



Beltu Farm

.....
 Alemayehu Refera, Beltu Project Manager

Barn

The barn, which is used to house cattle and other animals that come to the farm, is under maintenance. Maintenance is needed from time to time because the animals damage it when they try to escape.

Grains

The sale of grains is undergoing. The sale of sorghum has been completed, and the sale of buck pronto is in process. Some produce has already been delivered to some villages. Today, 252 quintals of buck pronto wheat was sold to Bodity and Wanjissa villages. All grains are transported to the villages by tractor.

Large piles of seed grains are available. Alemayehu is worried that if heavy rain come, some of the seed grains may be spoiled by water. Plastic layers were not put on the ground before the piles began to form, in the assumption that it would soon be shipped. It is recommended that this produce to be shipped as fast as possible.

Water Pumps

The water pumps are working properly. The community members are buying water, as usual, for human and animal consumption.

Small Farm

The small farm is producing as usual. The poultry feed is almost finished, and ordering now will provide ample time to bring the feed to the farm on time. The poultry shade is nearly ready to fall, and it needs maintenance before it collapses due to high speed winds.

(continued on page 2...)



(...continued from page 1)

Community Relations (Village, School, Water, and Other Projects)

MAI community relations reflect on the importance of the farm to the local community. Wheat and sorghum grains are sold to the community at fair price. They are happy. Water is also sold to the community, just to show them that it has intrinsic value but it is not covering the cost of its production. They are very much happy to get such clean water in close proximity. Nowadays, people are talking as though “Morrell is a gift from God”.

The elementary school is nearly finished. Ten quintals of cement was given from the store, and they need to finish all of the work by the end of this week.

The Wanjissa Village requested that water be transported to the school for mud production, which will be used to cover the wall of the classrooms.

Crops

Currently, there are no crops growing in the field. Green manure and sorghum pre-implementation trial plots are seeded. Nothing has germinated, yet.

Facilities

The fence along the air strip is completed.

The construction of a cafeteria fitting for both Christians and Muslims is almost complete. Some required items are missing. Tables, chairs, food preparation appliances, feeding plates, and others are yet to be fulfilled. No television service is available, as there is no TV set, receiving antenna, or dish.

Research

Today’s report regarding crops and research are as follows:

- The daily soil moisture tracking from pilot plots planted for sorghum green manure is done.
- The daily soil moisture tracking from adaptation plots of planted sorghum is done.
- The daily weather downloads from the weather station is done.
- Monitoring adaptation plots and pilot plots occurs every day.



Community School Projects

Alemayehu Refera, Beltu Project Manager

Goro Raya Primary School

In mid-March, Alemayehu and Annwar traveled to the Goro Raya Primary School to follow-up on the completion of the school building, which is nearly done. The remaining work left to be completed is as follows.

- a. Final groundwork (called LISHO),
- b. Finalizing of the windows and doors,
- c. Work on edges and corners,
- d. Rain water removal canals, and
- e. Painting.



Wenjissa

They also traveled to the Wenjissa village to check on the water tanker and the school. The tanker is completed, but the gutter still needed to be fixed. They took the gutter with them, and it should be fixed by now so that it can collect rain water in the tanker.

The walls of two blocks of classrooms have not been plastered with mud, and they have asked for water for use in the preparation of the mud. Alemayehu saw students sitting in the classrooms in which the walls were open and dust was entering freely.



Kokosa Dairy Farm

.....
Abera Chala, Kokosa Project Director

The activities performed on the farm from February 2012 to March 24, 2012 are reported as the following.

Livestock Management

All animals on the farm were managed in their day to day lives, so that they could produce the expected product and profit needed to meet the goals and objectives of the project in both fattening and dairy farming. Management was performed by caring for the animals' health during their stay on the farm. In February 2012, all animals in the fattening program received vaccination for environmental adaption. Ivermicine was given by the farm doctor as soon they came to the farm from different markets and met other animals on the farm. On February 18, 2012, one of the fattening animals was affected by a general antiseptic general disease known locally as "gamoje" and was given Deoxytetracycline by the farm assistance. The new came cows and calves from the Beltu farm were also given the vaccination after few days of their arrival. Vaccination was also given to the newly-bought horses and cows from the Negelle Metama Market in February 2012.

Regarding the feeding of animals, in February 2012, six quintals of ground burned wheat burn came from Beltu, along with the cows, and it provided additional feed for the dairy cows on the farm. It was been given to both milking cows and the Holstein calves that were bought from Debirazayt by MAI. Every morning, 10 kg was given to the milked cows during milking time. The rest of burn was given to the Holstein calves as a special feeding treatment. Each calf was given 2 kg each day after watering. Due to this treatment, the Holstein calves recovered and are currently in good body condition and physical fattiness. The cows were also giving about 2-3 liters of milk each day in February 2012, but today they are giving 5-6 liters of milk each day. Also, 50 quintals of marble dust, 5 quintals of DAP, and 5 quintals of mineral salt arrived on the farm in March 2012. This was added to feeding every morning. Of the 306 fattening animals that were bought, 122 were sold, three died due to different health problems and accidents, and 181 were left on the farm. The animals MAI supplies to the Addis Super markets are normal veal, baby veal, bulls, and steer.

Of the twelve Boran fattening cows on the farm, eight were sold to fulfill the customer need, and four of them are currently found on the farm.

Abera has been working on repairing the tractor so that staff can start plowing the land to plant different varieties of animal feed and grasses imported from United States. A battery and compressor were bought and taken to Shashamene to repair the spar. Hopefully, plowing will begin next week.

Barn Construction and Maintenance

The new barn construction begun on February 28, 2012 and was completed on March 5, 2012. The old barn was also maintained about 10-15m on its right horizontal side. The house for the Holstein cows was maintained on its door. It needs to be separate and prepared in such a way that it will be suitable for feeding and watering inside.

(continued on page 5...)

(...continued from page 4)

Grazing Land Management and Bush Cleaning

About 100 hectares of grazing land was cleared by traditional and local methods (burning). The reason for clearing was to remove unwanted and non-palatable grass and unwanted bushes that are considered weeds on the farm. The clearing was done on March 10, 2012, but due to the wind changing directions while the fire burned, a large area of land and farmer's property was burned. It was finally controlled by the participation of the community living around the farm.

Purchase of Animals and Animals Supplementary Feed

As mentioned above, 306 animals were bought from different markets around the farm, including the Negele Metama, Arbegona, Gata, Boran, and Arsi Negelle cattle markets. Mineral supplementary feed, called marbel dust, DAP and mineral salt, was bought from the Addis and Shashemene areas. Two horses were also bought for farm transportation services.

Marketing of Cattle (Beef)

As indicated above, a total of 122 animals were sold to Addis supermarkets. That number included 10 normal veal, 15 baby veal, and 93 bulls, and the money were collected at MAI's Addis account. Milk was also sold.

Water Project for Community and for the Farm

Water is very important for the community and for the project. So, to close this gap, staff started the water project for the community and for the Kokosa Dairy Development Project. One well has already been dug for the Diki Kabele and is 90% done. An installation well was started for the project. Abera hopes that will be finalized, and that clean water will flow, next week. The generator is also being repaired.



Logistics



Mamayenenesh Teshome

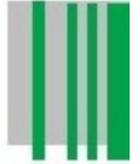
The Transportation and Logistics Department has been able to deal with the clearance of the tractor, that was sold to the Ethiopian Sugar Corporation. All customs formalities have been performed, and the tractor has been handed over to the buyer.

In an attempt to bring about cost effective, guaranteed, and reliable order, the Logistics Department, in collaboration with Procurement Department, is designing what is known as an Order Placement Channel (OPC). When completed and fully implemented, the OPC is expected to be participatory, efficient, and manageable in bringing down the rates of problems, delays, and recurrences of cost.

In the other activities, the Transportation Department provided transportation services to all MAI staff and departments and managed rented vehicles for Addis services and to farm and field areas. In order to administer the company's and rented vehicles, vehicle request forms were developed and submitted to all MAI staff.

Besides the routine maintenance of all facilities and the arrangement of accommodations for staff and guests, the Facilities Department over the past month has successfully handed over the CMC guest house after some major renovation work had been performed. It is also preparing to hand over the big guest house, by the office, to the owner.

Currently, the department is working with the inventory team to organize a list of items that should be checked during the handover of the new Bilitu Farm.



Alyssa Seed Farm in Beltu

An Overview of Morrell Agro Industries Projects

Who We Are?

Morrell Agro Industries (MAI) is a private sector agricultural company founded in Ethiopia in 1998 (2008 AD). MAI is engaged in agricultural activities in the fields of crops, livestock, and fruits. Mr. Paul Morrell owns companies with operations in the Middle East and Africa. The companies are well known for their distribution and manufacturing businesses, developing plants, building markets, running profitable and sustainable business, farming operations, and empowering rural communities to participate in development. Mr. Morrell also maintains Morrell Family Charities (MFC) that supports operations in the US, Central and South America, Russia, and Africa with a focus on the most vulnerable populations in the world. MAI has five ongoing projects in Ethiopia.

VISION

To see Ethiopia as a country where food shortage is no more a threat to people, where business is developed and people have improved economically and have better standards of living.

GOAL

To build a competitive agricultural industry in Ethiopia based on a private investment that generates employment and economic benefits to rural communities, the company, and the nation at large.

MAI PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- Increase investment in agriculture, nutrition, and agro industry development activities.
- Develop seeds of improved varieties for key crops that can thrive in dry areas through participatory research and improving access to foundation seeds.
- Multiply crop varieties to improve access to high quality seed to enhance production and productivity.
- Promote disseminations and scale up the use of improved seed and farm best practices to improve variety adoption and usage.
- Improve productivity and efficiency along the crops and livestock value chains to support agricultural growth.
- Promote community led investment to ensure organizational growth and sustainability.
- Positively impact livelihoods and the local economy.
- Reduce adverse effects of climate change.
- Ensure gender equity.
- Promote public and private partnerships in key aspects of agriculture including seed certification system.

MAI is committed to improve food production in Ethiopia by introducing appropriate technologies, the best farming practices, and innovations along the value chains of key crops, livestock products, and fruits.



Jefferson wheat growing under a smallholder farmer's management condition, Langano Area

MORRELL AGRO INDUSTRIES PROJECTS

I. Humanitarian / Safety Net Support Project

Prior to MAI's formation, the founder and MAI president, Mr. Paul Morrell, provided funds to support orphans, poor households, single mothers, and people living with HIV/AIDS in Ethiopia. Such efforts have provided safety net assistance. The assistance includes cash and in-kind support to rural communities, educational support to youth groups and schools, and access to clean water. The humanitarian assistance is still continuing, but such investments will not guarantee a long-lasting solution to ending poverty. The communities need to be linked to economic strengthening activities to be self-sufficient in food and other household needs. Hence, the Foresight Fathers Project is designed to link communities to various activities to improve income. The activities include dry land farming, 40-liter vegetable gardens, and credit services.



The project is introducing dry land farming technology to lowland areas of Ethiopia to grow crops that can thrive in moisture stress areas, where crop failure is common and people are food insecure and dependent on aid. With this technology, multiple cropping is possible to enhance agricultural growth. The main purpose of this project is to multiply seed of promising key crops and to improve the availability of improved seed for farming. MAI, in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture and Research Institutes, imported thirteen new crop varieties of wheat and barley from the US that are appropriate for local Ethiopian conditions. The project is aimed at promoting dry land cropping and resilience to climatic variability to improve livelihoods in dry areas.



MAI leased 10,000 hectares of land in Beltu, Bale Zone, Oromia National Regional State, with the possibility of expansion to 30,000 hectares in the same area or elsewhere, to multiply research proven crop seed varieties. So far, 6,000 hectares of land have been demarcated and cleared. 3,000 hectares are under cultivation, including lands under research for various crop varieties and soils. 18,000 quintals of Jefferson wheat seed, an American drought resistance crop, is being supplied to farmers residing in the Bale lowland, East and West Harar, the Rift Valley areas, and to millers in Addis Ababa. Jefferson wheat has excellent milling and baking qualities and a high protein content. Strong partnerships with millers and food processors has created a link from growers to markets. The Beltu farm, also known as the Alyssa Farm, is equipped with modern imported John Deer state-of-the-art farm machineries and tools, which are some of today's best. These include, but not limited to, heavy duty tractors, combines, seed drills and planters, seed cleaning and storage facilities, huge silos, and Dodge trucks.





III. Rift Valley Seed Project

MAI is helping farmers in the Rift Valley to improve farming. The project supports communities residing from the Mojo to Hawassa areas to practice dry land farming through technical support, training, input supply, market access, and other extension service provisions in partnership with the Bureau of Agriculture, agronomists, and development agents. Farmers are encouraged to produce seed of good quality for farming as well as to supply it as grain to millers. Farmers are happy about their harvest. Before the project started, MAI established trial sites in a school compound, FTCs, and farmers' plots to demonstrate and practice dry land farming in its practical terms. Improved wheat and barley varieties were planted in October and November for early an February harvest. Field days, farm visits, and tours were organized to improve technology shopping and adoption.



MAI issued certificates and awards to outstanding smallholder farmers, agronomists, and development agents to encourage technology transfer and adoption.



IV. Kokosa Livestock Development Project

MAI leased land in Kokosa, West Arsi Zone, Oromia National Regional State for the company livestock project. MAI is procuring cattle from the surrounding farmers, Borena areas, ranches, and dairy farms to supply meat to supermarkets in Addis Ababa. The project initiated embryo transfer technology to facilitate research institutions to improve the availability of dairy animals. Communities residing around the farm are assisted to improve meat and milk production through training, feeding, animal health, breed, and market improvement services. Pastoral communities around the Beltu farm are also engaged in various development activities.



V. Fruit Project

162 varieties and 706 fruit tree seedlings, barriers, cherries, and bamboos were imported and have been planted in different research centres. The plants are under a research and screening process.

TROPICAL FRUITS



TEMPERATE FRUITS



Morrell Agro Industries, Bole sub-city Kebele 03/05 House no. 2310 P. O. Box 5705 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Location: Behind Bole Medhani Alem Church, close to Intra Health International and Child Fund Offices

Office Tel: +251-11 6 18 03 76 /79

Fax: +251-11 6 18 03 73, +251-11 6 18 96 29

Website: www.morrellagro.com ; www.morrellfamily.org