

MELCA'S E-NEWSLETTER

A Community Seed Bank (CSB) Inaugurated at Telecho



MELCA-Ethiopia has built its first Community Seed Bank (CSB) in Telecho Kebele of Welmera woreda in Finfinne Area Special Zone of Oromia National Regional State. A spectacular inauguration ceremony of the CSB has been held on the 30th of November 2013.

The SCB is built with the aim of supporting the farmer communities in Telecho area preserve their local seed varieties (farmers' varieties). The local seed varieties are considered vital for adaptation to climate change, maintenance of the ecosystem balance and traditional knowledge connected to these varieties and should be transferred to the young generation.

V1, NO. 1 – MAY 2014

In this issue



A Community Seed Bank (CSB) Inaugurated at Telecho

1



MELCA-Ethiopia opening a new frontier in Gambella region

2



New life for the communities of Adere

3



Ato Mulatu Tekle of Bale

4



Inauguration of the CSB has also been accompanied by an exhibition of local seed varieties and root crops staged by farmer groups and students. The farmer groups and students have shown, to the attendants of the ceremony, the various local varieties of crops like wheat, barley, tef, beans, peas as well as vegetables and root crops.



The seed and food fair organized by students and the Telecho community on the date of the CSB inauguration

MELCA-Ethiopia Opening a new frontier in Gambella Region



Melca's Majang project office in METI

MELCA-Ethiopia has opened its 4th project office in Majang Zone of Gambella National Regional State. The office has been opened as of January 2014. So far, MELCA has been running its projects and programs at three project areas in two regions: Bale project area and Menagesha Suba Project area in Oromiya National Regional State and Sheka project area in Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Region (SNNPR). So now MELCA's project office in Majang zone of Gambella National Regional state is its fourth project area in a third region. To this effect, MELCA has signed a project agreement with the concerned administrative offices of the Gambella National Regional State.

MELCA has opened a project office in Majang with the major objective of ensuring sustainable development for the local communities and conserving the local bio-cultural diversity.

Some of the strategies MELCA will implement to achieve this objective would be facilitating adoption of the Godere forest, as a biosphere reserve, Environmental education, Non-timber forest products development, ecological agriculture and participatory mapping of the culture and natural resources of the community.



Among the natural attractions in Majang zone

New Life for the communities of Adere village in Telecho

“...We have never thought we may have such a potable water in our small village. Some 20 years back, we used to get water from a number of springs and rivers near our village. But they have all gone. After that we had to travel long to get water for ourselves and for our cattle. It has been so hard especially for women. Now thanks to MELCA our living is renewed. Now we started to live the good life we enjoyed a long ago” Ato Worku, a community member of the Adere village.



A spring development supported by MELCA-Ethiopia and constructed in Adere village of Telecho Kebele in its Suba-Sebeta project area has been inaugurated.



MELCA has been working with this community for the last 5 years and the idea of spring development has come based on the key problem in the village and demand from the community.

The spring developed in the village comprises of spring for potable water, cattle trough, washing basin and collection chamber with public fountain worth more than birr 41,000.

In addition to using for their household consumptions, the community is using the water structure to develop a nursery site which they have planned to use for effective rehabilitation of their degraded environment.

Ato Mulatu Tekle of Bale

Ato Mulatu Tekle is an elder of 86 years age. He is a resident of Dinsho Town.

Since his young age, Ato Mulatu is fond of nature.



He likes planting and taking care of trees.

At this age, he is known to be one of the community members that is working to leave a healthy

ecosystem for the next Generation.

Ato Mulatu takes trees from MELCA's nursery site in Dinsho every year to plant on his private plot of land.

He has planted over 1000 indigenous trees since 2008.

