

EC Partner

Vision Eritrea

Facts and Figures

- EC Contribution:
€ 900 000 (90% of the total)
- VE Contribution:
€ 100 000 (10% of the total)
- Duration: 2006 - 2010



EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Agriculture

Improving food security through sustainable water management in Eritrea

"Since the scheme I have benefited from secure water sources throughout the year, which enable me to irrigate and cultivate my vegetable plot. I have improved my gardening skills and currently enjoy at least two seasons of vegetable harvest through furrow irrigation."

A farmer from Mezba Village



Context

The Senafe sub-zone, in the Dehub region, is characterized by a permanent settlement of subsistence farmers in the highlands, as it is endowed with fertile soil, good average rainfall and wide catchment areas making it a good place to grow staple crops. In order to promote the development of the agricultural sector in the area, the project addressed soil and water conservation issues, such as securing water throughout the year for vegetable production, livestock and household consumption. It introduced small scale irrigation and gardening techniques to many farmers to cultivate 16 hectares of land, producing different varieties of vegetables to ensure food security for the households and surrounding markets.

Objectives

- To improve food security through sustainable water management interventions, small-scale irrigation for vegetable production and capacity building for beneficiaries.

Impact

- Improved access to water for 4 016 households and their livestock through the construction and restoration of 2 micro-dams and 8 water wells. Introduction of a small-scale irrigation scheme.
- Distribution of 160 tons of improved wheat seeds for 1 600 beneficiaries and 213 tons of nutritious supplementary feed for 38 202 beneficiaries.
- 8 vegetable producer groups formed and provided with agricultural supplies, cultivate a total of 16 hectares of land in two seasons.
- 320 members of producer groups trained in vegetable production, composting, water management, water pumps handling and maintenance, soil and water conservation measures and nutrition.

Agriculture

Improving food security through sustainable water management in Eritrea

Neghesti, Mezba village representative, Debub region

As a traditional farmer in Mezba village, Neghesti's farm is dependent on rain fed agriculture, cultivating the main crops only during the rainy season. After the project intervention, this practice has partially changed. The micro-dam has been upgraded to increase its water holding capacity. Five new hand-dug water wells have been constructed downstream with secured water sources. A small-scale irrigation scheme has been introduced to irrigate the vegetable plots.

Neghesti and her daughter have gained improved gardening skills and produce several varieties of vegetables through furrow irrigation. Upper catchment areas are well treated with the participation of the communities through the seed-for-work programme. As a result, check dams, terraces and diversion channels are constructed to conserve the water and fertile soil of the village. As a member of the producer group Neghesti has benefited from secured water resources throughout the year, which have enabled her to irrigate and cultivate new vegetable plots with her village colleagues.

Farmers are organized into 8 producer groups. Each group has forty members to cultivate 2 hectares of land which makes a total of 16 hectares of land covered. A household has 500 m² in the group to cultivate vegetables. Producer groups have water management and allocation systems, information and experience exchange sharing sessions and monthly savings from all members. Currently farmers are enjoying at least two seasons harvest through furrow irrigation.

Previously farmers were buying vegetables from the market but now the trend has changed. Households are getting fresh vegetables from the farms and surplus products are supplied to nearby Serhae and Senafae markets improving the income and sources of food for their families.



Neghesti and her daughter showing the vegetables they have grown