

**Monitoring and technical support to local subsidies pilot projects in the
framework of the Sustainable Food Security Program**



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Executive summary and general recommendations

- The selected projects were appropriate to the areas in the governorates of Amran, Hudaidah, Taiz, Abyan, Sana'a, Almahweet as well as to the island Socotra.
- Producing of foodstuff, increasing food availability or creating good conditions for food accessibility were main aims of the pilot projects.
- The execution agencies were Agriculture Cooperatives, women associations, charitable associations and research institutions.
- There are clear variations among the pilot projects in terms of execution of the activities and results. Nevertheless, all selected pilot projects have direct linkage to food security.
- The projects have targeted poor families of rural people like farmers and widows (Amran, Hudaidah, Taiz, Abyan and Almahweet), fishermen (Abyan and Socotra) and food producing research intuitions (Tissue culture department at the Sana'a university and the Agriculture Research and Extension Authority).
- In Amran and Abyan the associations have made use of the grants to develop revolving funds by lending and purchasing materials by the beneficiaries and they should repay according to simplified procedures. This action aims to control the activities and include new beneficiaries in the future.
- There are some shortcomings in the use and implementation of the grants (YASAD) as well as in the management and follow up of the beneficiaries (Abayn).
- The size of some projects for targeted household was so small to lead to effect in improving the livelihood (Poultry in Sheikh Abdullah, livestock in Abr Othman, home gardens in Alwadi).
- It is too early to talk about the impact of the projects since they were either still in the implementation phase (home gardens) or waiting for the next agricultural seasons (threshing machines).

- The most five successes projects¹ which had been good implemented and reached the beneficiaries according to the proposal.

Project	Implementer
Household Kitchen gardens for food security	Abu-Musa AL-Ashary Social Charitable Association
Improving Life of Poor Fishermen Families with Women Collective Empowerment in Zinjibar district, Abyan governorate	8 March Women Association, Zinjibar district, Abyan
Project: Income and Food Security through Beekeeping Development among Deprived Women of Bani Hamad, Taizz governorate	Bani Sinan Cooperative and Agricultural Society
Appropriate small threshing machines for seed production	Agricultural Research and Extension Authority
Appropriate small threshing machines for seed production	Agricultural Research and Extension Authority

- The most four projects that could be replicated:

Project	Where should be replicated
Household home gardens for food security	In Hudiadah, Tihamah
Income Diversification and Livestock Restoration for Poor Rural Families	In different areas
Improving Life of Poor Fishermen Families	Hudiadah and Abyan
Project: Income and Food Security through Beekeeping	In different areas

- The most four association with strong infrastructure and institutional capabilities
 1. Abu-Musa AL-Ashary Social Charitable Association
 2. 8 March Women Association, Zinjibar district, Abyan
 3. YASAD, Yemeni Association for Sustainable Agricultural Development
 4. Bani Al-Kuraibi Social, Charitable and Development Association

¹ According to our observation and the reflection of the beneficiaries during the implementation phase. Post monitoring is necessary.

General recommendations²

The following general recommendations are valid for all associations:

2. Follow up of the projects directly by the executed party to record the progress of the project, interaction among the beneficiaries and the sustainability.
3. Obviously, it is recommended to conduct visits by the GIZ to the projects sites after a while to observe the continuation of the activities and the benefits to the target groups.
4. It is strongly recommended to develop and increase the transparency in the pilot projects through distributing of reports and information among the target groups and all members of the associations. These will lead to strengthening of trust between the association and the community and will attract new donors.
5. Improvement of targeting to reach the most food insecure people.

² Specific recommendations have been reflected in point 4 (see finding)

1. Introduction

The GIZ, Yemen country office through its Sustainable Food Security Program has shared different development institutions, department of universities and rural associations in financing their activities with small grants. Main aim of the grants was to improve the institutional structures and the productivity of farmers and rural women as well as the productivity of educational, research and extension institutions. The following small projects have been supported by the program:

	Project Title	Sponsor
1	Integrated Support to Urban and Peri-urban Agriculture for Family Food Security in Sanaa City	YASAD, the Yemeni Association for Sustainable Agriculture Development
2	Diversifying Diet and Livestock-based Income of Poor Women with Pilot Home-gardens	Abr Othman, Khanfar district, Abyan governorate, Abr Othman Association
3	Improving Life of Poor Fishermen Families with Women Collective Empowerment in Zinjibar district, Abyan governorate	8 March Women Association
4	Family Food and Women Empowerment through Community-based Services to Poor Fishermen in Al-Kud, Khanfar district, Abyan governorate	Al-Wadi Association for Poverty Alleviation
5	Increase and Improvement of Agricultural Production on Socotra Island , Nujed, Shadraho area	22 May Association
6	Appropriate small threshing machines for seed production	Agricultural Research and Extension Authority
7	Project: Income and Food Security through Beekeeping Development among Deprived Women of Bani Hamad, Taizz governorate	Bani Sinan Cooperative and Agricultural Society
8	Potato basic seeds production project, utilization tissue culture technique	Plant Tissue Culture – Agriculture College – Sana'a University
9	Household Kitchen gardens for food security	Abu-Musa AL-Ashary Social Charitable Association
10	Project: Income Diversification and Livestock Restoration for Poor Rural Families from Maswar district, Amran governorate	Bani Al-Kuraibi Social, Charitable and Development Association
11	Community-based Agricultural Services for Food Security in Taizz Highlands. Threshing machinery and animal labor tradition to improve production	YASAD, Yemeni Association for Sustainable Agricultural Development

2. Objective

The objective of this consultancy was to monitor the project activities. Under the supervision of the food security project coordinator, the monitoring experts have undertaken the following tasks:

Phase one has focused on the baseline observations of the existing projects with the possibility of design a simple monitoring system.

- Review the existing pilot project's documents in close collaboration with the project management team.
- Working out with a methodology which will allow the experts to:
 - ✓ Describe the baseline situation as far as possible;
 - ✓ Improving the impact orientation of the implementers;
 - ✓ Assessing the project impacts and potential for scaling up.
- Baseline observation and collection of additional data to be compared with the submitted proposals.
- Reports that contribute to transparency and accountability, and allows for lessons to be revealing mistakes and offers paths for learning and improvements;

Phase two has focused more on the projects progress and achievements.

- Monitor how the projects follow the comments which were provided after the first visit, and how exactly they modify their activities; If not done it , why?
- To give the source of information showing project progress;
- Describe whether and how the projects beneficiaries and possibility of other actors learn from experiences.
- Reports that contribute to transparency and accountability, and describe which intervention have worked well (or not worked), for where and under what circumstances.
- Deep brief to the food security project team about their experiences and to provide an assessment on how to scale up successful projects.

3. Methodology

This report was prepared based on field visits in two periods:

- First field visit during 4-31 October 2010
- Second field visit 5-31 December 2010

Comprehensive information have been collected during meetings and discussions with members of the administrative boards, interviews with samples of beneficiaries and stakeholders in all targeted sites and interviews with persons involved in development issues.

Proposals have been intensively discussed focusing on efficiency of implementation, enhancement of impact as well as other opportunities in the context of strengthening food security for the poor. New knowledge and exchange of experiences among associations were discussed and facilitated between some groups (Abyan).

The focal areas of the evaluation included:

- Infrastructure and institutional capabilities,
- appropriate to the local socio-ecological conditions and beneficiaries capacities,
- implementation status,
- targeting of beneficiaries,
- procedure for granting subsidy/ loans to the beneficiaries,
- monitoring and evaluation mechanisms by the association,
- the impact of projects and
- sustainability

4. Finding

4.1 Diversifying Diet and Livestock-based Income of Poor Women with Pilot Home-gardens



<i>Project Summary</i>	The original project design comprised two components; a) diversifying diet through home gardens, poultry breeding and food awareness and b) Livestock-based Income .The total budget is 5,052,500 YER
<i>Implementing Agency</i>	The project has been implemented by Abr Othman Women Association, which was established in 2005 with the support of WHO Basic Needs Program. Recently the association has about 150 female members. It's main activities are; organizing training courses, health awareness, literacy and income generating activities. The main financial resources for operations come from own sewing and weaving workshop, membership monthly fees, support of MoLSA . Projects were financed by development projects.
<i>Suitability</i>	<p>Abr Othman is very poor. Most of the citizens are food insecure. the highest priority for them is the access to basic food, namely bread</p> <p>a) Home gardens are not suitable at least now, because the village is suffering of drink water shortage.</p> <p>b) Poultry breeding: Based on unsuccessful previous breeding of non local poultry project, the villagers believe that poultry can't survive during summer. Experiences of other villages with same condition denied this hypothesis. Local poultry can live in hot weather. Only very small one may not survive in the hottest period. Poultry proved to be a successful small business. It is easy to manage, low operation cost and it's return is faster than goats. Experiences exchange visit to successful experiences were organized during the second mission.</p> <p>c) Breeding of livestock is a good option. The beneficiaries have good experiences. They can provide food for the animals for free from neighboring farms. Farm owners benefit of grass removal.</p>

<i>Implementation Status</i>	Project a) and b) were not implemented The first stage of Livestock breeding has been implemented. 150 households have got 2 heads each.
<i>Procedures and Conditions</i>	The Beneficiary has to provide personal guarantee from a government employee to get a loan to buy animals. He/she has to repay the loan on monthly basis (1500 YR per month)
<i>Project Impact</i>	It was very early to assess actual impact. None have sold animals yet. There will be no essential impact on improvement of the livelihood of the family from breeding 2 heads. Pre-sales monthly installments will add additional load to the food poor.
<i>Sustainability</i>	Using the grant as revolving fund will secure sustainability and accumulation of benefits
<i>Alternatives and opportunities</i>	Food conservation and –processing during sheep seasons would contribute to both income raising and own consumptions.
<i>Particular recommendations</i>	Using repayments to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide reasonable number of livestock to the poorest beneficiaries of the first round e.g. 6 or more heads can make essential changes on lives of poor families. • Piloting of domestic poultry breeding to become an income generating project as well. • Piloting other income generating activities; e.g. food processing in cooperation with experienced institutions and NGOs. • Scheduling of repayments to avoid any affect livelihood of the food poor beneficiaries.

4.2 Improving Life of Poor Fishermen Families with Women Collective Empowerment in Zinjibar district, Abyan governorate

<i>Project Summery</i>	The original project design comprised ; Fishing equipment (Sakhawi baskets, nets, boat engines), home gardens, poultry awareness building in healthy food. Targeted villages are Al-Shekh Abdulla, Husn Shaddad, Al-Turaya in Zinjibar district, Abyan governorate. The total budget is 10,575,000 YER
<i>Implementing Agency</i>	The project is being implemented by 8 March Women Association, established in 2005. Recently the association has over 40 female members. It's main activities are; organizing training courses, health awareness, literacy and income generating activities. The main financial resources for operations come from own sewing and weaving workshop, membership monthly fees, support of MoLSA . Projects were financed by development projects. The association has own building supported by Care.
<i>Suitability</i>	Fishing equipment are very suitable for the beneficiaries as fishing is the main profession of the targeted villagers. Home gardens still new for some of the beneficiaries, however it is very suitable for the area except in Al-Turia village. The beneficiaries need to get more experiences. Poultry breeding is not new for the villagers. Their experiences were explored to Abr Othman village. Easy Monitoring system aiming to improve targeting and to monitor progress was established and being implemented as proposed by the consultant during the first mission.
<i>Implementation Status</i>	Fishing equipment were purchased and distributed except boat engines would to be delivered by the dealer. Some piloting home gardens were established. Domestic poultry were distributed. Also a nutrition awareness course was conducted.
<i>Procedures and Conditions</i>	The association financed the activities as combination of grant and loan; 100% grants (home gardens, poultry) and about 60%-80% loan for small fishing equipment and boat engines. Beneficiaries of boat engine paid own participation in advance. Repayment of loan was scheduled after sales. There were no clear criteria for selection. There were no guaranties requested, once the association trusts the beneficiaries.
<i>Project Impact</i>	It was too early to assess the overall outcomes . But it was obvious that baskets and nets led to increase of sales. 80,000 YER was estimated as additional income per one basket during the last

	Habbar season. Targeting also men had led to essential impact on recognition and enhancement of the leading role of women in the community. Women benefit also from fishing equipment by leasing them to fishermen.
<i>Sustainability</i>	Using the grant as revolving fund will secure sustainability and accumulation of benefits. In the first round this was only partly. The association decided to finance coming activities as 100% loan for any income generating activities. The combination of increasing income (fishing equipment) and for owns demand (poultry and home gardens) is expected to lead to both access and diversity of food, however very small projects (poultry) cannot lead to essential impact.
<i>Alternatives and opportunities</i>	Fishing equipment proved best results. Livestock is also a potential alternative. Sewing is another option for Women in Al-turia village.
<i>Particular recommendations</i>	Using repayments to finance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small fishing equipment for those who have no or limited equipment • Financing of income based activities should be 100% loan. • Increased number of poultry (5 -10) • Piloting other income generating activities.



Location of Abr Othman, Sheikh Abdullah (8March) and Alwadi associations in Abyan Governorates

4.3 Family Food and Women Empowerment through Community-based Services to Poor Fishermen in Al-Kud, Khanfar district, Abyan governorate

<i>Project summary</i>	The original design consisted of Fishing equipment, Home gardens Awareness building in nutrition and healthy food with a total budget of 5,170,000 YER
<i>Implementing Agency</i>	The project is being implemented by Al-Wadi Association for Poverty Alleviation, established in 2008. Recently the association has over 90 female members. Its main activities are; organizing training courses, health awareness, literacy and income generating activities. The main financial resources for operations come from own grocery shop, membership monthly fees. Projects were financed by development projects. During the 2 nd mission the construction of the association building has been started, supported by Care. Additional service is planned, namely small clinic.
<i>Suitability</i>	Facilitation of fishing equipment for fishermen in this area is certainly an appropriate option. However it is a middle sized business project. Assuming good business only 2 crews (8 persons in total) could be targeted at least every 3 years. Home gardens needs space and water.
<i>Implementation Status</i>	Fishing equipment hasn't been delivered yet. Micro sized home gardens shambles were introduced. A training course on nutrition was reported.
<i>Procedures and Conditions</i>	Different way was applied, namely the association would get as much as usual share of an owner of the boat and equipment until fully repayment. No written evidence of documentation indicating who and how beneficiaries have got the service.
<i>Project Impact</i>	Fishing equipment project would provide job opportunities for 8 male people and could be replicated each 3 years. Home gardens are so small to have any considerable impact.
<i>Sustainability / risks</i>	Fishing equipment: The nature of revolving fund will secure sustainability and accumulation of benefits; however the approach applied by the association as shareholder could be risky; for instance bias, no transparencies etc. Home gardens are too small to expect considerable impact.
<i>Alternatives and opportunities</i>	Using repayments to finance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • small fishing equipment • Livestock

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food processing (including training and marketing)
<i>Particular recommendations</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shifting focus to very small projects to increase the number of real beneficiaries and the impacts • Clear and transparent criteria for support of projects. • Use the revolving fund to expand benefits for larger group including, equipment for small sized fishermen , but never the less other income generating activities, e.g , livestock, poultry, food processing, etc... • Improvement of accounting, accountability and documentation. Documentation of baseline data during application are helpful to booth targeting and internal assessment of outcomes..

4.4 Income and Food Security through Beekeeping Development among Deprived Women of Bani Hamad, Taizz governorate



<p><i>Project Summery</i></p>	<p>The original project design aimed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support 30 widows with modern beehives and bee colonies in selected village in Banin Hammad Taiz Governorate. 5 beehives and colonies have been provided to each widows. This activity supposed o act as income generating activity. • Training of rural woman in the selected areas in the subject food processing and making use of honey products
<p><i>Implementing Agency</i></p>	<p>The project have been implemented by Bani Sinan Cooperative Association. The association was established in 1998 with the support of IDAS (Innovation development in the Agriculture Sector). Recently the association has about 50 male and female members. It's main activities are; Agriculture training courses, health awareness, literacy and income generating activities.</p>
<p><i>Suitability and relevance of the pilot project</i></p>	<p>Beekeeping Beekeeping is very relevant to the area due to the availability of the excellent pastureland for bees directly in and around the villages. Furthermore, beekeeping is not exotic to the area and the people deal with this activity since several generations.</p> <p>Food processing Making use of agricultural products like vegetables (Tomatoes, lemons, chilies etc) has encourage the association to conduct such training. This training was also complementary to beekeeping to make use of the different products coming from beekeeping like honey, wax, pollen and royal food.</p>
<p><i>Implementation status</i></p>	<p>Beekeeping The project have been excellent executed. 150 beehives and colonies have been purchased and distributed to the target groups after conducting of training courses by a professional trainer from the Beekeeping department of agr. office in Taiz.</p> <p>Food processing 30 woman have been trained in dealing with Pickles and jams</p>

	as well as with cosmetics using the wax of the honey.
<i>Procedures and Conditions</i>	Contracts have been signed with the widows. The contract regulated the relation between the beneficiary and the association. The association will continue to provide the beneficiary with training, bee medicines and materials for honey conservation and possible marketing. The beneficiary should allow the association to visit the site any time, buy honey to the association for further marketing and give samples for training other peoples.
<i>Project Impact</i>	It was too early to assess actual impact. Although some have already produce honey in small amount for own use but none have sold yet.
<i>Sustainability</i>	Beekeeping is common in the area and beside the contractual procedures with the association we assume that most of the beneficiaries will become in the next future beekeepers. According to the contracts new beneficiaries will be also involved.
<i>Alternatives and opportunities</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Livestock is also common in the area. • Producing of traditional beehives since the materials are available • Poultry and organic eggs
<i>Particular recommendations</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue training in honey production, harvesting and marketing. • Continue training in beekeeping and food processing. • Piloting other income generating activities; e.g. producing of traditional beehives.

4.5 Household Kitchen gardens for food security



<i>Project Summary</i>	The original project design aimed to support the rural people in Al-Suchnah village by establishing 130 home gardens. This includes providing of vegetable seeds, materials for soil preparation, water transport and training of the people. Originally, 20% of the grants has been allocated in the proposal for purchasing of goats to be provided to most poor people, these amount of the grant has been changed to be used for building water tank for irrigation of the home gardens
<i>Implementing Agency</i>	Abu-Musa AL-Ashary Social Charitable Association. The association is working in all districts of Alhudaidah governorate. The association have been established in 1999. It is a Charitable association concentrate its activities more in providing helps to orphans, refugee and poor people. AIDS is also main issue by the association activity.
<i>Suitability and relevance of the pilot project</i>	Household Kitchen gardens is very relevant for the selected village (Alhareeq village). Every family has at least 100 m2 fertile land directly closed to the house or the hut. The Abu-Musa AL-Ashary has already drilled a well in the village. The village is somehow far away from the next market and therefore planting of own vegetables help the people and allow them to stay in their village.
<i>Implementation status</i>	The project has been excellent conducted. The association has build a team to implement the proposal. The recommendations provided by the monitoring team by the first visit has been realized in the ground. In a very short time the Alhareeq village has been changed to a real green village and the people has found the benefits of the gardens by harvesting of vegetables and less than 8 weeks the most of the families has coved their kitchen needs.
<i>Procedures and Conditions</i>	Contracts have been signed with the beneficiaries. The 130 beneficiaries have been grouped in 7 groups. One person has always represented his groups by the weekly visiting y the association. The trainings has been conducted also in different location of the village with different groups.
<i>Project Impact</i>	This project has brought an impact in a very short time. Most of the families in our December 2010 visit have indicated that they cover all their needs of vegetables from their home gardens

<i>Sustainability</i>	There is follow up by the association to help by the sustainability and to include new beneficiaries.
<i>Alternatives and opportunities</i>	Livestock is still foreseen in the village. In addition beekeeping and poultry and organic eggs could also find the potential in the village.
<i>Particular recommendations</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project was excellent implemented and in a very short time the beneficiaries could make direct use of the project by producing their own needs of vegetables and therefore, we recommend to recognize it as models that could be replicated in other areas in Alhudaidah eg. By the food security project implement currently by the GFA in this governorate. • Food processing could be introduce • Training in feeding and nutrition issues especially, on the importance of food quantity, diversity and quality for family health and in particular for the health of the children.

4.6 Income Diversification and Livestock Restoration for Poor Rural Families from Maswar district, Amran governorate



<i>Project Summary</i>	<p>The original project design aimed to support the rural people in different villages of the Maswar district in Amran Governorate with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Materials to establish home gardens and water reservoirs.. • Cows and sheep for poor families • Honey beehives and colonies
<i>Implementing Agency</i>	<p>Bani Al-Kuraibi Social, Charitable and Development Association. The Association is working in different villages of Maswar district in Amran Governorate. More than 120 members are resided in the association including 30% females.</p>
<i>Suitability and relevance of the pilot project</i>	<p>Home gardens. Although home gardens are somehow relevant to the area. But it seems to be that the beneficiaries have accepted this to receive the complementary materials for establishing water reservoirs. These water reservoirs are used for different home needs like washing of clothes, drink water for livestock and also for irrigation of Qat fields that spread around the houses. This is a challenge for the association since main condition in the contract mentioned that the water should not be used for irrigation of qat.</p> <p>Cows and sheep for poor families Very relevant to the poor people and the people who received cows have started to get benefit (milk, buying calves).</p> <p>Honey beehives and colonies Also relevant to the area since the suitable plants are available in the area and some people in the area deal already with beekeeping.</p>
<i>Implementation status</i>	<p>Home gardens The target groups are distributed in very far areas from each other in Maswar mountains. Nevertheless it was possible to visit most of the sites. A lot of home gardens seems to be installed shortly before our visit and therefore they still not in optimal conditions (the metal pipes and the net fence). Seeds, mostly vegetables and herbs have been also already purchased. All of the water reservoirs we have visited were still in implementation status.</p> <p>Cows and sheep It was possible for us to visit 7 poor families who received cows</p>

	and some of cows have already brought calves. Honey beehives and colonies The honey beehives and colonies have been already purchased by the association but still not distributed to the beneficiaries since training courses are planned for the beneficiaries before receiving the materials.
<i>Procedures and Conditions</i>	Contract have been signed between the association and the beneficiaries. By cows, sheep and beehives the beneficiary should repay 100% of the cost in certain period of time. These will be used then as revolving fund to include new people. Conditions by receiving support for home gardens and water
<i>Project Impact</i>	It was too early to assess actual impact since most of the activities were still in implementation phase.
<i>Sustainability</i>	The sustainability is somehow secured by the procedures of the capacity building, the revolving fund and relevance of this activities to the area. Nevertheless there are doubtful concern by the continuation of the whom gardens.

Additional strengths of the Bani Al-Kuraibi Association

- A strong relationship with people.
- A strong relationship with some international development organizations.
- Distribution of roles among members of the governing body is acceptable.
- Clear contracts with beneficiaries whether the distribution of cows, sheep or home gardens, water harvesting.
- Follow-up to beneficiaries by members of the governing body.
- Availability of a permanent headquarter of the association.
- Availability of dynamic nursery for the association.
- Availability of stores for purchased items that belong to the association.

Available Opportunities

- Activity of the people is obvious, especially of woman at land activity and exploiting of biological resources as organic fertilizer whether to fertilize terraces or for home cooking (the idea of bio-gas should be considered if it can be implemented).
- apparent willingness of people to buildup and develop cooperation with the association, through visible interaction whether in home gardens, water harvesting or signing contracts of cows & sheep and willingness to pay costs agreed about as installments.
- Validity of agricultural terraces for cultivation of some cash crops such as coffee. This can be supported by presence of water barriers constructed by the association and development organizations or by people themselves.

Challenges

- Difficulty of terrain and dispersal targeted people in far apart villages in regions and rugged mountainous valleys of Meswar directorate, area of Bane Al-Koureebee.

Recommendation: possibility of establishing branches of the association in selected areas that people can gather and meet.

- Stumbling (seems to be temporary) in the implementing training and capacity building as planned due to unavailability of a technician for helping people in planting home gardens which their contracts were signed.

Recommendation: speeding up contract with The Agricultural Cooperative Union or other authority for implementing training.

- Stumbling (seems to be temporary) in implementing training about bees and honey production which is followed by distribution of hives as per clear contracts and clear (we noted that the association planned for implementing outstanding training in this aspect).

- Weak establishments of recent shade of most home gardens

Recommendation: Strengthening of shade establishments of home gardens via utilizing local resources; wood and barriers, that are being used from trees such as Zizyphus / lote-tree.

- Lack of effective agricultural services' office in the region that helps people in solving problems related to plant production and animal health.

Recommendation: training of local rural guiders

4.7 Appropriate small threshing machines for seed production



<i>Project Summary</i>	The original project design aimed to support farmers in some districts of Almahweet governorate with small threshing machines for grains developed by the Agriculture Research and Extension Authority (AREA) and manufactured by the Yemeni company Alaqel. Eight machines have been distributed to 8 farmer groups. The project included also training of the groups and handouts of dealing with the machines by different crops.
<i>Implementing Agency</i>	The Agriculture Research and Extension Authority (AREA). A governmental agency belong to the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation. The license owner of the threshing machines
<i>Suitability and relevance of the pilot project</i>	Very relevant to decrease the load of the farmers and their families by decreasing the manual threshing.
<i>Implementation status</i>	The project was excellent executed. The farmers have been prepared, trained and organized in groups before receiving the machines.
<i>Procedures and Conditions</i>	The farmers have organized themselves in 8 groups. Every group has received one machine. The distribution of the machines have been controlled by contracts between AREA and the group representatives.
<i>Project Impact</i>	It is not yet measured since the first use of the machines will be in the next season namely in September 2011.
<i>Sustainability</i>	Since the machines are very relevant and asked by the farmers we assume that this activity will continue in the area and it is possible to spread to the neighboring districts and governorates.
<i>Particular recommendations</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing the cooperation between AREA and the groups' representatives through training of the farmers by AREA as well as finding solutions for technical problems • Compare the machines with those delivered to YASAD in Taiz.

4.8 Increase and Improvement of Agricultural Production on Socotra Island , Nujud, Shadraho area

Implementer: 22 May Agri. Cooperative Association



The site visit to the project site near the Nuged village show that a number of activities have been carried out after the first visit that show a considerable progress regardless constrains faced during the implementation of the project. These activities could be summarized as follows:

- Completing the construction of the water reservoir by refurbishing the concrete walls and installing the irrigation water pipes.
- Connecting the water pipes from the upper stream of the wadi to the water reservoir with a distance of about 7-8 Kms. The irrigation water is now available in the water tank.
- Partial installment of the farm fence covering about 260 meters.
- Collecting a quantity of manure fertilizer from the sheep yards in the village.
- Plowing the farm land to be ready for planting after the land is being divided into smaller plots. This was made by renting the tractor of the agricultural office where the Coop had to pay only for the driver and the fuel cost.
- Purchasing some vegetable seeds of some crops such as tomato, cucumber, squash, yellow melon, onion, and egg plant.
- Making available a number of more than 200 fruit seedlings such as lemon, papaya, guava, badan, mango, and custard apple. These seedlings were purchased through a contract made with a woman (Mrs Muna Abu Bakr) who is managing a good agricultural nursery in Hadibu after she had received training by TRIANGE Project. The contract included a training to be provided by that woman for a number of coop women members in Nuged.
- Covering the Coop nursery by screen net to protect seedlings from insects attacks.
- Discussion meeting was held with a number beneficiaries (men and women) who are members of the 22 of May Cooperative who expressed satisfaction from the progress made in implementing the project activities. This was clearly confirmed when observing active participation of women in the on-site training of seedling planting.
- Availability of private nurseries in Hadibu with the presence of qualified woman who own one of these nurseries is a good opportunity for the sustainability of the 22 of May Cooperative activities especially in further training for women members of the coop in running farming activities.

MAIN CHALLENGES

One of the main challenges faced by the cooperative is the difficult access to construction materials as they are not available in Hadibu. The importation of these materials from Al-Mukalla took time and caused some problems due to sinking of the ship that carried the purchased materials in the sea in November 2010. The rest of the purchased materials that was left in Mukalla have also faced difficulties before it reached Socotra. The details of inventory of these materials was left to the GTZ financial officers.

Another challenge that was faced during the past 3-4 weeks is the spread of a kind of field hoppers that threaten the purchased seedlings. Some solutions were made to protect the seedlings such as covering the agricultural nursery, where these seedlings were kept, by a screen net. But if these hoppers multiplied in the coming weeks they will affect the planted seedlings.

Although the cooperative management is doing their best to make a success in implementing the project activities, they still lack some management and communication skills especially in running small farm business enterprise and in cooperative management and book keeping systems. This situation affects the prompt organization of the planned activities.

The coop future plan

When investigating the cooperative future plan in implementing the project activities, the following activities were indicated:

- Follow up getting the rest of the farm materials and equipments such as the fencing pipes and irrigation equipments.
- Carrying out the rest of the planned training especially technical training in agricultural practices.
- Cleaning the farm area and dividing the land into smaller plots as well as connecting the drip irrigation pipes.
- Transplanting the purchased fruit seedlings in the farm borders.
- Planting the purchased vegetable seeds and seedlings in the prepared plots and arranging responsibilities of the cooperative members to take care and manage these plots.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

In order to meet the challenges and overcome constraints, further actions are required as follows:

- Quick actions must be facilitated by the GTZ office and the cooperative to make available the rest of farm materials that are urgent for the start of running the agricultural farming.
- Some training especially in management skills, book keeping and running farm business is required as a push up training to give the cooperative practical organizational skills for better management of their activities.
- Building the storage and handling rooms facilities that was recommended in the first visit report is still important to be made available to ensure sustainability of the cooperative agricultural business.
- Installing the drip irrigation network before completing the fencing of the farm could be rather risky as the farm will not be fully protected from animals and school children. It is therefore advisable to use temporary conventional irrigation pipes until the fencing of the farm has been completed. This advise was already communicated to the cooperative.

4.9 Potato basic seeds production project, utilization tissue culture technique

Implementer: Plant Tissue Culture – Agriculture College – Sana'a University



Main achievements

Based on the site visit and the discussions made with the project team, it was found that no considerable achievements were made since the first visit that was made in October 2010. The activities that were implemented since the first visit could be summarized as follows:

- Continuing the production of potato plantlets in the isolated laboratory room.
- Following up the progress in the formation of potato micro tubers that are produced from the propagated plantlets.
- Preparing new potato plantlets for producing new micro tubers. This action was followed to produce enough micro tubers that were supposed to be produced in the glass house that is not yet ready to be used for this purpose. These new micro tubers is planned to be kept in a refrigerator for further re-production.
- Following up the cleaning of weeds and leveling the land in the plastic insect proof green house.
- Following up the university administrative department to push the contractor to complete the work in glass house which was supposed to be handed over last October 2010.

Main challenges

- The late arrival of the imported required lab equipment and chemicals was indicated to be one of the constraints affecting the project implementation as these new equipments could be used for a wider micro propagation.
- The allocated five months for project implementation was indicated to be very short and not enough to make a tangible progress as the period required to produce the final product of potato pre-basic and basic seed requires much more time than allocated.
- The rather lengthy process in financial arrangements followed in the university seems to be a constraint as the project team face difficulties in managing the financial and contractual arrangements.

Recommended actions:

Some important recommended actions that are important to be taken to accelerate the project implementation could be summarized as follows:

- Following up the timely arrival of the imported required lab equipment and chemicals in order to accelerate the project implementation.
- Following up the arrangements to held the previously recommended workshop that could be organized with presence of various related agencies such as the Potato Seed Company, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Agriculture Cooperative Union, research institutions, and other seed producers to create supportive environment for the success of potato basic seed production and utilization.
- It is important that the GIZ officials could call for a meeting with the chairman of the Sana'a University to provide more financial flexibility that could accelerate the process of pre-basic and basic potato seed production and marketing and provide the project team more room to maneuver.
- Faster arrangements must be made by the university to complete the handing over of the new glass house and insect proof net house.

4.10 Community-based Agricultural Services for Food Security in Taizz Highlands. Threshing machinery and animal labour tradition to improve production

Implementer: YASAD, Yemeni Association for Sustainable Agricultural Development



Strengths

The most important opportunities that should be continued exploiting them and be developed are:

- Cumulative experience for the association particularly for president of the association in genetic resources of agricultural crops and Yemen plants.
- Continuous relationship with farmers for more than six years in directorates of Saber Almawadem, Asseloo, Samea'a and Hyfan in Taiz.
- Continuous joining of farmers to membership of the association.
- Availability of equipment and means belonging to the association (means of transportation and communication, offices etc).
- Tight integration and cooperation between the association and Ideales French organization, similar to the integration of this project with the project of Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security that is implemented by the Adeel organization.
- Availability of stores for seeds shared between the association and Ideales organization.
- Adoption of the association as a partner that can be dealt with via local and international development organizations such as:
 - Global Network of Urban Agriculture
 - Social Fund for Development
 - German Organization for Technical Cooperation

Challenges:

Overlapping of funding and targets led to a change in implementing mechanism of the project of Communal-Agricultural Services for Food Security in Highlands of Taiz, and led to deviation in the proposed plan when forwarding to GTZ for obtaining fund, threshing machines (threshing and seeding) of crops and oxen of conventional tillage for improving production, such as:

1. Sharp deviation in some implementing mechanisms of activities (for example, difficulty of purchasing 10 oxen by the association in Taiz and fully own them as planned, and got satisfied with sharing most of the farmers via buying 50% of each ox owned by a farm and being as a partner of the oxen.
Recommendation: Re-planning and revision of the objective of this operation
2. Enough to purchase only three threshing machines this year
Recommendation: Re-planning purchasing of the remaining three harvesters and informing GTZ when buying and when and where these harvesters will be joined in activities.
3. Most activities are technically and financially managed by president of the association and this will lead to poor transparency and growling of the members especially members of governing body.
Recommendation: strengthening institutional building of the association and given clear roles. Concerned members are subjected to inspection and accountability.

Points addressed to the Association

- Whether the submitted proposal to GTZ is realistic or too ambitious as compared to reality and recent field activity.
- Deviation as compared to proposed plan? What are the difficulties?
- Activities that have not time for implementing them and are included for implementing during the next period (re-plan).
- Implementing rate of proposed activities upto the end of December 2010.
- Your expectation for increasing implementing rate after three to four months in 2011 (for example, in the end of April 2011).
- Clear justifications explaining the sharp deviation in some implementing mechanisms of the activities.
- More details about oxen-tillage groups (such as: objectives, head and plan of the group, and expected return & outputs).
- More details about harvesting groups using harvesters (such as: objectives, head, and plan of the group, and expected return & outputs).
- Questionnaire that is planned for the impact of this introduced technology (harvesting by harvesters) on food security.

4.11 Integrated Support to Urban and Peri-urban Agriculture for Family Food Security in Sanaa City

Implementer: YASAD, the Yemeni Association for Sustainable Agriculture Development



Strengths

The most important opportunities that should be continued exploiting them and be developed are:

- Strong relationship with farmers in Sana'a and the surrounding areas.
- Follow-up beneficiaries via members of the governing body.
- Availability of a permanent headquarter of the association.
- Availability of dynamic nursery for the association.
- Availability of stores for purchased items that belong to the association.
- Cumulative experience for the association mainly for president of the association in genetic resources of agricultural crops and Yemen plants.
- Continuous joining of farmers to membership of the association.
- Availability of equipment and means belonging to the association (means of transportation and communication, offices etc).
- Holding continuous forums in the association headquarter.
- Consideration that the association is a partner can be given a chance to be dealt with via local and international development organizations such as:
 - Global Network of Urban Agriculture
 - Social Fund for Development
 - World Bank
 - German Organization for Technical Cooperation

Points have been requested from the Association:

1. Whether the proposal is realistic or too ambitious.

2. Activities that have not time for implementing them and are included for implementing during the next period (re-plan).
3. Implementing rate of proposed activities upto the end of December 2010.
4. Your expectation for increasing implementing rate after three to four months in 2011