



Request number:  
(Allocated by the Czech Development Agency)

*Initial Project Proposal*

Title:  
Improvement of Food Security and Nutrition in Target Vulnerable Populations/Small-Scale Farmers in selected Woredas of Sidama and Gedeo Zones in SNNPR, Ethiopia  
Sub.:  
*Increasing of financial and nutritional benefits of processing and marketing of agricultural production*

Partner country:  
Ethiopia  
Region/town/locality:  
SNNPR/Sidama and Gedeo zones  
Woredas: Aleta Chuko, Dilla Zuria and Wonago

Expected Start Date of Implementation:  
Expected End Date:

Estimated total financial allocation (USD):  
Expected Czech ODA financial contribution (USD):

**Applicant / Partner Institution:**  
*Regional Bureau of Agriculture and Natural Resource Development, Hawassa SNNPR, Ethiopia*  
contact person: *Ato Girmame, Head of Farming Division*  
*BOFEC, Regional Bureau in Hawassa. Ato Akililu, Vice Head of Bofec*

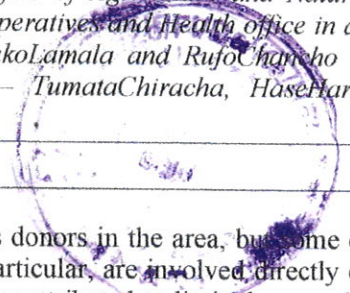
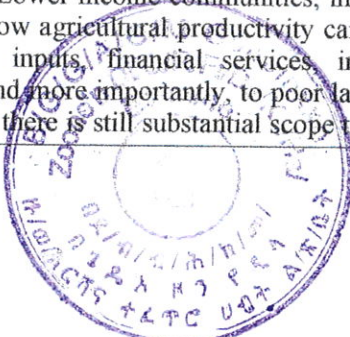
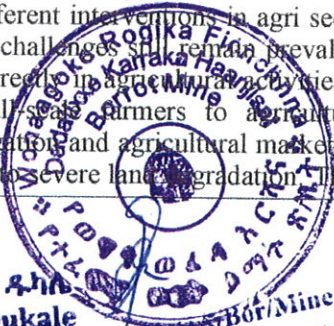
**Other key partners:**  
*Zonal Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources. Zonal department of cooperative development, Zonal department of Health (both in Sidama and Gedeo) Woreda office of Agriculture and Natural Resources Aleta Chuko, Dilla Zuria and Wonago. Woreda office of cooperatives and Health office in all mentioned woredas. Kebele in Aletachuko – Korke, Mangudo, Chuko Lamala and Rujo Chancho in Dilla Zuria – Chichu, Andida, Shigedo and Amba. In Wonago – Tumata Chiracha, Haseharo, Karra Soditi and Mokonisa.*

**CONTEXT AND RATIONALE**

**Development problem:**  
Different interventions in agri sector have been undertaken by various donors in the area, but some of the challenges still remain prevalent. Lower income communities, in particular, are involved directly or indirectly in agricultural activities. Low agricultural productivity can be attributed to limited access by small scale farmers to agricultural inputs, financial services, improved production technologies, irrigation and agricultural markets; and more importantly, to poor land management practices that have led to severe land degradation. Thus, there is still substantial scope to sustainably improve productivity,



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**Woreda Office of Agriculture and Natural Resources**  
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production and market linkages and then reverse food insecurity status of the small-scale farmers. Moreover, farmers are willing to adopt good agricultural practices and incorporate some principles of conservation agriculture but it has to be promoted usually through existing extension structures. Involvement of women is crucial and can be very beneficial for whole family. Together with improving farming practices and production of more crops, best nutrient-dense crops farmers can learn how to process such products and use it for better nutrition of the family or sell part of the production to have money for next season's inputs. Availability of processed food is not only increasing the status and contributing to development of given areas but also improves dietary practices.

Development Cooperation previously funded a public tender "Support of Agricultural consultancy development extension services" in 2013 – 2016) with the aim of ensuring adequate agricultural input supply and strengthen agricultural extension services. The final goal was to increase agricultural production and productivity and finally to improve food security of farming communities.

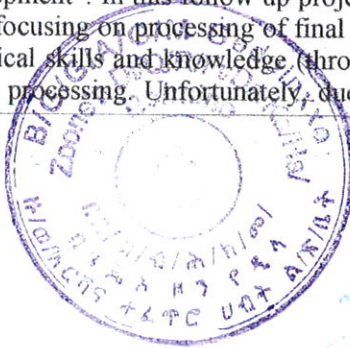
In the identified woredas, there are remaining chronically food insecure households. According to the data collected from woreda government offices, there are 14,949 (8,616 male and 6,333 female), 9,993 (5,035 male and 4,958 female) and 15,489 (7,615 male and 7,874 female) persons currently being targeted by productive safety net program (PSNP) from 212,908, 124,070 and 142,515 total population in AletaChuko, DillaZuria and Wonagoworeda, respectively. Likewise, there are 884, 2,699 and 1,008 malnourished children in AletaChuko, DillaZuria and Wonagoworeda, respectively.

In these woredas, totally 47 (26 in AletaChuko, 8 in DillaZuria and 13 in Wonago) kebeles are categorized under chronically food insecure areas and included in productive safety net program that helps to protect and build household assets, while at the same time strengthening the productive base of food insecure areas and help to reduce chronic food insecurity. The agriculture project trained at least 36 development agents on good agricultural practices as well as equipped selected 12 FTCs with different equipment, materials and facilities including 6 stores, 3 cattle crashes, 10 roof catchments, 12 pit latrines, 1 3<sup>rd</sup> class weather station, etc. and thereby created access to agricultural consultancy services for 2,880 farmers (480 model farmers and 2,400 followers). The nutrition project has been addressing poor households with malnourished children and so far a total of 636 households were provided with capacity building training and nutritionally rich crops, as a result 445 children under 2 were rehabilitated among a total of 452 children included in the positive deviance health (PD-HCH) sessions (community-based approach to address malnutrition).

Besides, the interventions or development efforts that, within the context of agriculture sector objectives lack nutrition-sensitive activities that aims to improve the underlying causes of malnutrition and avoid harm to the most nutritionally vulnerable populations and individuals. Most of the people who are actually mostly affected are women and children especially in critical ages (up to 5 years). Project aims to support the diversification of production via FTCs plus improving the knowledge transfer to ordinary farmers in order to improve agricultural productivity leading to better dietary habits. Having diversified production will contribute not only to better nutritional status but also to better preparedness for shocks having diversified production, thus better income affording families to improve feeding practices. Introduction of new crops/vegetables special attention will be paid to techniques of conservation agriculture improving the qualities of farmer's land, which at the end will impact the overall land management in the area. Cooperatives were previously established under Czech Development Cooperation funded public tender "Support of Agricultural consultancy development". In this follow up project, working in the previously targeted areas will be very beneficial while focusing on processing of final product and final marketing. The cooperatives were provided with technical skills and knowledge (through theoretical and practical training) and relevant materials for product processing. Unfortunately, due to the given circumstances

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they didn't start actual production process to the expected level. Therefore, this project will continue supporting the cooperatives though following up on performance of production and quality enabling them to sell the production on the market.

**Key stakeholders and beneficiaries:**

Key stakeholders are  
INGOs and NGOs active in the area of intervention:  
Private Investors  
Government institutions:  
Women's groups or cooperatives

Local Associations/Institutions, and Local government structures

**Beneficiaries:**

The proposed project will directly benefit total of 2872 people and 180 beekeeping cooperative members

Gedeo zone/ Dilla Zuria and Wonago:

4 established cooperatives (dairy farm products processing, honey production and processing, coffee processing) benefiting 120 people

Sidama zone/ Aleta Chuko:

2 established cooperatives (honey production and processing) benefiting 60 people

The grain mills installed for 4 women's vegetable production cooperatives are ready to give the expected service for the target population, the project will continue supporting the cooperatives through following up on performance of vegetable production and quality of yield enabling them to sell the surplus production at the market for better price. Besides, the project will collaborate with local authorities including Ethiopia Electric Power Corporation for ensuring of electric line/power breaker connection with grain mills to function.

4 established vegetable cooperatives (mill processing) benefiting 836 people/households

2400 nutritionally vulnerable HHs (12000 individuals)

6 WANRDO experts

6 WHO experts

36 DAs (3 per FTC, 12 FTCs in total in 12 kebeles)

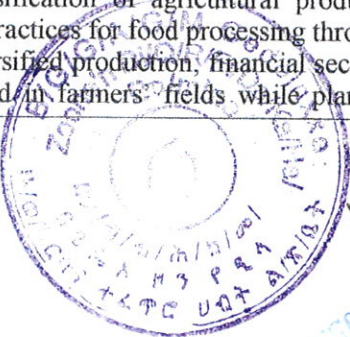
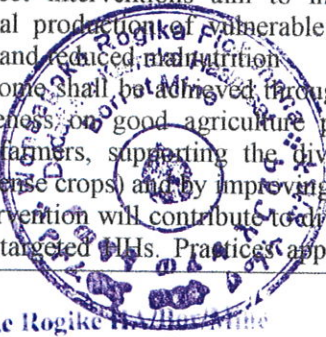
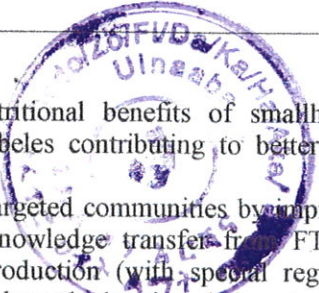
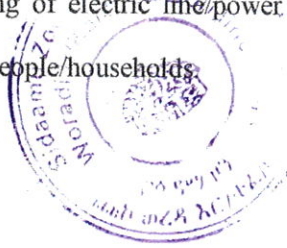
24 HEWs (2 per kebele/health post)

400 HDAs/volunteers

**Expected outcomes:**

The project interventions aim to improve the financial and nutritional benefits of smallholders agricultural production and vulnerable populations in the target kebeles contributing to better socio economic and reduced malnutrition.

This outcome shall be achieved through intensive work both with targeted communities by improving the awareness on good agriculture practices, strengthening the knowledge transfer from FTCs to ordinary farmers, supporting the diversification of agricultural production (with special regard to nutrient dense crops) and by improving practices for food processing through already existing structures. Such intervention will contribute to diversified production, financial security and better socio economic status of targeted HHs. Practices applied in farmers' fields while planting nutrient dense crops will



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follow up the principles of conservation agriculture and improving the soil qualities contribution to better yields and productivity. Together with these interventions cooperatives established in these areas focusing on agricultural products processing will supply targeted population with well processed products for consumption. Awareness about processed food, better dietary habits and crops diversification is essential for the project and needs to go hand in hand with changing habits of targeted communities.

**Overall objective:** Improved financial and nutritional benefits of smallholders agricultural production in AletaChuko, DillaZuria and Wonagoworedas in SNNP Region of Ethiopia

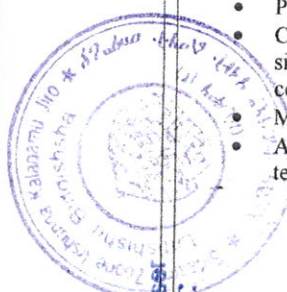
- Indicators:** % increase in the income gained by supported cooperative members and small scale producers
- % increase in the proportion of children aged 9-23 months consuming Minimum Acceptable Diet (MAD)

**Specific objective:** Improved dietary and agricultural practices of target population

- Indicators:** % of farmers who at least XX% of promoted adopted GAPs
- % of supported HHs which are following at least 60% of the promoted dietary practices

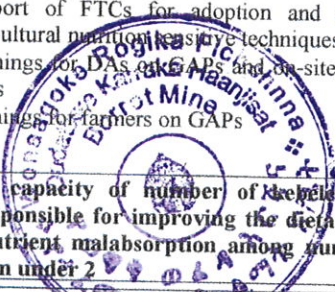
**Expected outputs and/or required specific services, supplies or works:**

Expected outputs and activities	Baseline	Target indicators
<b>Initial activities:</b> <b>Baseline on socio-economic status of targeted population</b> <b>Familiarization meetings with the target stakeholders</b>		
<b>1. Strengthened production and service-delivery capacity of the supported cooperatives</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Production analysis on quality processing</li> <li>Continuous follow up and reflection of business plans on situation on market ensuring full independence of cooperatives</li> <li>Marketing of production</li> <li>Awareness sessions at kebele level about processing technologies available and benefits of processed food</li> </ul>		% of local people knowing about the services provided by the grain processing cooperatives  #customers using the supported grain mill services  At least % of supported cooperatives meet their production plans At least xxx people profiting from Services of cooperatives Production of honey from cooperatives has doubled
<b>2. Development agents of target FTCs effectively support targeted farmers in the production of nutrient-dense crops for income generation and homestead production</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support of FTCs with inputs for trainings and demonstrations</li> <li>Designed trainings for nutrient-dense crop demonstrations</li> <li>Awareness sessions and trainings</li> <li>Support of FTCs for adoption and demonstration of agricultural nutrition practices</li> <li>Trainings for DAS, GAs and on-site demonstration of FTCs</li> <li>Trainings for farmers on GAPs</li> </ul>		# of FTCs supported having background required for effective training practices and demonstration % of supported FTCs promote at least 5 more types of crops after 2 years  Increased average number of GAPs which are promoted on targeted FTCs by 50 % Increased % of farmers trained by extension workers on promoted GAPs % of farmers demonstrating GAP in their fields
<b>3. Improved capacity of number of kebele level extension workers responsible for improving the dietary practices and reducing nutrient malabsorption among number of families with children under 2</b>		% of supported HHs aware of how to

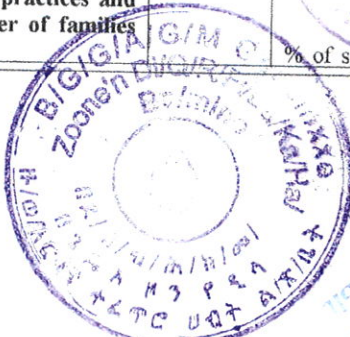


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