

Comitato Europeo per la Formazione e L'Agricoltura
European Centre for Education and Agriculture
(CEFA)

Improved Agricultural Production in the Oases of
Bari Region, Northeast Somalia
A Mid-Term Review



Improved Agricultural Production in the Oases of Bari Region, Northeast Somalia



Rehabilitated irrigation well in Badade



Rainstorm in the mountains

Executive Summary

This project was initiated by SAWA, a Dutch Foundation that had to withdraw after one year of input. Cefa, an Italian NGO with similar experience and expertise, is continuing the project. This Mid-Term Evaluation assesses the progress towards achieving results, draws lessons learned so far and makes recommendations for the continuation of the project into a second phase being planned for December 2002 to August 2004.

The problems being addressed in the horticultural sector are:

- Limited availability of qualified trainers and insufficient horticultural knowledge and technical skills at farmers level.
- Limited availability of good quality irrigation water; poor quality of irrigation infrastructure and poor irrigation management
- Limited availability of high quality inputs (seeds, fertilizers, tools and pesticides).

This project depends on a high level of seasonality as is described later, so the first phase has only included one full season to demonstrate and train on the job both trainers and farmers. Because of the awkward timing of the phases, the second phase will only involve another full season. However the two phases together include a total of three seasons. Even so, this is little enough opportunity to train farmers who are new to irrigated crop agriculture.

This first phase can be considered to be a successful start-up period. The major achievements are:

- Well-established working relationships;
- Good quality research and data gathering and good documentation;
- The issues concerning input supplies have been defined and are being addressed;
- Date Palms, Citrus and Papaya planting material have been obtained and are about to be distributed;
- Training material for both dates, fruits and vegetables have been designed and are being developed further through practice;
- Training of trainers is being carried out and the trainers have already higher standards than previously and use good quality material;
- One round of demonstration sites were completed and on-farm training of farmers is being carried out;
- Farmers are well aware of the existence of the project and are being encouraged to improve their productivity through interaction with project staff;
- More people are taking up farming although to what extent has not yet been formally monitored;
- Surveys of irrigation infrastructure have been carried out although the quality of these is causing some concern and efforts to improve information gathering are being planned;
- A dialogue process is continuing with communities about how specific structures are to be improved and significant community contribution is required before agreements to go ahead are made;
- Shallow wells and canals agreed for rehabilitation are being completed;

- The project is well placed to engage in the current growing season with full capacity and this season will be a real test of the projects' capacity to create impact. During this evaluation farmer training sessions were already underway.

Summary of Recommendations

1. Project lifespan

The project should be supported for three distinct phases of two years to allow enough time to train trainers properly and for training messages to be adopted by farmers.

2. Project timing

An adjustment in project timing from the present December- November cycle to an August-July cycle would enable greater progress within each phase

3. Phase Two activities

The proposed activities on institution building in Phase 2 should be given greater emphasis:

- It should not be assumed that security interruptions will not occur given that they are likely to occur.
- Given that this Mid-Term Review is taking place in month 8 of the Cefa project, it is recommended that a monitoring visit is made at the end of the present season (April 2003) and that an evaluation of Phase 2 should take place in April 2004
- The introduction of multipurpose trees and grasses into vegetable production cycles.
- The current Cefa staffing arrangements should be maintained to the end of Phase 2.
- The project could consider collaborating with education projects working in the region with a view to developing a teaching curriculum for agriculture (both livestock and crops).
- It would be worth introducing two or three wind pumps in the plateau area in order for farmers to observe their performance and to compare them with fuel driven pumps.

Contents

Abbreviations	i
Executive Summary	ii
Contents	iv
I Introduction	1
1.1 Context of the Review	1
1.2 Terms of Reference	1
1.3 Methodology	1
1.4 Evaluation Itinerary	2
2 Relevance	3
2.1 Identification and Formulation Process	3
2.2 Realism of the Project Design	3
3 Project Preparation and Design	6
3.1 General Context	6
3.2 Specific Context	6
3.3 LAPO Project Design	7
4 Efficiency	10
4.1 Means and Costs	10
4.2 Organisation and Management	10
4.3 Intervention Analysis	11
4.3.1 Progress Towards Achieving Results	14
5 Effectiveness	18
5.1 Capacity Building and Appropriateness of Training Methods	18
5.2 Stakeholder Involvement	19
5.2.1 Effect of Assumptions	20
5.3 Quality of Results	21
6 Impact	22
7 Sustainability and Replicability	23
7.1 Continuation of Stream of Benefits	23
7.2 Policy Support	23
7.3 Gender Aspects	24
7.4 Technology Aspects	24
7.5 Ecological Aspects	25
7.6 Institutional Capacity	26
8 Conclusions and Recommendations	28
8.1 Overall Outcome to Date	28
8.2 Future Developments	29
9 Lessons Learned	32
Annexes	
A: Terms of Reference: Mid-Term Evaluation	33
B: Maps of the Area	37
C: Planned Alula Irrigation Infrastructure 2002	38

1 Introduction

1.1 Context of the Review

This project was originally funded by the EU Somali Unit for implementation by the NGO SAWA of Wageningen, the Netherlands for the period December 2000 to December 2002 (LO.17.641/96/10) During this period SAWA ran into operational difficulties and closed down as an organisation having carried out the initial start up of the project in the period 1st December 2000 to 31st January 2002.

Another NGO operating in Somalia, Cefa, indicated a willingness to step in and support the continuation of the project and is now doing so using similar Objective, Purpose, Results and Activities through the complementary Project Number LO 17.641/96/14. Fortunately, the Project Team, which led the SAWA project, were able to continue through the transition from SAWA to Cefa management and there was little disruption to relationships or implementation due to this management change over

1.2 Terms of Reference

No formal evaluation of the SAWA involvement took place because of the short period of implementation involved and the need for a rapid hand over. However, its achievements and experiences are the basis of the project plan for the Cefa Project (February to December 2002) and are taken into consideration during this evaluation.

This Mid-Term Evaluation assesses the progress towards achieving results, draws lessons learned so far and makes recommendations for the continuation of the project into a second phase being planned for December 2002 to August 2004.

1.3 Methodology

The methodology included:

- Round table meetings with the Cefa/SORSO implementation team;
- Meetings with personnel from other organisations based in Bari region including CARE, Oxfam, Talo Wadaag, SORSO, SORERDO, Unicef and the Director of Department of Agriculture;
- Field visits were carried out to communities in the Plateau, Mountainous and Coastal intervention Zones of Bosaso District¹;
- Meetings with individual households and with farmers committees;
- A wrap-up meeting with representatives from SORSO, Talo Wadaag, Cefa and Department of Agriculture;
- A first draft report was given to Cefa/ SORSO for comments;

¹ Activities are taking place in Bosaso and Alula Districts and a baseline survey is planned to take place in Iskubushan. However the main focus of attention so far has rightly been in Bosaso. This being the case the evaluation concentrated on the development of Activities in Bosaso District as the time was limited and the activities in Aluula are still relatively new.

- A Debriefing Meeting was held with Cefa and EU in Nairobi;
- A Final Report was submitted incorporating the comments made on the draft.

1.4 Evaluation Itinerary

The Evaluation itinerary is listed below in Table 1.

Day	Date	Morning	Afternoon
1	Friday 13 Sept	Briefing with Cefa staff in Nairobi	Reading of collected material
2	Monday 16 Sept	Travel Nairobi to Bosaso	Initial meeting with Cefa staff
3	Tuesday 17	Meeting with SORSO/ Cefa staff	Field visit to Balade (coastal plain)
4	Wednesday 18	Field visit to Barookhle (plateau)	
5	Thursday 19	Meetings with CARE, Talo Wadaag, SORSO, SORERDO and Oxfam GB	
6	Friday 20	Field visit to Balikhadar and Maraje (mountainous)	
7	Saturday 21	Meeting with Unicef	Visit nursery area
8	Sunday 22	Reading documents/start report writing	
9	Monday 23	Field visit and participation at a farmers' training session in Gub and Laag areas (coastal area)	
10	Tuesday 24	Initial report writing	Wrap up meeting in Bosaso and meeting with the Director of the Department of Agriculture
11	Wednesday 25	Travel to Hargeisa	Report writing
12 - 14	26 - 29	Report writing	Draft report submission
15	To be arranged	Debriefing in Nairobi to be arranged with Cefa and EU/ Final Report submission.	

Table 1. Evaluation Implementation Itinerary