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IMPROVING NUTRITION IN ERITREA: AGRO-DIVERSITY NOURISHING COMMUNITIES

September 2022

SDGs:



Country:

Eritrea

Project Code:

TCP/ERI/3704

FAO Contribution:

USD 330 000

Duration:

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Contact Info:

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Implementing Partner

Ministry of Agriculture (MoA).

Beneficiaries

Government staff extension and health workers from MoA and Ministry of Health (MoH) at central and provincial levels; Minimum Integrated Household Agricultural Package (MIHAP) beneficiary farmers.

Country Programming Framework (CPF) Outputs

Country programming Framework 2017-2021: Priority 2: Improved agriculture sector production, productivity and market access for enhanced food security and nutrition.



BACKGROUND

In Eritrea, productivity at farm level has historically been low because of the predominance of subsistence farming, unpredictable rainfall and drought, and lack of modern technologies and inputs. Food production has not kept pace with the needs of the country. The Government of Eritrea has given food security and nutrition a high priority in its development agenda, and has been extending support and subsidies to farmers through a number of measures, including the implementation of a programme called the Minimum Integrated Household Agricultural Package (MIHAP), providing households with a series of inputs and services. Against this background, the main objective of the project was to improve the nutrition status of vulnerable people in the country in two regions, Maekel and Anseba, by developing locally adapted strategies and tools that supported community-based nutrition interventions. This included increasing the effectiveness of nutrition outcomes from the MIHAP programme.

IMPACT

The project interventions contributed to improving dietary diversity in women and children in the two target regions, and to enhancing nutrition security. In addition, the project successfully contributed to increasing beneficiaries' incomes through the provision of inputs, such as chicks, fruit-trees and bee hives, as well as through its income-generating activities. It is expected that the enhanced production and productivity and increased incomes will, in turn, contribute to improvements in food.

ACHIEVEMENT OF RESULTS

The project introduced new approaches for the first time in the country, including a knowledge, attitudes and practices (KAP) survey, Trials of Improved Practices (TIPs) procedures, dietary patterns, Social and Behavior Change Communication (SBCC), and training in nutrition-sensitive agriculture (NSA). Mapping of policies and legislation was also carried out to inform nutrition policy work in the country. In addition, the MIHAP model was successfully integrated with the nutrition education that was disseminated to all beneficiaries. More details on key activities carried out and results achieved are outlined below.

In order to assess food and nutrition attitudes, skills and practices, a KAP study was successfully conducted on beneficiaries from the two target regions. In addition, an assessment of locally available foods for developing improved recipes was carried out with MIHAP beneficiaries.

Capacity building was the core component of the project, which was provided for both government staff from a number of ministries and beneficiary/MIHAP farmers. Staff from the MoA, in every sub-zoba, were trained on the concept of a balanced diet, as well as on some local recipes. In addition, government staff members were trained on TIPs methodology. They then conducted a TIPs survey with beneficiaries (pregnant women, lactating mothers, and children under five) from the two target regions. Trainees from the stakeholder ministries and the Eritrean Standards Institution (ESI) were trained in SBCC, and successfully applied the SBCC models to the TIPs survey. Training in improved nutrition was also provided for women and caregivers in the two target regions, which was very impactful. In addition, a targeted training-of-trainers (ToT) course in NSA was delivered to participants from various ministries and the ESI.

The project worked with the MIHAP programme to establish home gardens in three sub-zobas. Home garden seeds and fruit-tree siblings were distributed to the model farmers, and training was provided for the beneficiaries in the MIHAP package, horticulture and home gardening, poultry, apiculture, post-harvest and dairy.

Four community model farms were successfully set up in both target regions, demonstrating the MIHAP model established for income generation. These included the formation of income-generation groups (farmers' cooperatives) in milk and dairy products, eggs, meat and vegetables.

A common road map was developed towards a corporate SBCC strategy, representing a step forward in the production of learning materials. A food processing manual and children's recipe manual were also prepared and published in local languages, and distributed to 200 household beneficiaries.

IMPLEMENTATION OF WORK PLAN AND BUDGET

Some constraints were encountered during the project. First, it was difficult to implement all the numerous planned activities within the scheduled period. Second, the project was launched six months late. Third, there was a delay in the payment of daily subsistence allowance (DSA), especially for the counterpart staff, because of the limited withdrawals of the banking system of the country. The COVID-19 pandemic was another unforeseen constraint, as it restricted the travel of FAO technical staff and also limited training to virtual mode, as with the NSA training course. However, the activities were successfully delivered and achieved maximum results. A no-cost extension was requested and approved in order to complete the activities.

The project activities were implemented within the planned budget. In order to address the limitations on cash withdrawal, FAO and the MoA signed a Letter of Agreement (LoA) for the purpose of DSA for every training activity and associated expenses. The remaining budget was allocated for consultants, procurement and publications. Thus, the budget was sufficient for the completion of the activities.



FOLLOW-UP FOR GOVERNMENT ATTENTION

The Government, through the MoA, and in cooperation with the resource partners, is committed to scaling up the MIHAP programme in all six regions in the country. The Government is also committed to upscaling the TIPs; and the Ministry of Marine Resources (MoMR) has already taken steps to translate these in the fishery context.

In addition, as a follow-up action, stakeholders have agreed to produce common Nutrition Information, Education, and Communication (NIEC) materials, so that they can work in a complementary way in the community. An additional stakeholders meeting is required for this purpose.

SUSTAINABILITY

1. Capacity development

In order to address institutional, technical, and financial capacity limitations, the Government, under the chair of the MoA, had set up a National Technical Committee for Food and Nutrition Security (NTCFNS) comprising five institutions, namely the MoA, the Ministry of Health (MoH), the MoMR, the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MoTI), and the National Standard Institution (NSI). However, during the NSA training provided for government staff from these five institutions, the necessity to include other institutions, such as the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare (MoLSW), the Ministry of Education (MoE), the Ministry of Information (MoI), the Ministry of Local Government (MoLG), and the National Union Eritrean Women (NUEW); and in addition to the already engaged United Nations agencies, FAO, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization WHO, other agencies such as the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and the World Food Programme (WFP). Thus, during the SBCC road map consultation and validation workshops, these ministries and agencies were also brought on board. All the above-mentioned stakeholders actively participated, to ensure that the document was equally relevant to their respective institutions. In addition, the MoA, in cooperation with IFAD has introduced the Integrated Agricultural Development Project (IADP), in which FAO is also engaged.

With regard to the project being embedded in organizational structures that are committed to sustainability of results, the already existing MoA programme, MIHAP, has now become a unit in MoA headquarters. This shows how much the Ministry is committed to sustaining nutrition as a sector.

In this context, the Minister of Agriculture, during a speech delivered at various nutrition workshops, mentioned the Ministry's wish to upgrade nutrition to the level of institute.

2. Gender equality

Initially, the project was designed to reach children under five years old, pregnant women, and lactating mothers, as well as adolescent girls. However, it was necessary that men equally participated in the nutrition education carried out during the project, in order to motivate them to take action at household level. Both men and women were equally trained by government staff, who had been trained by the nutrition consultant. Thus, the project activities met the needs and priorities of both genders.

3. Environmental sustainability

The MIHAP programme includes soil and water conservation, namely water is harvested by building small dams in each MIHAP community area; and in so doing underground water is sustained. In some areas, arid land was seen to turn green.

4. Human Rights-based Approach (HRBA) – in particular Right to Food and Decent Work

This was highly achieved, as the nutrition education that was delivered to the targeted groups ensured that no one would be malnourished owing to the lack of knowledge caused by the unavailability of proper nutrition education; while the beneficiaries are provided with food at home through the MIHAP programme. This can be very well aligned with the PANTHER and FAO rights to food guidelines. This is the reason why the KAP, NSA, TIPs and MIHAP package training courses were successfully conducted. More importantly, food demonstrations were carried out and some local recipes, such as *kicha* (local dry bread), pumpkin, were promoted. The beneficiaries were trained to prepare *kicha* by mixing cereals, pulses and oil seeds. Many different kinds of *kicha* breads were demonstrated during the training, such as with banana, pumpkin, flake seeds. In addition, a children's recipe manual was prepared, published and distributed to beneficiaries, enabling caregivers to prepare meals at home with what they can produce locally.

5. Technological sustainability

The project delivered very up-to-date nutrition education, and NSA training was delivered to government staff successfully in virtual mode, which was the first of its kind and quality, in a way that could easily be transferred to the ultimate beneficiaries and acquired by them.

Most of the training provided to the community used a participatory approach. For example, the TIPs process started with the training of government staff from various ministries as a ToT, and was followed by a survey, consultation, follow-up, and an assessment. The beneficiaries participated in all these processes, while sharing their experiences.

With regard to the capacity of stakeholders and beneficiaries to pursue the project activities without further technical assistance, training was delivered in such a way that mothers with very little education could also comprehend and pursue it; while the participants from various ministries were enabled to continue supporting the beneficiaries.

6. Economic sustainability

Through this project, inputs comprising seeds for home gardening, chicks, temperate and tropical fruit seedlings, and various items of equipment were purchased and distributed to the beneficiary farmers. As mentioned above, funds were transferred to the MoA through an LoA. No other additional financial resources were allocated.

The food demonstrations were given to the communities to enable them to simply prepare meals with what they could produce; while the beneficiaries are provided with food at home through the MIHAP programme.



DOCUMENTS AND OUTREACH PRODUCTS

Documents

- ❑ **FAO.** October 2020. *KAP survey and Dietary Consumption Pattern report.* 33 pp.
- ❑ **FAO.** April 2021. *TIPs Manual.* 11 pp.
- ❑ **FAO.** August 2021. *TIPs report.* 24 pp.
- ❑ **FAO & MoA.** August 2021. *Children's Recipe Manual* (in English and two local languages). 25 pp.
- ❑ **FAO.** June 2022. *Final Nutrition Report.* 36 pp.
- ❑ **FAO.** July 2022. *SBCC Roadmap Report.* 30 pp.

Outreach material

- ❑ **FAO & MoA.** May 2021. Trial Improved Practices (TIPs) Roll-up Poster.

ACHIEVEMENT OF RESULTS - LOGICAL FRAMEWORK

Expected Impact	Improved Food and nutrition Security		
Outcome	Improved in dietary diversity in women and children		
	Indicator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Proportion of women between 15-49 years with dietary diversity score of five or more. – Proportion of children under the age of five years with dietary diversity score of five or more. – Amount of income earned from group income generation by type of value chain. 	
	Baseline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 40% – 40% – 500 ERN per month. 	
	End Target	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 70% – 70% – 1 500 ERN per month. 	
	Comments and follow-up action to be taken	<p>Indicators 1 and 2 were achieved by improving KAP, dietary consumption patterns, TIPs, and cooking practices. Activities were conducted on pregnant women, lactating women, and children under 5 years old; and the Minimum Dietary Diversity (MDD) score was assessed in the MIHAP beneficiaries.</p> <p>The Government, through the MoA, plans to sustain and scale up the project, which was piloted only in two regions, to all the remaining regions, as the MIHAP flagship is extending to all the remaining regions. Thus, it will be possible to assess the MDD score throughout the country, including in the MIHAP unprivileged communities. Given that this involves the contribution of all stakeholders, different stakeholders were sensitized in the SBCC consultation workshop.</p> <p>With regard to Indicator 3, the amount of income earned from group income generation was ERN 5 000 per month, greatly exceeding the envisaged amount of ERN 1 500 per month. The project beneficiaries were the MIHAP beneficiary farmers, and each household received a dairy cow, 25 chicks, two beehives, one-quarter hectare of land for different kinds of vegetables and green fodder; and those who had no complete package in the Maekel region were provided with chicks, fruit-trees and top-bar hives, thus providing them with income from dairy products, eggs, cockerel meat, fruits and vegetables.</p>	
Output 1	Food and nutrition attitudes, skills and practices improved		
	Indicators	Target	Achieved
	Number of women and children under five surveyed.	80 households.	Yes
Baseline	0		
Comments	The beneficiaries selected for the KAP survey comprised those with children under five years of age. The study was successfully conducted on 140 beneficiaries from two regions, Maekel and Anseba. In addition, FAO added NSA to the project activities, including the provision of training in NSA for government staff.		
Activity 1.1	Work with MIHP program to identify communities and project beneficiaries		
	Achieved	Yes	
	Comments	230 beneficiaries were mapped out from both regions, who have been MIHAP beneficiaries since 2013, including those with children under five years of age.	
Activity 1.2	Conduct a participatory baseline of knowledge, Attitudes and Practices (KAP) and food consumption study to identify feeding practices of concern and their determinants, as well as potential locally-available solutions		
	Achieved	Yes	
	Comments	The baseline for KAP was conducted by the Planning and Statistics Department of the MoA, and the data produced served as a good springboard for the KAP survey, which was undertaken with 140 beneficiaries in the two target regions. This was conducted by first training 25 government staff from member ministries of the NTCFNS, which all participated in the KAP study, comprising the MoA, the MoH, the MoMR, the MoTI, and the ESI. The dietary consumption pattern survey was conducted alongside the KAP survey.	

Activity 1.3	Carry out an assessment of locally available foods for developing improved recipes	
	Achieved	Yes
Activity 1.3	Comments	An assessment of locally available foods for developing improved recipes was carried out with all the MIHAP beneficiaries, following the inception workshop, conducted by FAO and MoA staff in the two target regions. A total of 180 beneficiaries was interviewed, who were aware of the reasons why the Government, through the MoA, had initiated the MIHAP programme. In addition, the MoA staff, through home economics experts, in every sub-zoba, were trained on the concept of a balanced diet, as well as on some local recipes. The MoA is also committed to upgrading the knowledge of the home economists to train the farmers in their areas.
	Conduct trainings for extension and health workers on TIPS methodology	
Activity 1.4	Achieved	Yes
	Comments	The TIPs methodology training was provided to 30 government staff members from various ministries (MoA, MoH, MoMR, MoTI), and the ESI. These trainees also conducted the TIPs survey, which was one of the most successfully accomplished activities. The Government will deliver the TIPs training to other staff.
Activity 1.5	Conduct trials of improved practices	
	Achieved	Yes
Activity 1.5	Comments	The TIPs were conducted with 140 beneficiaries (pregnant women, lactating mothers, and children under five) from the two regions. They were carried out in various phases, such as a survey, follow-up, food demonstrations based on the findings of the survey, and an assessment. Given that the beneficiaries had the agricultural package, comprising inputs to provide a balanced diet for the households, this made the TIPs very successful through all the phases that were carried out.
	Develop Food and Nutrition Information, Education, and Communication (NIEC) materials	
Activity 1.6	Achieved	Yes
	Comments	The MoH, as the main stakeholder of the NTCFNS, had produced additional NIEC materials. Therefore, a communication officer, as a voluntary contribution, trained 25 government staff members, comprising all five members of the NTCFNS, who participated in the TIPs survey in the context of nutrition.
Activity 1.7	Training of Trainers (ToT) for MoA and MoH in food and nutrition behavioral change strategies	
	Achieved	Yes
Activity 1.7	Comments	25 trainees from the stakeholder ministries, MoA, MoMR, MoH, MoTI, and the ESI, were trained in SBCC by the MoH communication expert in the context of nutrition. This had a high impact on the participants in conducting the TIPs survey, who applied the SBCC models in the TIPs. The NTCFNS is committed to extending the SBCC to their staff.
	Train women and caregivers for improved nutrition	
Activity 1.8	Achieved	Yes
	Comments	Although the materials had not yet been compiled, the national and ToT participants trained 140 women and caregivers in the two target regions, and it was very impactful. The MoA staff have committed to training the remaining MIHAP beneficiaries.
Activity 1.9	Prepare a food processing manual and local recipe book for households	
	Achieved	Yes
Activity 1.9	Comments	As the TIPs were being conducted, a food processing manual and children's recipe manual were prepared and published in local languages, and distributed to 200 household beneficiaries. The MoA Home Economics units in both regions are responsible for the follow-up of this activity.
	ToT in food processing	
Activity 1.10	Achieved	Yes
	Comments	The ToT in NSA was delivered to 30 participants from MoA, MoH, MoMR, MoTI, and the ESI, including FAO staff. It was the first virtual training successfully delivered to government staff at the FAO country office. A technical working group (TWG) was subsequently established to assist the NTCFNS. Under the chair of the MoA, the Government is very committed to sustaining the TWG.

Activity 1.11	Establish community kitchens		
	Achieved	Yes	
	Comments	Ten sets of different utensils were purchased, together with four gas-filled cylinders with stoves, and were distributed to four selected model community kitchens in the two target regions. This will be administered by the Farmers' Cooperatives under the supervision of the MoA home economics experts in the respective sub-zobas' branches.	
Activity 1.12	Conduct cooking demonstrations and food preparation training		
	Achieved	Yes	
	Comments	Cooking demonstrations and food preparation training were provided by the national consultant to the TWG, comprising government staff from MoA, MoH, MoMR, MoMR, and the ESI, who had been following the training of the project from the beginning. The TWG also trained the beneficiaries from the two regions, under the direct supervision of the national consultant and FAO staff. The TWG were trained to support the NTCFNS, and are committed to training other government staff.	
Output 2	Diversified home gardens and poultry production established and managed		
	Indicators	Target	Achieved
	Number of home gardens and poultry production established.	100%	Yes
Baseline	40%		
Comments	Three sub-zobas (one from Maekel and two from Anseba) were selected, and the beneficiaries were trained in the MIHAP package, horticulture and home gardening, poultry, apiculture, post-harvest and dairy. MoA experts in each sub-zoba are responsible for the follow-up of the activities.		
Activity 2.1	Prepare IEC materials		
	Achieved	Yes	
	Comments	This was included in the KAP, TIPs and SBCC. Posters, booklets, etc. were prepared, and were utilized in the survey. All the booklets were distributed to the beneficiaries and the roll-up posters were submitted to the MoA.	
Activity 2.2	Work with MIHP program to establish the home gardens		
	Achieved	Yes	
	Comments	The MIHAP home gardens were established in four sub-zobas (one in Maekel and three in Anseba). Home garden seeds and fruit-tree siblings were distributed to the model farmers in Maekel. This was administered under the MIHAP farmers' cooperatives, and field visits were undertaken by FAO and the MoA. The agricultural experts in each sub-zoba are now competent enough to maintain these activities.	
Activity 2.3	Conduct trainings for extension workers to support communities on household food production		
	Achieved	Yes	
	Comments	Training for extension workers to support communities on household food production was successfully conducted in both regions. A group of experts from the MoA trained the extension workers, enabling them to train, in turn, the communities on household food production. This was followed up through field visits, and the MoA experts in each sub-zoba in both regions can also follow up this activity.	
Activity 2.4	Train beneficiaries in horticulture and poultry keeping & nutrition		
	Achieved	Yes	
	Comments	This was conducted as a MIHAP package training by a group of experts in horticulture and home gardening, poultry, apiculture, dairy, post-harvest, and agribusiness. The training was delivered to 40 MoA staff members in different sub-zobas of the two regions. These experts also trained 140 farmers in selected model farming areas, namely Lamza, Geleb, Hamlimalo and Elaber'ed. Follow-up and monitoring was undertaken through field visits.	
Activity 2.5	Distribute inputs, tools and equipment for beneficiaries		
	Achieved	Yes	
	Comments	600 farm tools were distributed to 200 households; each farmer received three farm tools (one shovel, one pickaxe and one mattock). However, the MIHAP package training in Activity 2.4 was delayed, and difficulties were encountered in coordinating the group of trainers from the Ministry. FAO and the MoA followed up the distribution.	
Activity 2.6	Conduct training on food harvest, processing and storage		
	Achieved	Yes	
	Comments	This activity was included in the MIHAP package training included in Activity 2.4, and was successfully delivered.	

Activity 2.7	Assist target-households in the maintenance of integrated household food production		
	Achieved	Yes	
	Comments	This activity was also included in the MIHAP package, and was successfully achieved.	
Activity 2.8	Engage local media and influence other settings to promote healthy eating		
	Achieved	Yes	
	Comments	<p>The MoA Communication and Public Relations Department covered all the field work, which was disseminated by the national media. It had a great impact on the community.</p> <p>The MoA was very engaged from the beginning, through its public relations and communication officers, who closely worked with the state media in disseminating the agricultural sector issues. Given that the NTCFNS subsequently learned that the MoI, the MoE, the MoLSW, and the NUEW should also take part in the nutrition programme, they were all invited to the SBCC consultation workshop, and the MoI started to become engaged in the project and to cover project achievements.</p> <p>The NSA training is greatly appreciated by the Government, and it is committed to training its staff in the field.</p>	
Output 3	Model community diversity learning centres demonstrating the MHIP model established for income generation		
	Indicators	Target	Achieved
	Number of Model Farming for income generation as diversity learning centres established.	4	Yes
Baseline	0		
Comments	<p>Four model farming centres in both regions (Lamza, Elaberéd, Hamelmalo, and Gheleb) were successfully established. These are the areas where model farmers were found, according to the extension experts, who closely followed their day-to-day activities. More work could have been carried out in this area; however, this was not possible during the limited time frame of this project.</p> <p>As MIHAP has now become a unit in a branch of the Ministry, the experts have great potential to maintain the centres.</p>		
Activity 3.1	Formation of income generation groups among the project beneficiaries (output 1 & 2) from the targeted villages		
	Achieved	Yes	
	Comments	<p>Initially, the MIHAP inputs provided to the beneficiaries involved the formation of income-generation groups, for selling milk and dairy products, eggs, meat, vegetables and fruits, etc. As a result, farmers' cooperatives were formed, but they directly sent their products to the nearby big cities from their farmyards. However, the beneficiaries subsequently agreed to supply their surrounding villages with products with fair prices. However, during one season, excess products were produced in some places, and there was some wastage.</p>	
Activity 3.2	Working with local leaders to identify a community centre where a full MIHP model farm will be established		
	Achieved	Yes	
	Comments	<p>Local leaders and MoA subregional experts were engaged in identifying a community centre, which was very successfully organized. This was done when the TIPs procedures were carried out, as various stakeholders participated in it.</p>	
Activity 3.3	Establish community model farms for MIHAP		
	Achieved	Yes	
	Comments	<p>Four community model farms (Lamza (Maekel) and Elaberéd, Hamelmalo, and Geleb [Anseba]) were established. This was monitored through consistent field visits.</p>	
Activity 3.4	Establish community kitchens, as part of community diversity learning centres		
	Achieved	Yes	
	Comments	<p>Vegetable and cereal seeds for home gardening, 5 000 chicks, 160 temperate and tropical fruit seedlings, and 12 sets of utensils with four gas-filled cylinders with stoves/cookers, for four model kitchen gardens in four model farming communities, were purchased and distributed to the beneficiary farmers. The Lamza, Elaber'ed, Hamelmalo and Geleb model farms also serve as community diversity learning centres. These centres were provided with equipment.</p>	
Activity 3.5	Identify micro enterprises for income generation activities within MIHP		
	Achieved	Partially	
	Comments	<p>The micro enterprises for income generation activities were identified, but no further activities were carried out. However, the Ministry recently resumed a programme concerning small-scale commercial farming, complementing the MIHAP, which could help the beneficiaries of this project in this activity. The MoA are capable of maintaining this.</p>	

Activity 3.6	Develop/adapt community session plans and learning materials	
	Achieved	Yes
Activity 3.6	Comments	<p>A consultation workshop was held, where various stakeholders from the MoA, the MoH, the MoTI, the MoMR, the MoE, the MoLSW, the Mol, the ESI, the NUEW, and United Nations agencies were delegated and presented their programmes related to nutrition as a cross-cutting issue. They established a common road map towards a corporate SBCC strategy.</p> <p>The MoA, which is chairing the nutrition programme, is committed to organizing further meetings with all the stakeholders in developing this corporate SBCC strategy.</p> <p>The development of the SBCC road map was a step forward in the production of learning materials. In addition, a children's food recipe manual was published in two local languages and distributed to the beneficiaries. This was monitored through field visits, and the lesson learned was that the presence of the women's association contributed greatly to raising awareness in the beneficiary women.</p>
	Achieved	Yes
Activity 3.7	Conduct various and targeted sessions for household heads and main caregivers (women), lead farmers and influencers	
	Comments	<p>This activity was successfully achieved during the KAP and TIPs study, in particular, when various stakeholders were engaged in the training of communities. Women in conservative communities were also encouraged to participate in the sessions with the members of the NUEW in each village. This was followed up by consistent field visits at each stage of the study.</p>
Activity 3.8	Support and monitor the management of the model farms	
	Comments	<p>Each farmer, from four selected model farms, received three farm tools, 25 chicks and four tropical and temperate fruit-tree siblings. In Maekel, vegetable seeds were also distributed. This was monitored by FAO and MoA staff.</p> <p>The MoA, through the MIHAP unit, can manage the sustainability of the model farms.</p>
Activity 3.9	Train staff at MoA in food marketing in rural areas	
	Comments	<p>20 MoA staff members from the Agricultural Extension Department received a MIHAP package (value chain, agribusiness, marketing, poultry, post-harvest, apiculture, horticulture, dairy) as a ToT, to train, in turn, the model farmers. Despite the fact that this activity was delayed, it was successfully carried out. The MoA, under the MIHAP unit, can follow up on this activity.</p>
Activity 3.10	Value addition and food processing training	
	Comments	<p>This was also included in the MIHAP package training, and the TIPS procedures. Given that there is a plan to upscale nutrition programme under the MIHAP programme, the MoA can monitor and follow up on the sustainability of this activity.</p>
Activity 3.11	Train IGA groups agribusiness and marketing including social marketing training courses	
	Comments	<p>The MIHAP flagship of the MoA was initially intended to support potential farmers in engaging in income-generating activities. Farmers earned income from milk and dairy products, eggs and chicken meat, and vegetables. In some areas, excess was observed in fasting seasons. In this context, farmers have requested the Ministry that access be provided to processing machines in order to address the wastage of some products, such as milk, which occurs in some seasons.</p> <p>In some remote areas, such as Geleb, the beneficiaries targeted urban areas for market, but with the help of the sub-zoba administration and the MoA sub-zoba branch, they started to satisfy local markets at the village level.</p>
Activity 3.12	Evaluate the effectiveness of MIHP model integrated with nutrition education	
	Comments	<p>The effectiveness of the MIHAP model integrated with nutrition education was evaluated by the FAO-MoA team.</p> <p>The MIHAP programme was initiated by the Government, not only to enhance nutrition education, but more importantly to introduce nutritious foods to vulnerable farmers. Thus, during the project, the MIHAP model was integrated with the nutrition education that was disseminated to all beneficiaries; and it was evaluated as being successfully delivered.</p> <p>The MoA plans to scale up the MIHAP and nutrition programme throughout the country. This will be done through an IFAD-funded programme, thereby ensuring that constant follow-up and monitoring is carried out.</p>

Partnerships and Outreach

For more information, please contact: Reporting@fao.org

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