



W/ro Liemet Berhe, 58 years, head of a household with 5 family members; lives in Kihen village of Kiltawlaelo District. She tells the following about the BSP interventions;

“The project supports women like me in learning new farming practices.

Now I am earning additional income from crops which fetch high prices on the market such as garlic, gesho (local hopes) and fruits. I have constructed a water harvesting pond that allows me to irrigate these crops and increase my income.



Diversifying income and livelihoods through better awareness, sound technical skills and improved agronomic practices for a better life.

BSP FACTS

Location: Tigray National Regional State, Northern Ethiopia

Project duration, (Phase II): 2013 - 2016

Phase Budget: CHF 1'652'000

Main partners: Bureau of Agriculture & Rural Development; Environmental Protection & Land Use Administration Agency; Tigray Agricultural Marketing & Promotion Agency; Women Affairs Bureau; GIZ_SLM project; Private Sector

Main Donor: HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation as recipient of funds from two private foundations

HELVETAS ETHIOPIA

HELVETAS is one of the committed development partners in Ethiopia since it resumed its work in 2002. It has contributed to the overall development of the country with focus on Tigray and Amhara regions. The Country Programme Strategy (2014 - 2018) provides the strategic orientation and sets the direction and scope of the programme and its development.

Mission: is to promote and support innovative and sustainable development that improves livelihoods of economically poor and socially disadvantaged women and men. HELVETAS applies people centred, multi-stakeholder approaches, thereby building partnerships and capacity through facilitation, innovation and technical assistance, as well as alliances and networking for knowledge, learning and advocacy.

Thematic areas

- Rural infrastructure
- Natural resources management
- Support to CSO and local government
- Skill development and education
- Emergency response

HELVETAS is a member of

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Beles SUNRise Project

The Beles SUNRise Project (BSP) focuses on capacity development through attitudinal changes and skill development of stakeholders. Significant achievements are made through skills development on intensive hillside farming, bee-keeping, production of high value crops, water harvesting and promotion & preparation of Beles (cactus) dishes. Capacity development and continuous interactions with focus on community based institutions, particularly on local administration and government extension structures show positive results in increased social equity among the project beneficiaries, in developing a sense of ownership, in local resources mobilization efficiency, in resolving conflicts among user groups and in managing the natural resources on a sustainable way. HELVET-AS/ BSP in collaboration with GIZ– SLM Tigray initiated in June 2015 the Regional Open Forum for Agriculture and Rural Development (OFARD) with the aim to improve institutional collaboration and resource efficiency of stakeholders for agriculture and rural development in Tigray region.



OFARD participants conducting a field visit

THE CONTEXT

Over the past two decades, natural resource management (NRM) in the Tigray Region underwent a process of profound transition. Extensive physical soil and water conservation measures in form of hillside and gully treatment were initiated in the 1980s and continue to date. In 2005 the MoARD adopted the Community Based Participatory Watershed Development (CBPWD) approach as a national NRM strategy in Ethiopia. In 2009 MoARD launched the Sustainable Land Management Program (SLM) that aimed at bringing the various NRM initiatives in the country under one umbrella for nationwide up scaling of good NRM practices.

The Beles SUNRise Project (BSP) intends to harvest the rich experience that exists in the project and build upon the many lessons that have been learned in the region.

BSP recognizes the synergy of Beles development with CBPWD as a real opportunity for natural resource management, as it sees it as a sustainable base and source for livelihood options, income generation and sustainable rural economic development.

THE PROJECT

The project's aims to improve the lives of economically disadvantaged community members, thereby focusing on women-headed households, landless youth and other poor households through enhancing their ability to adopt climate change and establish economically viable farms. To achieve this goal the project pursues four development objectives:

- 1) Community and institutional capacity development
- 2) CBPWD
- 3) Beles development, and
- 4) Family farms and homestead development

ACHIEVEMENTS SO FAR

- **Community based institutions are strengthened and play important roles in project implementation and monitoring.**
- **CBPWD that includes rehabilitation of degraded hillsides and gullies has yielded promising results in improving communities' livelihoods.**
- **The Beles dish promotion intervention has contributed to increased food security among the project community households.**
- **The promotion of high value and drought tolerant crops mainly garlic is well adopted by the project communities and has improved the beneficiaries' income .**
- **The household asset building component of the project (irrigation ponds, roof water harvesting cisterns, bee keeping and poultry) has significantly contributed to creating access to assets, employment, income generation, and innovation/technologies. As a result, it has diversified the livelihood options and income of the beneficiary households.**

APPROACH

The project applies a multi-stakeholders approach and facilitates trust building and cooperation among communities/beneficiaries, government institutions, CBOs and private sector. Local partnerships and capacity building of partners remain core working approaches to sustain the project activities.