area 1.5: Mitigation measures on drivers of deforestation promoted

DryDev Ethiopia is promoting energy-efficient cook stoves (EECS), which consume less fuel wood and reduce pressure on vegetation. Awareness-raising and training on the social and environmental benefits by transitioning to energy-efficient and solar technologies (such as reducing workload, improving indoor air, reducing risk of respiratory diseases especially for women and children, and reduced biomass consumption) was conducted with 3,314 (3,214 Women) community members. Following the trainings, the programme could reach 3,146 (3,056 Women) farmers with EECS through a cost-sharing mechanism managed by their cooperatives (Fig.3).



Figure 3: Traditional (left) vs fuel-saving cook stoves in use (right); Jarso woreda

Activity Area 1.6: Enhance sustainable grazing management

Five training events on sustainable grazing management, with a focus on grass and legume production and management, was provided to a total of 637 (207 Women) community members in Gursum, Jarso, Kilde Awulaelo and T/Emba. Subsequently, different types of grass and legume seeds were accessed by 913 (299 Women) farmers and 67.5 ha of land was sown with these seeds. Other physical grazing management practices, like plowing degraded pasture, has improved the vegetation cover of grazing lands in Samre (8 ha) and Kilde Awulaelo (4 ha) (Fig.4).

In Kilde Awulaelo, Samre, T/ Emba and Jarso, communal pasture lands are now protected by the community with the adoption of bylaws that discourages free grazing and replaces it with cut-and-carry.



Figure 4: Rehabilitating grazing lands through sowing improved varieties of grass seeds (Rhodes grass seeds), June 2016, T/Emba

Work Package 2: On-farm Water and Soil Management

Activity Area 2.1: On-farm integrated soil & water management

To enhance farmers' knowledge about on-farm soil conservation and fertility enhancement, theoretical and practical training was provided in each woreda. 208 (31 women) farmers participated in SWC training in Boset, Jarso, Gursum and T/Emba woredas. Boset and T/Emba also organized experience-sharing to see best-practice areas in Doba and Abraha Atsbeha woredas respectively and 58 (6 Women) people participated. Training on soil fertility management provided to 863 (241 Women) people across six woredas mainly focused on intercropping, crop rotation, compost preparation and utilization. In addition, 4,641 (1,958 Women) farmers were mobilized for on-farm SWC activities. As a result of all the above interventions, promoted soil conservation and fertility enhancement practices were applied to 688 ha of land in these woredas (Table 1).

Table1: On-farm integrated soil & water management

Woreda	Trained farmers on SWC			Trained on soil fertility practices			Experience sharing on on-farm NRM			Mobilized farmers for SWC			Ha covered with SWC & fertility practice(ha)
	M	W	T	M	W	T	M	W	T	M	W	T	
Boset	98	6	104	0	0	0	31	2	33	180	119	299	292
Gursum	30	2	32	24	7	31	0	0	0	466	18	484	21
Jarso	22	2	24	39	1	40	0	0	0	178	35	213	45
K/Awulalo	0	0	0	251	108	359	0	0	0	1150	1350	2500	0
Samre	0	0	0	257	109	366	0	0	0	387	265	652	197
T/Emba	27	21	48	51	16	67	21	4	25	322	171	493	134
Total	177	31	208	622	241	863	52	6	58	2683	1958	4641	688.5

Activity Area 2.2: Agroforestry and on-farm FMNR

To create awareness among and build the capacity of community members and concerned government offices on the role of agroforestry and on-farm FMNR and enrichment planting practices in rehabilitation of degraded land, various capacity building events were organized across programme

sites. Training was conducted for 1,206 (284 Women) farmers, mainly focused on importance and multi-use of agroforestry trees and their management, as a result of which 353 ha of farmland has been covered with plantation and on-farm FMNR. To encourage tree planting, 232,546 tree seedlings of both multipurpose and fruit trees were distributed. Trees planted on-farm included: *Acacia seyal*, *Faidherbia albida*, *Acacia dicurrens*, *Acacia saligna*, Moringa, *Sesbania sesban*, *Eucalyptus camaldulensis*, *Eu. globulus*, *Grevillea robusta*, *Ziziphus* and 'Gesho' (Ethiopian hops).

Activity Area 2.3: Small-scale irrigation promotion

Training on rain water harvesting (RWH) and efficient utilization was conducted for 282 (88 Women) farmers. 487 (148 Women) farmers were also provided with training on operation and maintenance of motorized pumps in all woredas (except T/ Emba). A total of 769 (236 Women) community members were trained in small-scale irrigation technologies including capture and efficient use of rainwater.

From various RWH structures (HH and communal level RWH, springs and recharging ponds), 253 ha of farm land is now under irrigation benefiting 1,570 (684 Women) community members. In addition, 4.36 km of canal extensions with the potential to irrigate 94 ha were developed in Boset, Kilde Awulaelo, Samre and T/ Emba benefiting 449 (67 Women) farmers.

Work Package 3: Agricultural commodity production

Activity Area 3.1: Develop an efficient input supply system

A total of 35 input producer groups were established to improve input access to farmers. All groups were provided with appropriate orientation on the benefits of being in groups, group administration and record keeping. Producer groups were also provided with better performing crop varieties and livestock breeds using cost sharing mechanisms. 4,975 (1,382 Women) farmers accessed inputs for various crops (total 4,084 (972 Women)) and livestock (total 891 (410 Women)). Inputs included: tomato, onion and cabbage in T/Emba; sweet chard, onion, cabbage, lettuce, pepper in K. Awulaelo & Samre; onion, tomato, pepper and cabbage in Gursum; goats, wheat, onion and tomato in Jarso; haricot bean, beetroot, cabbage, onion, tomato and poultry in Boset. Nearly 217 ha were covered with these new technologies (Fig. 6).



Figure 5: A farmer benefited from improved wheat, Kora watershed, 2016 Jarso

Activity Area 3.2: Capacity development on commodity production & utilization

In 2016, 3,867 (1,187 Women) farmers participated in capacity building events on promoted climate smart production options related to crop, fruit and vegetable production, livestock husbandry, integrated pest management, apiculture, business plan development and market information handling across all DryDev woredas. Of these participants, seven farmers from Jarso participated in experience-sharing visit to Holeta Agricultural Research Centre to learn about potato production and management, and 15 (1 Woman) from T/ Emba were trained in bio-intensive gardening.

Activity Area 3.3: Formation and strengthening of producer groups

During the year, a total of 110 producer groups with 3,353 (1,572 Women) members were strengthened through training (business plan development, production plan, market analysis, time management, financial analysis), experience sharing events and input accessing. Of these 110 producer groups, 38 are in T/ Emba, 4 in Samre, 4 in K/Awlalo, 33 in Gursum, 18 in Jarso and 13 in Boset. Additionally, 193 (79 Women) and 49 (7 Women) members of producer groups in T/ Emba and Boset woredas, respectively, were provided with capacity building on water use efficiency. The groups were also supported to develop their own bylaws. A total of 32 production / management plans were developed for those institutions with no business plan.

Work Package 4: Enhancing Market Access

Activity Area 4.1: Promote post-harvest technologies

In 2016, the programme promoted 18 different post-harvest technologies (e.g. multi-purpose thresher, honey extractor, groundnut deshelling machine) to the selected value chain (VC) commodities across all program districts except for Jarso. A total of 3,003 (1,295 Women) farmers were introduced and linked to those technologies after organizing them in groups and providing them with the technology equipment and inputs on cost-sharing. Practical demonstration / training on the utilization and maintenance of technologies were offered while providing them to farmers.

Activity Area 4.2: Capacity development of value chain actors

Training and learning sessions were conducted for VC actors that led to the formation of 12 VC platforms. These platforms bring together all VC actors, supporters and enablers with the mandate to address production and supply bottlenecks. Over the past one year, 1,003 (244 Women) persons including youth, input/service providers, and relevant government staff were coached and trained on various topics such as principles of the VC, business management, market linkage, and the value of technology utilization and application.

Activity Area 4.3: Formation and strengthening of marketing groups

A total of 65 marketing groups (8 in Tseada Emba, 4 in Kilte Awulaelo, 4 in Samre, 2 in Boset, 18 in Jarso and 29 in Gursum) with 1,131 members (288 Women) have been established and engaged to produce and trade their commodities. The groups will benefit from collective marketing and make use of their increased bargaining power as a group. The marketing groups have also been supported to have business plans that outline their members' engagement in marketing, storage, pricing and profit-making activities. A total of 21 business plans have been developed.

Activity Area 4.4: Facilitate linkages farmer groups with sustainable markets

Market linkages were facilitated using various approaches such as arranging VC platforms having a business-to-business and business-to-consumer discussion, facilitating participation in trade fairs, exposure visits etc. In this reporting period, 4,675 (2,145 Women) producers have been linked to markets at different levels (local and national). The linkages were mainly made with local multi-purpose cooperatives, unions, national institutions and exporters.

Activity Area 4.5. Strengthening Market Information System

In 2016, accesses to marketing information and services for 1,602 farmers (694 Women) and other VC actors was facilitated through community radios and posting key market information on information boards. Farmers obtained information on updated prices, potential markets and volume, and receive the information on quality requirements for their products.

Work Package 5: Financial services linking

Activity Area 5.1: Strengthening Community Based Financial Institutions

In the reporting period, 62 village saving and loan associations (VSLAs) were established with a total membership of 996 (57% Women). This is in addition to 30 saving groups/VSLAs established in 2015

which are still actively functioning. The groups have been trained on financial literacy, saving and credit management, group management and working with other financial institution. The groups saved 233,623 ETB (USD 10,157) and disbursed 121,500 ETB (USD 5,282) to their members to engage in various income generating activities. In addition, members are benefiting from a basic form of social services by setting aside a portion of the contribution to assist in emergencies.

Activity Area 5.2: Link value chain actors to financial service providers

In Ethiopia, the other option to improve the target communities' access to financial and credit services is to link them to formal financial institutions such as Rural Savings & Credit Cooperatives (RuSACCOs) and micro-finance institutions (MFIs). In 2016, the programme identified and lobbied 25 financial institutions to produce appropriate financial products; consequently, 1,213 farmers from 30 VSLAs were linked to these institutions and accessed 3,062,365 ETB (USD 133,146) in the reporting period. Farmers were linked to RuSACCOs in T/ Emba, Kilte Awulaelo and Samre, the Oromia Credit and Saving institution in Boset, and a multi-purpose union which also provides saving and credit services in Gursum. The loans were mainly invested to purchase small ruminants, agricultural inputs, to conduct petty trading, or to meet emergency needs.

Work Package 6: Local Governance & Institutional Strengthening

Activity Area 6.1: Community institutional capacity strengthening

DryDev is working with 135 farmer organizations (FOs) which were either established by or have been strengthened by the programme. FOs have been carefully assessed for their capacity to implement and scale-up programme interventions. In 2016, various community based organizations (CBOs), government institutions as well as SWS committees have been provided with training on good governance, resource and financial management. A total of 34 FOs developed bylaws, which facilitate SWC activities such as community watershed management and controlled grazing. 2,247 (598 Women) people from 135 institutions participated in these capacity building events including CSW committees, CBOs, local government institutions, and extension agents.

Activity Area 6.2: Platforms for improved local governance

DryDev's efforts to work through woreda-level Steering Committees to engage with local government paid off; all woredas conducted at least two Steering Committee meetings during 2016. Steering Committees provided a platform to facilitate and coordinate government support for DryDev initiatives, and to jointly plan and address any challenges faced.

In addition, institutional capacities and human resources of local governance structures such as kebele leaders, development agents, and sector offices were strengthened through training and discussion. Platforms made up of CBOs, government offices, community representatives and private institutions have also been established in Samre and Kilte Awulaelo to discuss existing local governance challenges and solutions.

Work Package 7: Planning, M&E, and scaling of learning

Activity Area 7.1: Programme monitoring and communication

In 2016, 7 country core team meetings and 3 technical team meetings were conducted to address strategic and implementation related issues.

ICRAF-WVE Joint Quality Monitoring team visited sites in Gursum, T/ Emba and Samre, and their recommendations are being adopted by the woreda teams. In addition, the NLO and IPs conducted regular monitoring involving woreda steering committees and key government and local stakeholders. A total of 77 monitoring visits took place across all woredas with the participation of 2,268 farmers (575 Women).

Regular reports and feedback mechanisms have been valuable to keep implementation on track and the exchange of monthly updates between IPs and the NLO forms a part of the M&E system. Regular

reports have also been submitted to ICRAF and to the WVE internal systems ensuring compliance with grant management and internal controls.

To strengthen the capacities of field teams, 44 field staff (22 IP staff; 12 government officers; 4 NLO staff; 4 ICRAF representatives; 2 WV regional advisors) were provided with training on various topics including VC, M&E, saving groups, and how to record videos/photos. Staff participated in an on-line advanced training on VC (1 NLO, 1 IP staff) and the NLO's communication staff participated in a 'Graphics and design' course. Further staff training in October focused on fraud and on conflict management. A training needs assessment on gender mainstreaming was also conducted during the above training and further training is planned in early 2017. A broader capacity assessment was also completed during the year to inform future training plans.

Activity Area 7.2: Participatory M&E with FOs and local stakeholders

Planning and reflection meetings took place to review 2016 performance and develop 2017 detailed plans. A total of 64 people (15 Women) participated in the planning and review workshops. T/Emba, Kilde Awulaelo and Samre teams conducted participatory review meetings with the community to engage them and other local stakeholders in monitoring and review. Participants included SWS committees, cooperatives, local government bodies, producer and saving groups.

Activity Area 7.3 Scaling of evidence and learning

Tree-planting and FMNR planned comparisons (PCs) are taking place in Samre, Gursum, T/Emba and Boset to facilitate farmer-to-farmer learning and to gather evidence on context-specific options. 465 (78 Women) farmers are participating in these two PCs (tree-planting 229; FMNR 236). Both fruit (mango, avocado, papaya and guava) and multi-purpose tree (*Grevillea robusta*, *Faidherbia albida*, *Cordia africana*, *Acacia saligna* and *Olea africana*) species are included in this PC.

To promote learning from the programme, 29 examples/stories of good practice were shared through the DryDev website and WVE social media. A programme brochure was developed to provide a summary of achievements to various stakeholders. 53 representatives of various scaling stakeholders also participated in events organized to share DryDev good practices and lessons.

Work Package 8: Policy analysis & influencing

Activity Area 8.1: Develop further evidence on identified constraints in policy implementation

To raise awareness of community and service providers on implementation of policies and strategies and initiate a dialogue on challenges in policy implementation, DryDev Ethiopia organized two discussion forums in Boset and T/Emba woredas. The 40 stakeholders were drawn from sector offices such as offices of agriculture, irrigation, cooperative, women and children affairs, and woreda administration offices; 274 (15 Women) farmers participated in the events.

Activity Area 8.2: Stakeholder mapping

Efforts are being made to engage the stakeholders identified during stakeholder mapping in various DryDev activities. A draft stakeholders mapping document has been produced. The draft has been circulated to partners, and the document is expected to be finalized in early 2017. Multi-stakeholder platforms have also been established in 4 woredas with the aim of creating a joint and collaborative effort in mobilizing the community, investing resources, leveraging technical expertise and reviewing DryDev implementations. The stakeholders identified during the stakeholder mapping are now members of the local platforms. Jarso, Gursum, Tseada Emba and Kilde Awulaelo woredas conducted at least one platform meeting during this year.

Activity Area 8.3: Raise awareness on policy provisions and constraints

Various events were organized in target woredas to create awareness on key country development plans, strategies, and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) pertaining to food and water security and NRM. A total of 425 (155 Women) people attended seven policy awareness events including one with the heads of key sector offices and sector experts. Sessions were led by government

officials, which helped participants to familiarize themselves with government strategies and development goals.

3. SUMMARY OVERVIEW OF PROGRESS TOWARDS SUB-OUTCOME AND OUTPUTS

3.1 Sub Outcome tracking

Sub-Outcome 1: Appropriate landscape/watershed level NRM initiatives undertaken

In 2016, 2,740 ha of degraded area has been put under restoration. 31% of the overall sub-catchment communal land is now undergoing restoration by sub-catchment level NRM activities. The annual uptake survey has shown that adoption of various promoted practices, among those who were trained or reached by the programme, remained quite high, e.g. 82% of participants of FMNR awareness-raising events were practicing it. Tseada Emba and Samre are leading in the application of FMNR practices with adoption rates of 95% and 100% respectively. During field visits by programme staff, farmers in DryDev woredas reported that grazing management practices and access to improved cook stoves have reduced pressure on the natural resource base and farmers spend less time on forage and fuel wood collection. According to the farmers, this has resulted in more time available for farmers to engage in other productive works.

Sub-Outcome 2: Improved & climate smart on-farm water & soil management practiced

In 2016, a total of 5,483 farmers were reached through various on-farm water and soil management practices; 688.5 ha have been covered with physical on-farm soil and water management practices; while 353 ha have been covered through on-farm FMNR and agro-forestry practices. The annual uptake survey shows high adoption rates (91% overall) for both biological and physical measures being promoted. For example, uptake of agroforestry and FMNR practices remained at 86% and 80% respectively. Also, 88% of those who received capacity buildings on in-situ RWH structures have started applying the technologies. 75% of the farmers have been found integrating¹ more than one promoted options. Due to such practices, a number of farmers are experiencing and reporting benefits. The uptake survey reported that 64% of farmers who received irrigation capacity building are now utilizing these technologies. Farmers reported that due to availability of water, they can diversify their production and produce different vegetables thereby improving their dietary intake and income.

Sub-Outcome 3: Improved & inclusive & climate-smart production options pursued

During 2016, 8,405 farmers (2,475 Women) were reached through climate smart and inclusive production options. Adoption rates of farmers who received capacity building on crop production and animal husbandry are at 89 and 84% respectively. Producer groups established by DryDev are also becoming a sustainable source of improved seeds for the local community. Farmers are reporting an increase in their production and income due to their access to these improved technologies. For instance, 62% of groundnut and 57% of onion producers reported an increase in their yield as compared to the last year for the same season.

Sub-Outcome 4: Increased participation of male, female and disadvantaged farmers in lucrative value chains

Significant progress in VC-related outcomes was made this year. A total of 6,741 (2,501 Women) people were reached in various but interrelated activity areas in the reporting period. Various

¹ Integration is defined for uptake survey as ‘% implementing in situ soil and water conservation practices including agroforestry + soil fertility management OR rain water harvesting technologies + soil fertility practices on the same crop)’.

capacity development interventions in the areas of VC principles, market linkage, group formation, post-harvest technology management and financial literacy broadened the knowledge and skills of farmers and VC actors, helping develop an entrepreneurial attitude. In addition, 4,675 farmers (2,145 Women) and other VC actors from all woredas were linked to leading local and national private firms. Of the farmers that were trained, 60% are participating in the processing of VC commodities, 57% are participating in the collective buying of inputs for production purposes, and nearly 50% are selling collectively.

Sub-Outcome 5: Increased numbers of farmers linked to credit & financial services

In relation to financial services, 4,130 farmers (2,220 Women) participated in DryDev capacity building events and workshops to strengthen financial linkages and establish groups to enhance access to loans and savings. Saving groups, RuSACCOs and MFIs have been engaged to enhance savings and access to micro loans for rural communities. Based on data from the technology uptake survey, 87% of participants in capacity buildings have started using financial products of financial service providers. VSLAs remained the largest provider of such services catering for 65% of the borrowers within the target areas and DryDev have been investing in the VSLAs to enhance their capacity to benefit more farmers.

Total amount saved by members during the year reached ETB 233,623 (USD 10,157), more than 50% of which was disbursed to group members as loan. MFIs and RuSACCOs also lent ETB 3,062,365 (USD 133,146) to marketing groups. The average loan amount remained ETB 3,097 per person (USD 135).

Sub-Outcome 6: Capacity of local duty-bearers and farmer organizations developed and/or 'duty fulfillment' pressure applied

A total of 2,247 community members and representatives from CBOs, local governance structures and FOs participated in capacity development and discussion forums in 2016. As part of the uptake survey, 59 institutions were asked to self-rate their capacities between 1 and 5 on an index composed of the four parameters (knowledge, skill, resources, and motivation to fulfill their duties) used to measure institutional capacity. Only 47% of the institutions (28 of them) scored themselves 4 or more. This indicates a need for further investment in building the capacity of these institutions and will be a focus area in 2017.

Sub-Outcome 7: Key 'scaling stakeholders' identified, find evidence/learning credible and relevant, and actively promote its uptake

DryDev Ethiopia is working to generate and scale-up evidence through planned comparisons and engagement of key scaling stakeholders in the programme. Scaling stakeholders have been identified and formal engagement process will start from 2017 when evidence of the programme's promoted options will be available.

Sub-Outcome 8: Awareness raised and attitudes improved among key policy makers/ other stakeholders, resulting in their taking desired action

For this WP, 699 (170 Women) people were involved in awareness-raising events and discussions. Various platforms and capacity building programmes are helping DryDev to build a strong partnership among major stakeholders such as the government, CBOs, private entities and individual farmers. The discussion and awareness creation events by the IPs in respective woredas are helping the government and community to exchange feedback on policy implementation successes and challenges.

Discussions with farmers have indicated to the programme management that government extension policies are helping farmers in DryDev areas to improve agricultural production and productivity. This is also improving the image of these extension services.

Table 1: Summary of progress by key sub-outcome indicators

Sub-Outcome	Indicator	Achievement	Comments
Sub-Outcome 1: Appropriate landscape/watershed level NRM initiatives undertaken	• Proportion of sub-catchments covered by expected 'foot prints' of the sub-catchment level NRM initiatives	• 31%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100% of the sub-catchments have sub-catchment management plans • 19,935 (8,129 Women) people participated in sub-catchment management activities • Capacity of 588 (113 Women) community sub-watershed (CSW) team members was built on integrated watershed development and management • 2740 ha of land was rehabilitated through various biological and physical measures
Sub-Outcome 2: Improved & climate smart on-farm water & soil management practiced	• # of farmers practicing promoted practices on-farm water and soil management practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5483 (2,038 Women) • Rehabilitated 688.5 ha of farmlands 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 88% participating in capacity building have constructed / made use of in situ RWH structures • FMNR and agroforestry uptake remained 80% and 86% respectively. • 4641 (1958 Women) farmers were mobilized for on-farm SWC activities
Sub-Outcome 3: Improved & inclusive & climate-smart production options pursued	• # of farmers practicing promoted production practices	• 4,958 (1,361 Women) farmers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 89% of participants in crop production and 85% of participants in livestock production were practicing promoted options in crop and livestock husbandry respectively • New promoted technologies were applied to 217.24 ha of land
Sub-Outcome 4: Increased participation of male, female and disadvantaged farmers in lucrative value chains	• # of men and women in HH participating in targeted value chains	• 6,741 (2,501 women) persons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Of those farmers trained, 60% were practicing processing of value chain commodities, 57% were engaged in collective purchase of inputs, and 49% were participating in collective marketing of produce • people are participating in targeted value chains
Sub-Outcome 5: Increased numbers of famers linked to credit & financial services	• # and value of loans accessed by men & women in HH in last 12 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 62 VSLAs • 3,062,365 ETB (USD 133,146) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 62 VSLAs/VESA were established with a membership of 996 (57% women) • These groups could save a total of 233,623 ETB (USD 10,157) and disbursed a total of 121,500 ETB (USD 5,282) in loans. • The average loan accessed and the average saving were 3,097 ETB and 490 ETB respectively.
	• # of male & female HH members provided with business training, advice, and/or mentoring support in last 12 months	• 573 (423 Women) members	• Trained on financial literacy, saving and credit services
Sub-Outcome 6: Capacity of local duty-bearers & FOs developed and/or 'duty fulfillment' pressure applied	• Extent to which targeted local duty bearers and institutions have skills, knowledge, resources, and/or motivation to fulfill functions	• 47% of institutions self-rated themselves as having the capacity to fulfill their functions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 135 institutions have been trained to conduct their own institutional capacity building • 2,247 (598 women) people from respective institutions participated in the trainings
Sub-Outcome 7: Key 'scaling stakeholders' identified, find evidence/learning credible and relevant, and actively promote its uptake	• # of identified 'scaling stakeholder' actively promoting uptake of evidence and learning generated under the programme.	• 30%	• 135 stakeholders were identified through stakeholder mapping and are working with DryDev to promote uptake of evidence
Sub-Outcome 8: Awareness raised and attitudes improved among key policy makers/ other stakeholders, resulting in their taking desired action	• # of targeted policy makers and other policy relevant stakeholders meaningfully seeking to bring about targeted policy & institutional reforms	• 425 (155 Women) participants	• 425 (155 women) people attended policy awareness sessions organized in 7 different events

3.2 Output tracking (Excel sheet)

Farmers reached by the interventions during 2016 are indicated in the attached Excel sheet.



DRYDEV ETHIOPIA
-Output tracking_201

4. KEY CHALLENGES AND CONSTRAINTS

4.1 Key constraints faced and how they were dealt with

- The El Niño-caused drought of 2015-16 has been a serious challenge affecting implementation in the target areas during the first half of the year. Since the target areas are semi-arid and drought-prone, the drought affected a significant number of people, causing humanitarian needs and emergency response to be a priority. Joint intervention of development agents made it possible to address the situation in all target areas, and avoid a potential loss in momentum.
- The numerous indicators required, due to the multi-sectoral nature of the programme, make the M&E system complex and created an unexpected data-collection burden for field staff. DryDev Ethiopia has tried to simplify the process, and the addition of field-based M&E technicians has significantly improved the situation. However, the manual system is not very efficient. The programme is now discussing a user-driven electronic data management system in 2017.

4.2 Key opportunities discovered that the Programme could capitalize on

- Accreditation of SWS teams by the woreda government in Gursum and Jarso has provided an opportunity for DryDev to influence other NRM initiatives taking place in these woredas.
- The goals and objectives of the DryDev programme are well aligned with the policy framework and current strategies in Ethiopia such as the government's Growth & Transformation Plan II (2015/16-2019/20) and the Climate-Resilient Green Economy initiative (2015-2025), which helps DryDev to benefit from government technical expertise and sectoral interventions.

5. LESSONS LEARNED

5.1 Lessons learned during this reporting period

Working with Partners

- In 2016, DryDev Ethiopia experienced a more coordinated partnership and benefitted from management and monitoring mechanisms including the Country Core Team (CCT), Technical Team and Joint Quality Monitoring (JQM). Similarly, the Woreda Steering Committees also meet quarterly to review implementation of activities at the woreda level. The steering committees now have sufficient experience to engage government offices to cooperate and participate in the planning, implementation and monitoring. These partnerships at national and woreda levels are building a sense of ownership and commitment for the programme, and similar trends could help in other development initiatives too.
- Woreda sector offices, research institutions and universities have been engaged to assist with technical support and seed supply. Some woredas like Tseada Emba have even provided funds to support programme implementation (300,000 ETB (USD 15,000) before DryDev funds were disbursed at the beginning of 2016).

Functional involvement of stakeholders

- Government field staff of the relevant departments have been actively involved in implementation of DryDev programme activities, helping the small DryDev team to reach programme targets. DryDev Ethiopia will continue to invest more in building the capacity of these field staff to ensure they contribute meaningfully towards achievement of programme outcomes.

Good Practice/Innovation

- To lessen the data collection and compilation demands on the field staff, an excel based system is introduced where the field staff is required to capture the activity data only and that is converted to outputs automatically through interlinked excel sheets. Now the field staff do not have to convert the activity data to output indicators. This has reduced their work and minimised errors that arise when translating activities into outputs.

Project/programme Management

- Given the multi-sectoral nature of DryDev, the absence of M&E staff at the field had led to field staff being overloaded with both implementation and M&E activities. However, it was understood that a point person for each IP and exclusive M&E staff to monitor and evaluate activities are needed. Each IP now has a point person to oversee implementation. The JQM team also acknowledged the high workload on the field staff and endorsed the already felt need to have a dedicated M&E staff at each IP level. M&E staff have now been hired and have begun to work in the woredas.

Communication

- More lesson-sharing events means more learning is happening among DryDev actors. The increased numbers of best practice and lessons being sharing through various platforms have enabled IPs to continuously learn from one another. The NLO has put in place a communication structure through which best practices and lessons from the field can be shared to other field implementers to ensure common understanding among consortium partners.

5.2 Description of situations to demonstrate how scaling principles were applied

i) Integration

DryDev Ethiopia has made a deliberate effort to integrate a range of interventions to produce intended outcomes at the sub-watershed and HH levels. According to the uptake and sub-outcome tracking survey, 75% of farmers are implementing integrated soil and water management options. This exceeded the sub-outcome target of 35% and suggests the programme is successfully rolling-out in an integrated manner.

An example of integration and its effects comes from the Demello sub-watershed in Tseada Emba woreda where DryDev interventions include terracing, gabions, dams, tree planting and FMNR to restore water retention. The physical and biological treatment of the sub-watershed enhanced the water percolation and restored the spring discharge. The downstream community was given training on efficient water utilization, and how to grow and market irrigated crops such as carrot, potato, and onion. The same community was also supported to access improved seeds. In addition, a canal extension from the water point has enabled the downstream community to produce three crops per year for market and household consumption. Prices received at the local market, due to the drought conditions, were extraordinary and the communities were rewarded for their investment of time and energy to restore the upper catchment recharge area. As a result of these interventions taking place in a coordinated and integrated manner, the Demello sub watershed is now known as the transformed area.