

The Graduate



FEED THE FUTURE
The U.S. Government's Global Hunger & Food Security Initiative

Livelihoods for Resilience Activity Newsletter

Issue 14 - June 2020

The Feed the Future Ethiopia - Livelihoods for Resilience Activity is part of the U.S. Government's global hunger and food security initiative. The project is designed to help up to 97,900 chronically food insecure households to graduate with resilience from the government of Ethiopia's Productive Safety Net Program. A consortium led by CARE and including the Relief Society of Tigray (REST), Organization for Rehabilitation and Development in Amhara (ORDA), Agri-Service Ethiopia (ASE), and SNV implements the project in 37 PSNP woredas in the Tigray, Amhara, and SNNP regions.

Promoting pro-poor value chains



Beekeeping sweetens family food security

Teshale and Medena's leafy backyard is buzzing with bees, as they are engaged in improved beekeeping following a short-term training facilitated by the Feed the Future Ethiopia – Livelihoods for Resilience Activity. Even if you are afraid of bees, it is worth facing your fear to hear Teshale and Medena's story and see their exemplary beekeeping success.

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From the Chief of Party

Dear colleagues and friends,

We are pleased to share this 14th issue of *The Graduate*, the newsletter that started under our predecessor project Graduation with Resilience to Achieve Sustainable Development (GRAD) and continues under the Livelihoods for Resilience Activity. We hope this finds you all well and safe from the COVID-19 pandemic.



This issue of *The Graduate* focuses on our approach to strengthening pro-poor value chains/inclusive market systems, as this is critical to our goal of helping households graduate from the Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP). This issue highlights inspiring stories of households who have begun to change their lives as a result of their engagement in these value chains.

The stories herein shed light on the project's approaches in five different value chains: sheep and goats ("shoats", per the terminology commonly used in Ethiopia), pepper, potato, poultry, and honey. Despite the clear differences in these value chains, the project's approaches, designed and led by SNV, contain four clear thematic areas aimed at strengthening systems that are inclusive to PSNP households:

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Sheep fattening accelerates food security

Engaging in sheep and goat fattening can bring fast returns on investment and help put rural households on the path towards food security. This story of Worku and Sendnesh is just one example of how fattening can transform rural households' livelihoods for the better. [Keep reading...](#)

From the Chief of Party

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- **Support in access to inputs.** Whether the inputs in question are seeds, feed, improved beehives, poultry coop materials, seed potato, or other inputs, access to inputs is often PSNP households' greatest bottleneck. The project establishes and strengthens last-mile service providers such as agro-dealers and pullet growers to supply much-needed inputs of known quality, at an accessible location and at affordable prices, to PSNP households.
- **Technical and business skills trainings.** The project uses model farmers, demonstration plots, farmer-to-farmer experience sharing, hands-on training, and video-enabled extension to help farmers build the skills they need to improve their productivity.
- **Value chain stakeholder engagement.** Through the establishment of multi-stakeholder platforms, the project organizes regular meetings between private sector, government, and research institutions that have a stake in the value chain in that particular area. These stakeholders come together to discuss current challenges such as incidences of animal health disease or crop pests/diseases, marketing bottlenecks, and regulatory issues, and agree on action plans to address these issues.

- **Access to markets.** Farmer economic and marketing associations (FEMAs) established by the project help farmers collaborate on aggregating demand for inputs and jointly communicating with traders about marketing options. Other access to market activities include facilitating business-to-business meetings and supporting value chain actors' participation in trade fairs, among others.

In addition, the project facilitates access to finance from micro-finance institutions (MFIs), through support from business plan development, MFI referrals, and loan guarantee funds.

While the highlighted households are just five among many, we hope that the stories of Teshale and Medena, Worku and Sendnesh, Komah, Alemayehu and Abebech, and Tefera and Hamsalech will inspire you. Enjoy reading, and stay safe!

Elisabeth Farmer, Chief of Party
Livelihoods for Resilience

“Poultry made me rethink my plans to migrate”

Engaging in improved poultry production as a value chain activity in rural Ethiopia is an activity that pays off. Komah is one of the PSNP clients who has earned impressive incomes from poultry production. Her story tells how poultry can change the livelihood of the poor if it is properly adopted. [Keep reading...](#)



“The potato helps us to see a bright future”

Alemayehu Lemma, 52, and Abebech Debebe, 40, started to see a bright future when they discovered how to significantly increase their potato yield. They were astounded when they increased their production six-fold and harvested 40 quintals of potatoes in a single season.

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Spicing up rural livelihoods through pepper production

Smallholder farmers in Sidama and Gedio zones of South Ethiopia who participate in the Feed the Future Ethiopia – Livelihoods for Resilience Activity have discovered that improved pepper seed and agronomic practices help them to have better production, and earn good income. Tefera Yohannes is one of these farmers.

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