

Organic

Creating a Better Environment for Life

ISD Newsletter
October - December 2022
No. 27



Farmers' Field Day at a Young Model Farmer's Farm Land

On 4 December 2022, Farmers' Field Day was held in Welmera wereda under the auspices of Institute for Sustainable Development. The field day is at the organic farm of the model young farmer, Wondwossen Alemu, in Welmera Choke Kebele. The participants were drawn from 4 kebeles of Welemera wereda, (Welemera Chokie, Berfeta 1, Berfeta 2, Bekeka kebeles), two kebeles from Holeta town administration, (Bribirsa Siba and Meda Gudina) farmers and agricultural experts, from Holeta Agricultural Research Institute and Welemera wereda Agriculture Office. The field visit was organized by EOA, value chain and market development project.

needs." Having said that he invited the participants to start the farm visit by thanking ISD for its effective activities.

The young model farmer Wondwossen Alemu explained how he started organic farming. As he said, when he was in high school, his choice was to be successful in his studies and pursue medical education, but his father's agricultural experience, i.e., the products he produces using artificial inputs were damaging the soil's fertility and were ineffective in terms of production. Also, realizing that the land was not suitable for farming, he left his school to support his father and started working full-time in agriculture with the vision that he would be successful by doing and using organic agriculture.



The objective of the visit was to share the experience of a young farmer, how he started farming, how he changed the land that was difficult and challenging for farming, and the method he used to improve organic agriculture.

Following the day program introduction by the project coordinator W/ro Azeb Worku and welcoming speech by Ato Asrat Mengesha, (ISD administration and finance manager), Ato ketema Abera, from Welemera wereda agriculture office, forwarded an opening speech.

Speaking about the project in the wereda, Ato Ketema said that it has been a long time since ISD started providing various trainings to make EOA sustainable and providing various supports to the farming community. Farmers are bringing significant changes in a short period of time using the support and training they have received. He added by saying that the project is being implemented in 5 kebeles in the wereda. At the end he said, "the wereda is working in cooperation with ISD and we are on its side for any support the organization



In his explanation, Wondwossen said that the work that required a lot of effort and energy was the difficulty of the rocky terrain. However, together with his family, they made terraces and flattened the sloping land and made it suitable for farming. Subsequently, he started working by spreading manure to maintain and improve the fertility of the soil. In the meantime, agricultural experts saw his efforts and told him that an organization called ISD provides training on compost preparation and other organic farming method trainings. Based on this, after contacting ISD and taking various trainings, he started preparing and using compost according to the training he took in compost and vermicompost preparation, and now the land is completely covered with compost and he is getting positive impacts. Apart from preparing compost, it also produces using organic farming principles such as crop rotation.

He produces teff, wheat, potatoes, beans, garlic etc. using crop rotation method. It also produces a variety of medicinal plants including ornamental plants.

In conclusion, Mr. Wondwossen stated that he participated in many trainings after joining the project and the training and other supports he received made a big difference in his work and life. In addition, the organization has created market linkages to participate in the organic market day organized every 15 days where farmers sell their organic produces. The training he received and the market connection opportunity he got enabled him to benefit economically and he is currently supporting his family financially.

www.isd-bio.org

A Publication of
Institute for Sustainable Development (ISD)
Non-Profit Organization
Charity Reg. No. 0390
E-mail: sustaindeveth@gmail.com
Website: www.isd-bio.org
Tel:- +251-116-186774
Fax:- +251-116-186769
P.O. Box 171, Code 1110
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Prepared & Edited By
Yosef Garedeew

Designer
Samuel Ephrem



Talking about his future plan, Wondwossen has made plan to increase his own income by preparing compost in abundance to provide it to the local community at an affordable price and sell it to different areas to benefit the country and the community.



After visiting the farm and the Vermi compost site, the participants expressed their appreciation for the work done by the young farmer.

In their comments, the participants said that Wondwossen has shown us how other farmers can turn their land into productive land. He is a young farmer who has achieved significant changes in his work by following organic agriculture principles in a short period of time. Furthermore, they said that his natural farming practices have a positive impact on other farmers and it is a good experience for his neighbors and farmers from other areas to learn from him and change their land and their lives.

The participants expressed their opinion that if all farmers try to produce compost and following the principles of ecological organic agriculture, soil fertility would increase, production and productivity would increase, it would help to ensure food security and lead a healthy life, and it would also contribute to the development of the national economy. In nut shell, they praised his efforts, stating that he has done an exemplary job for the farming communities



GAW Campaign in Bededo Community

Green Action Week (GAW) is a global campaign intended to raise consumer awareness of the environmental impact of consumption, as well as promote sustainable production and consumption by encouraging farming communities to produce ecological organic productions, and create awareness on the benefits of organic food and farming, in order to obtain sustainable food. GAW offers stakeholders the opportunity of inter-collaboration to strengthen each other's activities. It also provides a platform to exchange experiences and inspire each other in terms of methods and strategies, while delivering positive results.

With this aim and objective, the campaign was conducted in Haike town for two days under the theme of "Sharing Community". The main reason why it was necessary to carry out the campaign in the Kebele is that the mixed farming practices that the Kebele is known for is weakening and the land is being stripped and the soil is eroding, which has made the area vulnerable to climate change. In addition, youth unemployment and being vulnerable to addiction in the area, the culture of helping and supporting each other is being forgotten.



On Monday 3 November 2022 there was a discussion between Bededo kebele administrative officers and ISD staff. A briefing was given to the kebele administrators about the GAW campaign objective. In order for the administrations of the Kebele to have a general understanding of the objective and purpose of the campaign as well as the concept of sharing community, a general explanation and discussion was made as to why the campaign was necessary in the Kebele, since the Bededo kebele has an experience on agroforestry practices. On Tuesday 4 October 2022, another discussion was held in Haike town with the Tehulederie wereda administration officers. The GAW campaign was conducted on 6-7 October 2022 and the first day was a public forum conducted in Tehulederie wereda administration hall. About 100 participants attended the public forum meeting; 26 Women and 74 Men.



On the public forum, the meeting was started by Elders blessings and followed by welcoming and opening speech by W/ro Mekdes Ibrie, Tehulederie wereda administrator. W/ro Mekdes in her speech said that the development work that the organization was doing in our wereda and in our zone is encouraging. This campaign started under

the theme of ‘Sharing Community’ is a campaign that stimulates the community to recover and develop the culture that was in our society and is being forgotten, so its benefit is very significant. Therefore, I would like to take this opportunity to state that such works that fill the gaps of the government are supported and encouraged in any way possible.

Ato Gizaw G/mariam gave a short introduction about ISD’s work and the objective of GAW campaign.



An expert from Tehulederie wereda agriculture office presented a research paper on the Bededo area forestry trend and experiences. Elders from the kebele also participated on the panel discussion. In the panel discussion elders raised the issues of the neglected agroforestry practices and the culture of sharing and helping each other. The elders said that they have to work hard to revive the culture of helping each other that was being forgotten in our community. They also gave emphasis on that the community should pay attention to the community forest protection bylaw, which was meant to restore our environment so that it would not be stripped away.

Ato Yenesew Alemay from ISD presented about the experience of agroecology practices that has been working by AVACLIM project. Finally general discussion was held. After a general discussion, a summary of the key ideas raised in the discussion, such as freeing the youth from unnecessary addictions so that they can take their fathers’ footsteps, reducing the impact of eucalyptus trees, the challenge of the abundance

Organic

of wild animals, etc., was given and a future direction was set. Therefore, it is to make the youth free from addiction, families, kebele administrations as well as the whole community should take responsibility through advice and reprimand, so that they can become useful citizens for the society. As eucalyptus are being planted on farm lands, the community should discuss and reduce the impact of eucalyptus as a future task. Wild animals are becoming more and more challenges and need to be controlled by kebele administrations and relevant bodies. The future work of the community should be to prevent land degradation and soil erosion, ensure food security, control climate change, and increase forest care by planting indigenous and fruit trees. Deforestation is a source of carbon emission into the atmosphere; therefore, forest regrowth is essential to control carbon emission. In this case, it is agreed on the final discussion as a way forward that Wollo University, zone and wereda agriculture offices, ISD and other relevant bodies should work in collaboration on the research part of carbon sequestration. The second day program was visiting the agroforestry practices of the Mofa Kidane Mihiret Church Monastery. The agroforestry practices in the monastery should be taken as a lesson for others and make practical. On the visit, stakeholders from wollo university, wereda and zone agriculture office, wereda government communication office participated the visit. The last program was the sharing of bunch of Maize for low-income families in the community. It is to revitalize the sharing and helping each other concepts to the community.



