BACKGROUND

In Ethiopia, one of the critical problems faced by farmers in the Participatory Small-Scale Irrigation Development Programme II (PASIDP II) was how to develop and manage water conservation techniques and improve the inefficiency of irrigation systems. These systems included open channels for irrigation water conveyance and flooding for on-farm water application. In Kenya, the IFAD-supported Upper Tana Natural Resources Management Project (UTaNRMP) successfully addressed similar challenges and served as a model for PASIDP II.

Supported by a complementary funding source and integrated into PASIDP II, this SSTC project enabled an exchange of best practices on water conservation and efficient irrigation water use between Ethiopia and Kenya. PASIDP II targeted rural farmers in four regions of Ethiopia including Amhara (Keskash scheme), Oromia (Melka scheme), Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Region (Menisa) and Sidama (Aveya Nemcha), and trained engineers on gravity-fed irrigation and rainwater harvesting.

PASIDP II also allocated a budget for scaling up SSTC results and providing continuous training to farmers and irrigation water user association (IWUA) members to sustain the system for an extended two-year period.
ACHIEVEMENTS

Managed by the Coordination Management Units under the Ministry of Agriculture, the project achieved the following results:

**Strengthened capacity of policymakers and irrigation user water associations (IUWAs).** Information about sustainable managing irrigation systems was shared with 63 members of four IUWAs. The project also supported 23 policymakers and experts in better understanding efficient irrigation, IUWA operation, and water resource management.

**Promoted adoption of gravity-fed irrigation and rainwater-harvesting systems.** Four gravity-fed low-head sprinklers and drip systems were designed and established in the selected regions of PASIDP II. This work was supported by experts from IFAD Upper Tana Catchment Natural Resources Management Project in Kenya. Nearly 170 rural farmers benefited from these irrigation systems. For example, Dubena Kari, one of the project beneficiaries, used to face issues related to water scarcity and was unable to properly irrigate his farmland. Since the gravity-fed sprinklers and drip system were established by this project, he has seen an increase in the volume of his harvest and has even diversified production with sugar beet, pepper, haricot beans and tomatoes.

**85 IUWA members and policymakers trained on sustainable irrigation**

**4 gravity-fed low-head sprinklers and drip systems established**

**169 smallholder farmers benefited from low-head pressurized irrigation and water harvesting technologies**

For more information please visit www.ifad.org/sstcf

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