

SAFE-World Project/Initiative Summary

Country: Ethiopia

Project/Initiative Title: Cheha IRPD

Nos. farmers: 12,500 Hectares: 5000

Agro-Ecological Zone: III

Improvement types

1x	2	3x	4	5	6x	7	8	9
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Success and Limits to spread

Success	Limits
1b, 3e	2a, 3a, 4b, 5a, 5b

A. Key Impacts

A1 – Productivity

	Before/Without	After/With	% change
Cereals			60
Livestock			Animal health improvements

A2 – Impacts on natural capital

- ?? The project has encouraged organic fertilization and botanical pest control techniques as part of its agroforestry program component.
- ?? The bio-diversity of the project area has been supported by the introduction of different horticultural crop seeds, forest and fruit tree seedlings.
- ?? The natural decrease in forest coverage in the project area due to search for additional farm and grazing land has been amply compensated for by the planting forest tree seedlings provided by the project.
- ?? The proportion of land inter-cropped, as compared to the proportion mono-cropped, has increased significantly since the inception of the Cheha Integrated Rural Development Project, thanks to the agroforestry project component.

A3 – Impacts on local community (social capital)

- ?? The project has enabled farmers to generate additional income from horticultural and agronomic crops produced.
- ?? The increase in livestock numbers has resulted in increased income for farmers and their families, both through the sale of animal products, and through the sale of additional crops produced.
- ?? Through the life of the project there has been a decreasing need for food inputs or subsidies to be given as incentives for farmers to participate in new programming. Farmers have seen the positive benefits from the adoption of new techniques, and have willingly bought inputs either directly or on a full payback loan basis. Other project

activities, involving the development of sites or buildings for demonstration or public use have been done on a "cost-sharing" basis, where the community has contributed all or most of the locally available inputs, while the FHI/E has provided technical assistance in construction and inputs not locally available.

A4 – Impacts on households and individuals (human capital)

- ?? 70% improvement in nutrition with the farming of livestock
- ?? The overall health status of project beneficiaries has improved through the life of the Project, due to a focus on health and nutrition education, and to an emphasis on hygiene and sanitation, and the development of potable water sources throughout target communities.
- ?? Local food availability has progressively improved since initial intervention into the Cheha area by FHI/E. Farmers involved in and influenced by the Project are better able to cope with drought/environmental change through the new farming methods they have been taught by FHI/E, including inter-cropping, micro-irrigation and planting of drought resistant crops. A marked sign of this is that since the huge famine that marked FHI/E's entry into Cheha area in 1984/85, there has not been another large scale food shortage in the Cheha area, in spite of continuing problems in other parts of Ethiopia, and even in surrounding communities not yet affected by FHI/E programming.

A5 – Key changes in farm / regional system

- ?? There has been a marked increase in livestock yield. The project area is badly affected with Trypanosomiasis (animal sleeping sickness), which has resulted in a shortage of draught animals throughout the project area. Through FHI/E the veterinary services, however, the number of livestock has increased, which has directly resulted in increased crop production.
- ?? Through the introduction of new seed varieties and inter-cropping methods, Crop yields have increased significantly through the life of the project. Farmers have also improved agricultural productivity through use of micro-irrigation methods introduced by FHI/E.

B. Types of Sustainable Agriculture Improvements

- Type 1: Better use of available renewable natural capital
- Type 2: Intensification of single sub -component of farm system
- Type 3: Diversify by adding new productive natural capital and regenerative components
- Type 4: Better use of non-renewable inputs and technologies
- Type 5: Social and participatory processes leading to group action for making better use of natural capital
- Type 6: Human capital building through training-learning programmes
- Type 7: Access to Finance
- Type 8: Add value by processing to reduce losses and increase returns
- Type 9: Add value by direct or organised marketing of produce to consumers

	Yes/No	Narrative
Type 1	x	organic fertilization, multiple cropping, integrated pest management and botanical pesticides

Type 2		
Type 3	x	fruit and forest tree seedlings planting
Type 4		
Type 5		
Type 6	x	?? Project beneficiaries participate in project planning, design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. ?? During extension training, FHI/E Development Agents have initiated two-way dialogue with farmers, not only teaching but listening and learning from their experience with local farming. This attitude of respect and cooperation has greatly impacted the sustainability of programming in the Cheha area.
Type 7		
Type 8		
Type 9		

C. Key Lessons: Success, Spread and Constraints

C2 – Aspects of local/national context contributing to success

There is close collaboration among FHI/E, line ministries and target groups in problem identification, project planning, decision making, monitoring and evaluation.

C3 – Limitations preventing spread

- ?? Past socialist political and economic policies.
- ?? Land tenure system
- ?? Cultural biases against adoption of new ideas and techniques.
- ?? Lack of research and extension systems to link with project activities and farmer training
- ?? Poor transport and market networks
- ?? Limited local resources (i.e. limited cash available to farmers, which limits the investment they can make in the short term into farm inputs).

D. Contact Point for Project/Initiative

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Agroforestry:

FHI/E's program attempts to find new ways to make this traditional agriculture more productive and less environmentally destructive through inter-cropping, the use of natural fertilizers, the introduction of new vegetable varieties and conservation measures. Local communities and individuals have shown a great willingness to attempt new methods and crops, and have independently tried new innovations in their own plots and backyard gardens.

Through work on eight demonstration plots scattered throughout the project area, FHI/E technical staff attempt to optimize the positive interaction between different types of crops and vegetables and the physical environment. Through the plots, FHI/E staff are helping to reach farmers with technical advice and services, encouraging them to adopt new land use practices and to abandon practices that are no longer efficient. Their goal is to adequately diversify crops to improve nutritional status of target communities and provide a sustainable means of income generation for local farmers.

The focus of Cheha Integrated Agroforestry Development Program lies around selected Contact Farmers within target communities. These farmers, chosen by their peers because of their proven resourcefulness, demonstrated hard work and ability to teach others in their communities, are given free inputs of seed and seedlings in their first year of work and learning in the demonstration plots, in subsequent years paying for seedlings, fertilizers and other inputs. Through their example and overt instruction, whole communities benefit from the demonstration plot training.

Within the last few years, there has been an approximately 70% improvement of overall nutritional levels in the Cheha area, and 60% improvement in crop yields, as a direct result of FHI/E agroforestry activities. General nutritional status has improved, and irrigation techniques have been adopted by many. Some farmers have even managed to begin producing excess crops which they sell in local markets, earning much needed income for their families.

The real promise of the Cheha program, though, lies in the fact that farmers are replicating activities on their own initiative. They are establishing their own micro-irrigation plots and gardens, digging irrigation canals themselves and growing vegetables and cash crops in their backyards for profit. Where once farmers had to be encouraged to participate in programs to benefit them through Food-for-Work (FFW) payments, they are now voluntarily working to better their own environment. FHI/E's desire is to continue to facilitate and encourage this process.

Animal Health:

Farmers in the Cheha area claim that many years ago each household had hundreds of livestock. Now, the once healthy herds have fallen victim to cattle diseases and parasites, including distemper and tick disease, and most particularly Trypanosomiasis - tse-tse fly carried animal sleeping sickness.

Trypanosomiasis was not a problem even 25 years ago, but now, because of villagisation and resettlement plans, the disease has spread to alarming proportions. The rate of infection

ranges from 20% to as high as 53% of the cattle in the Cheha area.

To aid in testing towards the eradication of trypanosomiasis, traps have been set up along rivers, near ponds, in tall grasses and in farmers' private fields in order to trap and kill the flies. Each trap is monitored for the number and type of flies present each month.

Training sessions are held during clinics, at the trap sites and in special meetings, in order to assist farmers with controlling these animal diseases.

A significant number of Cheha farmers have adopted sustainable agricultural approaches such as organic fertilization, multiple cropping, integrated pest management, fruit and forest tree seedlings planting, either through direct contact with FHI/E programming or through replication of techniques used by FHI/E contact farmers. Estimates of the area which sustainable agriculture approaches are now being used are up to 5,000 ha of land. The number of farmers benefiting from the positive impacts described is estimated to be 12,500 (up to 50,000 individuals based on an estimate of 5 people per household).

Distribution of free agricultural inputs was done only initially, to interest farmers in the program, after which farmers have been expected to pay for inputs made available by FHI/E.