

CHINA-IFAD SOUTH-SOUTH AND TRIANGULAR COOPERATION FACILITY



SSTC GRANT

Grant value

US\$499,905

Focus countries

Ethiopia and Kenya

Duration

May 2019–Mar 2023

Implementation partner

Ministry of Agriculture, Ethiopia

Cooperation partners

Irrigation water user associations,
Ethiopia

Kenya Rainwater Association

Water resource user associations,
Ethiopia

Beneficiaries

Policymakers

Water resource user associations

Rural farmers in Amhara
(Keskash scheme), Oromia (Melka
scheme), Southern Nations,
Nationalities and Peoples Region
(Menisa) and Sidama (Aweyea
Nemcha)

Promoting Water Conservation and Irrigation Water Use Efficiency in Ethiopia

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 (Aweyea 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.

Supporting exchanges of best practices on water conservation and efficient irrigation between Kenya and Ethiopia

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

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.

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



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