



NEWSLETTER



Capacity Development of Agarfa A-TVET College on
Small Scale and Micro-Irrigation for Agarfa A-TVET College
(NICHE/ETH178).

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Preface

By Alma Ruting, Project manager Q-Point



In the first week of September 2017, the project management team visited Agarfa College for the preparation of the annual report. After 4 years of project implementation, we already have nice results.

One of the major outcomes is that the developed Small Scale and Micro Irrigation curriculum is now accepted by the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources and Ministry of Education - TVET Agency as "the national curriculum" in the field of small scale and micro irrigation. The first batch of 91 students started in January 2017 and 94% was competent for Level – I COC at the first trial already.

The project is supporting 51 MSc and 3 BSc students. In total 13 MSc and 2 BSc students graduated up to now.

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The implementation of the SSI/MI demonstration field was delayed by heavy rains in July and August. The work has almost finished, after that the Agarfa staff can start with the practical field training of students and other stakeholders.

Enjoy this newsletter.

Alma Ruting, Project manager Q-Point

Progress of the project

Akele Molla, Project Coordinator



It is obvious that, Agarfa ATVET College had stayed in developing curriculum (Level I to Level IV) for Small Scale and Micro Irrigation Development course, under the support of NICHE

SSI/MI project fund since August 2013. The occupational standard and curriculum was reviewed, commented and approved by stakeholders from Governmental and NGOs during the workshop held on 31 November 2016, and then it was reviewed by the Federal TVET and Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources and got

approval to launch the programme as of January 2017. The first batch of 91 students of SSI/MI joined the College and began learning from January 2017 on. At the end of June, 85 students completed Level I (94%).

The practical media for Irrigation scheme is under construction and will complete as soon as possible, and then students will engage in practice for the remaining contact time.

I hope that Agarfa ATVET College will have better demonstration sites under the Irrigation Department in the near future.

Agarfa A-TVET College

By Jos Koets, Senior advisor international vocational training centre (IPC)



As an important part of the project, a design for the SSI/MI demonstration field was developed for practical training facilities. Based on the design, the Ethiopian company "Hikas Engineering & Trading PLC" received the order to construct/install the demonstration field. According to the contract document the following components must be excavated/constructed/installed/build:

1. Fence around the demonstration site
2. Leveling
3. Irrigation canals and drainage canal
4. Main system
5. Reservoir and sand trap
6. Pumps and appendages
7. Sprinkler systems
8. Drip and mini sprinkler systems

Hikas will also organise training for the irrigation taskforce in installing and maintaining the systems.



Construction sign of the demonstration farm.



Levelling the future irrigation plot.



Excavation for foundation of water reservoir/ filter system (to be built).



Overview levelled irrigation plots.



Fence around the demonstration site.

Progress of the demonstration field

By Bazin Woldu, Hikas Engineering & Trading PLC



Since the first visit of the consultancy team the following activities have been constructed/are under construction:

Levelling

Based on our discussion with the consultancy team led by Dr. Asfaw, it is known that we have made modification on the surface drainage and hence.



Cut-off drain excavation around boundary of the farm is already completed and also the main runoff drainage is completed.



Construction of the concrete pipe culvert is completed. The route for canals and canal structures is set out and also we have excavated foundation position of canal structures.

Reservoir



Building the reservoir.

We have finished all masonry and concrete works also filling top tie beam which is a new work item not included in previous bill of quantities.



The reservoir.

Finishing works like pointing of the external wall and two coat plastering have been completed. The third coat is being done and soon after finishing its curing time we will fill the filter materials and construct the roof.

Main system



Excavation of trench for the pipes, supply of all the necessary pipes and fittings on site and installation of the system is completed.

Sand trap



Excavation for diverting the river and sand trap construction.

Excavation for diverting the river and sand trap construction has started and will be finished soon. We have supplied all the precast concrete pipes and the Upvc pipes. Construction of the sand trap has started though we are struggling with the rain and hope to finish it soon, hoping to get a few rain free days.

Pump and appendages



Construction of foundation base for the battery filters is completed.

The battery filters have also been supplied and installed. Pumps and related materials have been ordered and is awaiting shipment.

Drip and micro sprinklers



Supply of all manifold and lateral pipes plus fittings is done for both drip and mini sprinkler.



Drippers, micro tubes and watering pegs have been ordered from a foreign supplier company and are on government customs process. The installation of manifold and laterals is also completed.

Sprinkler system



Here also based on the modifications made on our discussion with the consultancy team we have bought and supplied some of UPVC and HDPE pipes plus fittings for sub main and laterals. Some remaining pipes and fittings will be supplied soon.



Supply and installation of all manifold and lateral pipes plus fittings is done for both drip and mini sprinkler.

Coaching top management

By Victor Volkers, trainer Q-Point



I really enjoyed the opportunity I was given to work with the top management team of Agarfa College this project year.

In the period 20 until 28 May I visited Ethiopia, from the travel to and from Agarfa there are some pictures in this newsletter.



Milk collection and sales point.

I found myself more in a facilitating role than a role of trainer or technical expert. The management training was more or less an intensive coaching and deeper getting to know each other as a top management team. Exploring the "free space" as a team is quite important, especially for teams that just were formed and stand for the challenges that are facing the Agarfa College. Different tools were used to canalise feedback on the 4 team members' strong points and

Cluster system installation is completed. Micro sprinklers, drippers, micro tubes and watering pegs have been shipped from foreign supplier company and are on government customs process.

improvement points. We were able to explore the team members qualities in an informal manner. This was achieved in a good atmosphere in which the willingness to open and transparent communication was proven by all members. Improvement strategies were discussed including the feasibility of solutions provided by the business process reengineering. Already improvements in the internal organisation are visible. Here we mention the (physical) rearranging of the admin premises.



Milk collection and sales point.

I wish the team good follow up and wisdom in their future decisions and I hope to be able to have a follow up in the near future.



Road to Agarfa school final stretch.



"Traffic control" on the road to Addis.



The "speed inspector".



On the road to Agarfa fresh guavas.



Family warthog at Bale mountain reserve on the way to Addis.



Mountain nyalas.

Results so far

By Yohannes Maedot Yigazu, Assistant Project Coordinator



BSc and MSc education

The project plan included capacity building for higher education to offer scholarship in MSc for 51 instructors and BSc

level 3 instructors. A lot of the students completed their education, some will continue for the coming year to accomplish their study.

Curriculum Development

Workshop with stakeholders and higher officials and experts from Governmental and NGOs were participated. The Curriculum development for SSI/MI from Level I-IV is completed and approved last year. 54 Students in irrigation have already joined the college and class already begun.

SSI/MI scheme construction

The primary task forces were developed and the short trainings conducted. We are also engaged in field research and the developmet of the topographical map has been completed.

Irrigation construction and maintenance task force

The site selection was conducted and surveying work is done. The members also put the grids on the field and took elevation readings. We also finalised the calculation and developed the draft of the topographical map.



Members put the grids on the field.

The list of irrigation items is prepared and the tender document is ready. We also identified irrigation suppliers and implementing companies. In addition we also made an invitation to tender for all identified companies by Q-Point. The winner has been identified and the official contractual agreement is signed between the winner and Agarfa A.T.V.E.T. college.

The construction of the irrigation scheme is planned to commence in October 2017.



A lot of field work has been done.

Works accomplished in the construction of the irrigation scheme

We fenced the irrigation field and we leveled and divided the field in compartments for various types of irrigation systems. The remaining work is an ongoing process for the contractor.



Topographical map.

Short term trainings

Short term practical training for instructors, that are helpful in developing practical skill for teaching SSI/MI students, is in process. We already received cost lists based on our requested title of courses from Haramaya University and we are expecting the training soon. In the year 2016 English proficiency and teaching methodology training was given by Medawelabu University and Robe Teachers Training College respectively for all instructors.



Short term practical training for instructors.

Procurement

The project plan includes capacity building for academic sector

- 51 laptop computers for MSc students that joined universities by the support of the project, and 30 desktop computers were purchased for students' practical classes.

Gender

By Olivia Ansenk, trainer Q-Point



The Gender office opened in 2015. One officer has been employed as a full time worker. Its goal is mainstreaming gender issues in all activities of the College to achieve gender equality. The gender office has so far undertaken a number of activities that contribute to empowering the student and staff community of the college.

Short term training

Starting from 2016 the gender club has organised trainings on various topics both for the students and the staff community of the college.

- We have purchased a full equipment for soil analysis and irrigation laboratory.
- A brand new car was bought and delivered to the college, very important for the future procurement and other field works of the SSI/MI project.

What is BPR ?

BPR is Business Process Re-Engineering. It is the process of re-structuring an organisation for the advantage of shortening the long bureaucratic chain to facilitate and increase work efficiency, thereby increasing the satisfaction of customers.

It also has the advantage of reducing costs and minimising time to perform works done and makes an organisation profitable.



Colleges communities on training.

Some of these focused on:

- Family planning and reproductive health issues
- Gender based violence
- Gender mainstreaming
- Gender and development concepts
- Sexual harassment
- Women empowerment
- National laws and policies for achieving gender equality
- Life skill and so on

Welcoming ceremony for freshmen students

The gender club organises welcoming ceremonies for freshmen students. The objectives of the programme are i.e.:

- introducing the activities of the club to freshmen students;
- to award senior female students that have performed well;
- to make model/academically active/senior female students share their experiences and practices to the fresh ones;
- to introduce first year students with senior students;



Welcoming ceremony.

Mini female library

The female library nearby their dorms opened for services on 19 November 2016. The main purpose of opening this library:

- To reduce gender based violence and sexual harassment in the college particularly at night time
- To save their time
- To provide different leaflets that teaches them about gender equality and so on
- Logistic and facilities: more than 862 different kinds of books, shelves, tables and chairs.



The mini female library.

Tutorial class

Tutorial classes were available for female students in order to improve their score, capacity, knowledge and skills. The club takes the responsibility for:

- registering students for the tutorials;
- facilitating the selection of the courses and instructors that give the tutorial classes;
- supervise the tutorial classes in terms of student and instructor attendance.



March 8 was International Women's Day. It was celebrated with students and colleges communities through entertainment and education like drama, poetry, panel discussions and so on.



They also distributed different brochures, leaflets, t-shirts, hats etc. with different messages on gender.



Different topics related to gender issues, male and female students have discussion time once per month.



Life skill training was delivered to all students through TOT approach.

Gender mainstreaming guideline

In March 2015 the Gender mainstreaming guideline was developed. This guideline is used to guide the implementation of the developed policy. This policy can be used to tackle the identified factors that influence female-male imbalance among staff and the low level of female representation in decision-making positions at the college.



Participants of Gender Policy development: college management body, members of gender club, gender instructors, internal and external gender consultant.

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Partners Consortium



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The Netherlands



**International Vocational
Training Centre (IPC),
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**HAS University of
applied sciences
The Netherlands**

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**HEDBEZ Business &
Consultancy PLC
Ethiopia**



**Haramaya University
Ethiopia**

Requesting university



**Agarfa A-TVET College
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Donor



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Colophon

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