

Vita



For Climate Smart
Communities

NEWSLETTER

Quarterly newsletter published by Vita Ethiopia

Volume 01. No. 0010 December, 2022



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Contact Us

Vita Country Office: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
+251(0)- 116 - 67 52 69
Vita.Ethiopia@vita.ie
www.VitaImpact.org



For more Information: Contact

Ato Asfaw Mekuria, Country Director: Asfaw.mekuria@vita.ie
Ato Solomon Kebede, Deputy Country Director: solomon.kebede@vita.ie
Ato Ermiyas Guta, Programme Quality Manager: Ermiyas.Guta@vita.ie
Producer: Misgana Gobeze, Communication & publication officer
Written by: Misgana Gobeze
Edited by: Asfaw Mekuria
Layout Designed by: Misgana Gobeze: misgana.gobeze@vita.ie



The Irish Potato Research and Development Association Received a Certificate of Recognition

The Irish Potato Research and Development Association as a national institution has been registered and accorded legal personality as of November 28, 2022. It was established by the nine founding members of the coalition on February 17, 2022, and received a certificate of recognition from the Authority for Civil Society Organizations (ACSO).

Vita recognizes a new approach is required that enables development partners to create equitable and sustainable potato value chains if the potential of potatoes as a food crop in Africa is to be realized.



The Irish Potato Research and Development Association Certificate

The founding partners of the association are Vita, the International Potato Centre, and Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research, Ministry of Agriculture, Amhara Regional Agricultural Research Institute (ARARI), Self Help, Africa Concern Worldwide, SNV, SOLAGRO.PLC.

The international potato Coalition acts as the driver to coordinate a seven-country Potato Coalition covering Ethiopia, Malawi, Eritrea, Tanzania, Uganda, Mozambique, and Kenya. The Coalition involves Irish and international NGOs together with CIP and various science and business partners.



Ato Asfaw Mekuria
President of Irish Potato Research and Development Association

Ato Asfaw Mekuria said, "I am delighted to see this association stand on its own feet. The main objective of the Irish Potato Research and Development Association is to access the benefits of multi-country experiences and to encourage collaboration between partners across the value chain using a combined approach between Development, Science, and Business."



The Signing Ceremony participants





The GIZ and Vita Conducted a Joint Monitoring Visit in the Gamo zone, SNNPR Ethiopia

A joint monitoring field visit of 'Integrated Forest Landscape Restoration for Livelihood Improvement in Lake Chamo Catchment, Elgo Sub-Watershed project' was conducted from Nov 28 – Dec. 01, 2022. The visit was organized by GIZ and Vita. The main purpose of the visit was to help donors get a better understanding of what has been done on the ground so far and fill the gap. The visit also aimed to make sure the projects are all making good progress and inputs from the beneficiaries are received and acted upon in future planning of activities.

Both Vita and GiZ field teams facilitated and commenced the visit by organizing the kick-off meeting by presenting the project activity accomplishments during the end of the project period. During those fruitful field days, the team visited Zaga, Geressie Zala, Dembille Ossa, and Dembille Otor kebeles of Geressie woreda. The team visited four primary cooperatives that work on closure area management, an apiary group, Private forage development, Moringa plantation & woodlot establishment, and poultry production.



Ato Abraham Tsegaye, Private Forage Farmer

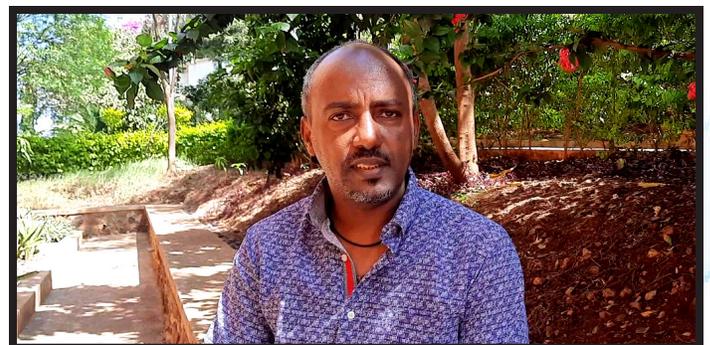
Ato Abraham Tsegaye is one of the beneficiaries working on private forage development activity. The joint monitoring team visited his farm and forwarded some important professional advice. Abraham said, "With the support of GIZ and Vita, our natural resource is improving from degradation. In the past, our cattle used to enter the protected dense forest in search of grassland and destroy it, but now we are cultivating forage here, our cattle do not go anywhere in search of grassland."



**W/ro Hiwot Workagegnehu
Manager of Forest for Future project**

At the end of the visit, W/ro Hiwot Workagegnehu, the Manager of Forest for Future project said, "With regards to the actual restoration we have seen some areas which were degraded and lost vegetation now there are at least some grasses, herbs, and tribe species covering the areas and the soil. This is a remarkable change that is encouraging and promising"

Finally, the team had a feedback and reflection session on the overall achievements of the contracted activity package. Feedback from the team was very positive. Ato Solomon Kebede, Vita Deputy Country Director said, "We have good feedback from the communities during this joint visit. We were impressed with the achievement of what we have seen on the ground that encourages both GIZ and Vita to strengthen our partnership."



**Ato Solomon Kebede
Vita Deputy Country Director**

Irish Poultry Carton Family Visit



Justin Carton with one of the Poultry Farmers at Atta Woreda

Justin Carton from Carton Family foundation has provided financial and technical support and visited the Poultry Project in Amhara Region. Vita together with Carton Family Foundation organized a three-day mission visit to the project entitled "Transforming Village Poultry Producers into Small Agro-Business Ventures" from Nov. 08 to 10/ 2022. The visit was aimed at better understanding the project and its impact on beneficiaries.

During the visit, Justin observed how the poultry project improved the livelihood of those beneficiaries' life and see their progress. Atsebe Abebe, one of the beneficiaries who was dependent on her husband's income before the project is able to generate additional income to support her family through this project. She is able to sell 60 to 80 eggs in a week. She becomes financially independent and has a passion to make the poultry business as one of her regular major income sources.

Alike Atsebe, Wudie similarly has also benefited a lot from the project. She expanded her farm by adding additional breeds and she bought two sheep using the money. Now, apart from chickens, she has sheep and cows, sells milk, eggs, and chickens, and manages her household independently. Before we left the village, we had a valuable discussion with Laygayint Woreda stakeholders and beneficiaries.

The government officers acknowledged the Carton families' support through Vita and presented traditional clothing to Mr. Justin.

"I was very encouraged by what I saw in the field. Firstly, the project itself successfully met an exceedingly matrix that we had set before. We had set the program for three years and we are



**Mr. Justin Carton
From Carton Family Foundation**

now halfway through but already we met more beneficiaries

coming on board which is excellent to see. In addition to that, I have seen some beneficiaries improve their life because of the increased income that they have earned in the sale of eggs and chicken they are now moving on in terms of expanding and getting additional breeds of birds that they find more preferable and using the money to buy goats and sheep which is really encouraging that they are moving the value chain up as they increased their income and therefore moving to the position of greater sustainability. This exceeded my expectations." said Mr. Justin Carton.

The team visited Debre Tabor University department of



Asst. prof. Mekuanent Gashaw with Justin

poultry and observed the potential for university the involvement of the university in the area. After the visit, a discussion was held with Asst. prof. Mekuanent Gashaw Dean of the College of Agriculture and Environmental Science.

Justin Carton, has also visited Andasa Research Center. There was an intensive discussion with Dr. Adebabay Kebede, Director of the Research Center on the possibility of scaling up the partnership in the future.

Animal Feed Processing Factory

The visit was extended to Muluye Animal Feed Processing Factory which started its operation in due course grown at a large scale with an innovative sales approach by increasing the number of sales agents to supply feeds to customers at grass root which was the main problem of poultry farmers.

Skills Training on Effective Communication



Vita staff after training

Mrs. Ciara, Head of Fundraising & Communications of Vita Ireland organized and provided an interactive half-day training on effective communication skills on November 11, 2022 to Vita staff drawn from the country office and field coordination offices in Addis Ababa.

The objective of this training was to enhance the capacity of participants the principles of channels of communication clearly understand the message through interaction with impact, by improving the ability to build interpersonal skills as well as Vita’s brand and reputation.

Communications to be a very informative one!”



Ciara Feehely
Head of Fundraising & Communications

Ciara Feehely, said, “Developing communication skills is an essential part of office teamwork. The training was so great that all participated so vocally and so positively. I particularly found the engagement around what is Community-Led



Ato Akalu Gebreyes
Vita Admin and Finance Director

At the closing session, Ato Akalu Gebreyes said, “Overall the training programme is good and it will help a lot in the implementation of our daily routine. I thank you for the wonderful training which we all happy and thinking about our branding not only for external promotion but also internal purpose throughout the implementation of programs and projects”



National Potato Conference in Eritrea



The Potato Conference Participant in partial

The Eritrea Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) organized the National Potato Conference in Asmera on the 21st and 24nd of September under the theme "One vision and harmonized work for a sustainable seed potato supply." At the Conference eleven international organizations were invited Among those Vita Ethiopia team led by Ato Asfaw Mekuria, the Country Director has participated the conference and shared the experience by power presentation

entitled 'Farmer Based Potato seed Multiplication in the Screen house to Improve Early Generation Seed Access in Gamo Zone, South Ethiopia' by Tadele Girma from Vita-Ethiopia, and papers on the Irish Potato Coalition in Ethiopia by Mr. Mesfin Kebede

Speaking at the occasion, Mr. John Weakliam, Vita CEO, as a host of the conference said "Eritrea is growing rapidly to get away from dependency on imported potato seed with the hope in 5 or 10 years, Eritrea may be a big surprise and a big support for the whole of East Africa where there are 4 million

potato farmers."

The conference was organized so that all the different actors come together and shared their experiences, for more collaboration and networking.



Mr. John Weakliam, Vita CEO

Justin Carton Visited the Poultry...

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Justin Carton and the team visited the factory and agreed to sign MOU to strengthen partnerships to avoid poultry feed scarcity.



Visitors at Muluye Animal Feed Processing Factory

Finally, a wrap-up meeting and reflection were made by Mr. Justine Carton. He forwarded some important technical recommendations and discussed them with the team.



Visitors at Andasa Research Center

