



“Emergency response to restore the rural livelihoods of farmers affected by El Niño in Ethiopia”

Project code: OSRO/ETH/607/IRE

Donor: Ireland (Special Fund for Emergency and Rehabilitation Activities)

Contribution: EUR 100 000 (USD 112 740)

Implementation: 31/05/16 – 31/12/16

Target areas: Seharti-Samere *woreda*, Tigray Region



Contact

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Objective: To enhance the food security, nutrition and livelihoods of drought-affected vulnerable households in Ethiopia.

Key partners: Tigray National Regional State Bureau of Agriculture and Rural Development.

Beneficiaries reached: 2 890 households.

- Activities implemented:**
- Selected eleven *kebeles* (rural administrations) in Saherti-Samere *woreda* (district) of Tigray Region that had suffered severe drought impacts and were not targeted by other humanitarian partners.
 - Procured 1 198 quintals of improved wheat seed based on community preferences.
 - Reached 2 890 households with emergency seed for *meher* season planting, of which 79 percent were women-headed.
 - Facilitated training for almost all beneficiary farmers through the training of trainers method, focusing on improved agricultural practices, including techniques in land preparation, row and cluster planting, moisture conservation, fertilizer application, weeding, threshing, harvesting and storage.
 - Carried out regular monitoring, evaluation and backstopping activities through the implementing partner, extension workers and FAO staff based at the Tigray regional office.

- Results:**
- Contributed to the largest emergency seed response in Ethiopia’s history.
 - Enabled farming households affected by the El Niño-induced drought to plant 1 050 ha, enhancing their livelihood recovery and improving food security with the wheat harvested.
 - Supported households to achieve higher yields than average through the provision of improved seed varieties and training on good agricultural practices.
 - Improved income generation among beneficiary households, which was especially important for women-headed households that had lost much of their 2015/16 production to the drought.
 - Evaluated that seed aid was all planted (97 percent of households) and of good or excellent quality (96 percent); 90 percent of households received their seed of choice on time, 80 percent had some or no problems accessing other agricultural inputs and 96 percent were satisfied or very satisfied with the seed.