

# **Final Evaluation Report for “Scaling-up Local Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Efforts Project”**

## **Addis Development Vision (ADV)**



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**Acronyms**

AATVETC -Alagae Agricultural Technical Vocational Education Training Centre

ADV-Addis Development Vision

CRGE- Climate-Resilient Green Economy

CSO- civil society organization

DAC- Development Assistance Committee

EDF – European development Fund

EU-CSFII-European Union Civil Society Fund II

GoE-Government of Ethiopia

GTPII- Growth and Transformation Plan II

M&E- Monitorind and evalaution

MoU- memorandum of understanding

NGO- Nongovernmental organization

NRM -Natural resource management

SDA- Siltie Development Association

SNNPRS- Southern Nation Nationalities and People Regional State

TAU of CSFII-Technical Assistance Unit of Civil Society Fund II

TOT- Training of traner

## **Acknowledgement**

The evaluation team would like to express its appreciation to all individuals and groups who were participated in the final evaluation of scaling up local climate adaptation and mitigation efforts project. The team is extremely grateful for the commitment of key program staff of ADV, in taking part in interviews and data collection, as well as in organizing interview sessions and focus group discussions despite their workload and time constrain.

We would like also to extend our heartfelt thanks to the project target groups who participated in the focus group discussions and interviews.

## **Executive Summary**

The main purpose of this report is to summarize the key findings of the final evaluation for the ADV/EU Civil Society Fund II (CSFII): Scaling up local climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts. The project has the overall objective of addressing the issue of climate change and building of resilience of vulnerable communities and farmers to improve food security in Siltie Zone of SNNPRS.

The overall evaluation process was treated as a collaborative learning activity and exchange of experiences for all stakeholders involved in the project. Different approaches were employed to evaluate the project which includes document reviews, field observations and focus group discussion. Key Informant Interviews were also conducted with government officials and members of the ADV project coordination staff. The evaluation team visited three project woredas- Sankura (Adasha Liko and Menoseyota Kebeles), Lanfuro (Gerar Wrefeda and Shafede Debar Kebeles) and Hulbareg (Ambercho Achamo and Wacho Abiso Kebeles).

This report is prepared based on the findings obtained from various sources outlined above and highlights the relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, impacts, and sustainability of the project on the lives of the poor people. It also focuses on existing or anticipated problems that may affect the outcome and sustainability of the project impacts and suggests possible future interventions that could strengthen or complement these efforts.

### **The key findings of the evaluation team are summarized below**

The project under evaluation was innovative in its nature and relevant and appropriate to the realities, target groups and sectors as it applied effective approaches for Scaling up local climate adaptation and mitigation efforts. The evaluation also found out that the project was relevant to donors' strategic objectives and national development priorities (GTPII and CRGE). The implementation modality where two co-applicants were selected based on their area of specialization was also relevant to make the project implementation more successful, efficient and impactful.

With regard to effectiveness, the project was effective in terms of executing the planned activities as scheduled and within the life time of the project. Following the implementation of the planned campaigns and lobby actions of the project, local-level actions of model farmers towards the application of indigenous knowledge have been enhancing the capacity of small scale farmers and local government personnel on climate change related risks, scaling up of successful climate adaptation and mitigation strategies, and improving policy engagements for sustainable management of land and agro ecosystems.

The trainings provided directly to model farmers that were closely supporting and been cascading best practices on climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies identified by the baseline assessment to their fellow farmers resulted in improved livelihood and resilience of poor farmers. These actions also increased awareness and engagement of farmers in on natural resources related issues. Strong and committed co-applicants which have provided necessary supports, directions and orientation for model farmers are the success factors for the proper the application of indigenous

knowledge and best practices for climate change adaptation and resilience building approaches.

The project was efficient though it was implemented in five project districts. Interviewed co-applicant's team witnessed that ADV had installed professional approaches to this project management. The way ADV has divided project activities among the co-applicants based on their experience and context for a greater impact, the technical supports provided for the co-applicants and the capacity of ADV to meet the EU requirements and capacity to comply with the rules and regulations were interesting. The project was also concluded within the given time frame and using the allocated resources. ADV, co-applicants and model farmers had also supported the project implementation in various forms.

The project had also positive impact against the target result areas and ADV and its co-applicant level. The campaigns and lobby components of the project have created opportunities for increased application of indigenous knowledge and best practices for climate change adaptation and resilience building approaches. This result has presumably led to the increased local level engagement of other community structures in NRM and other climate change related issues. The implementation of the project activities such as skills training for model farmers about the practices and management of climate smart agriculture has resulted in the engagement of farmers in different climate smart agricultural practice.

ADV and its co-applicants had received several capacity building supports from the project. In terms of sustainability, the project has been strengthening farmers by employing farmer to farmer extension approach, providing trainings and organizing experience sharing visits. As one model farmers indicated, "model farmers can independently function from now on wards. Constructive relationship was established with government. They can now decide on their fate". Field observations and discussions provide similar evidences. However, there were model farmers that need further support and capacity building for greater evidence based advocacy and sustainability.

### **Recommendations**

Based on the findings obtained and conclusions drawn, the following recommendations have been forwarded:

- 1) ADV and its co-applicants needs to continue producing evidences on the contribution of the project on managing natural resources, mitigating and adapting to climate change impacts thereby presents evidence for scaling up the gains.
- 2) ADV and its co-applicants should continue to build a strong network and platform that can positively influence and enhance scaling up of the intervention logic to other areas, such as INGOs, universities, relevant government structures and research institutes. This could be a good opportunity to share learning and scale up the approach.
- 3) Building the capacity of influential farmers and local leaders should be crucial to mobilize and convince the communities on the importance of this kind of development approach for community development.
- 4) The celebration of annual environment day was the most effective project action that should be strengthened and scaled up for evidenced documentation and learning develop learning agenda during future programming and capture the learning.

- 5) Repeated exposure using different examples will deepen understanding of the dialogues on the application of indigenous knowledge and best practices for climate change adaptation and resilience building approaches with the involvement of relevant actors are crucial to scale of the local climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts. Awareness creation and capacity building should be provided on regular basis due to the following reason:
  - ✚ High level of literacy means continuous practical and intensive training to raise awareness, and to empower and engage farmers
- 6) Rapid turnover of local officials, sector officers and service providers affects effective institutionalization and mainstreaming of the approach in the government's NRM and climate change efforts.
  - ✚ This can be remedied by providing training to the new officials, officers and staff immediately after they assume their posts. It can also be addressed by requiring that all public officials have training on the the application of indigenous knowledge and best practices for climate change adaptation and resilience building approaches

## **1. Background**

ADV has a profound history rooted in its community development endeavors. It is community centered and promotes an integrated development approach in addressing community development issues. ADV's work began by a group of Ethiopian volunteers, in the early 1990s, and is in a state of continuous advancement both as an organization and in the services it delivers to the disadvantaged communities. In its two decade plus life working in development (urban and rural), ADV has gone long distances to introduce project activities that target women, youth, and highly vulnerable groups (orphans and school going girl children in particular) to access and benefit from what the average citizen enjoy in.

As part of its overall programme, and with a financial support from the European Union Civil Society Fund ADV and its co-applicants (SDA and AATVETC) have been implementing a project entitled "Scaling up local climate change adaption and mitigation efforts." The project has the overall objective of addressing climate change to improve environmental sustainability. The specific objectives envisaged to be achieved from the implementation this particular project is the build of resilience of vulnerable communities and farmers and to improve food security in Siltie zone of SNNPR. The project has also three result areas (enhanced capacity of small scale farmers and local government personnel on climate change related risks, scaling up of successful climate adaptation and mitigation strategies, and policy engagements for sustainable management of land and agro ecosystems).

ADV has deployed technical staff for the implementation and maintained a system of progress tracking and reporting to the donor as well as other key stakeholders to the project. The project has been operational since August 02, 2016 and phased out at the beginning of February 01, 2019. In this regard, ADV is intended to assess the overall performance of the project, identify challenges and draw lessons and recommendations to inform the relevance of the project for future programming. The final evaluation team reviewed the project objectives, results, activities and outputs that employ the evaluation criteria of relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, value addition, M&E system, sustainability and impact). In addition, the team also assessed the approaches applied for achieving results, with due emphasis on efforts related to capacity building and partnerships (the interplay between the efforts of Partners, Associates, target groups and associations of beneficiaries).

## 2. Objectives of the Final Evaluation

As indicated in the Terms of Reference, the overall purpose of the final evaluation was to contribute to strengthening accountability to key stakeholders and the internal learning of ADV with regard to performances in programme implementation, generating lessons learnt and assuring result orientation.

This evaluation, within the overall thematic area of local climate adaptation and mitigation strategies had the following specific objectives:

- ❖ To identify and assess outputs and outcomes of activities implemented as part of the project “**Scaling up local climate change adaption and mitigation efforts**”. To the extent possible the contribution of the activities to the overall objectives of the project as well as to that of the mission of ADV will be assessed.
- ❖ In comparison to expected results in project document, assess how and to what extent the approaches applied by ADV and its co-implementers contribute to climate change adaptation and mitigation strategy
- ❖ **Relevance** – among others, how well matched are the project interventions to the socio-cultural, institutional, political and economic contexts of the target groups and the country/region? Were opportunities, entry points and risks clearly articulated and employed or managed?
- ❖ **Value addition**- to what extent was the grantees innovative in accomplishing strategies that help the NSA community respond to prevailing challenges for effective operation? (Including accessing & broadening resource base, raising local fund, strengthening membership and partnership).
- ❖ **Efficiency** - Are projects/programme inputs consistent with efficient achievement of outputs and outcomes? Have project funds been disbursed in ways consistent with efficient achievement of objectives? Have all partners been able to provide their contributions to the project? Given objectives, were alternative approaches available that could have been used resources more efficiently?
- ❖ **Effectiveness** - Have the interventions achieved or are likely to achieve their objectives? Have the Objectively Verifiable Indicators (OVI's); targets according to the logframe, been achieved as planned to date? What is the quality of results achieved? What is the likelihood of the Specific Objectives to be achieved as envisaged and measured in the OVI's of the Log frame? To what extent is the choice of intervention channels and mechanisms adequate to achieve the intended results? What are the main obstacles/challenges to achieve the intended results? Has there been any change in objectives? What explains any non-achievement of objectives? Are there any unexpected outcomes?
- ❖ **Impact:** Did the assumptions at project purpose (Specific Objectives) level remained true over the implementation period? What are the key achievements of the interventions in terms of policy, practice and behaviour change? What are the intended/envisaged pathways from project results to broader overall development outcomes?
- ❖ **Sustainability:** How likely is it that outputs and outcomes of the interventions will be sustained? What actions/conditions have been put in place to sustain changes in channels and mechanisms? Are capacities supported by the interventions likely to be sustained and result in sustained improvements in the future?
- ❖ Assess the usefulness of applied **Monitoring and Evaluation systems** for the achievement, documentation and communication of results.

### 3. Framework of the Final Evaluation

The final evaluation used five -DAC evaluation criteria as an evaluation framework (Relevance, Effectiveness, Efficiency, Sustainability and Impact). In addition, the evaluation used the two EU specific evaluation criteria, namely value addition and M &E systems of the action. In this regard, the evaluation team collected data and tracked the progress of the pre-defined indicators from the baseline value to date. Overall, the main evaluation questions with indicative data collection tools and methods are summarized in the following table.

**Table 1: Framework of the Final Evaluation**

<b>Evaluation criteria</b>	<b>Consolidated evaluation questions and themes</b>	<b>Indicative data collection methods</b>	<b>Indicative data collection tools</b>
<b>Relevance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How well matched are the project interventions to the socio-cultural, institutional, political and economic contexts of the target groups and the country/region?</li> <li>• Were opportunities, entry points and risks clearly articulated and employed or managed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Desk review</li> <li>• Key informant interviews:</li> <li>• Focus group discussions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Document review template</li> <li>• key informant interviews guide</li> <li>• FGD guide</li> </ul>
<b>Value addition</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To what extent was ADV innovative in accomplishing strategies that help the NSA community respond to prevailing challenges for effective operation? (Including accessing &amp; broadening resource base, raising local fund, strengthening membership and partnership).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Desk review</li> <li>• Key informant interviews:</li> <li>• Focus group discussions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Document review template</li> <li>• key informant interviews guides</li> <li>• FGD guide</li> </ul>
<b>Efficiency</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are projects/program inputs consistent with efficient achievement of outputs and outcomes?</li> <li>• Have project funds been disbursed in ways consistent with efficient achievement of objectives?</li> <li>• Have all partners been able to provide their contributions to the project?</li> <li>• Given objectives, were alternative approaches available that could have been used resources more efficiently</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Desk review</li> <li>• Key informant interviews</li> <li>• Focus group discussions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Document review template</li> <li>• key informant interviews guide</li> <li>• FGD guide</li> </ul>
<b>Effectiveness</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have the interventions achieved or are likely to achieve their objectives?</li> <li>• Have the Objectively Verifiable Indicators (OVI's); targets according to the logframe, been achieved as planned to date?</li> <li>• What is the quality of results achieved?</li> <li>• What is the likelihood of the Specific Objectives to be achieved as envisaged and measured in the OVI's of the Logframe?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Desk review</li> <li>• Key informant interviews</li> <li>• Focus group discussions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Document review template</li> <li>• key informant interviews guide</li> <li>• FGD guide</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To what extent is the choice of intervention channels and mechanisms adequate to achieve the intended results?</li> <li>• What are the main obstacles/challenges to achieve the intended results?</li> <li>• Has there been any change in objectives?</li> <li>• What explains any non-achievement of objectives?</li> <li>• Are there any unexpected outcomes?</li> </ul>		
<b>Impact</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Did the assumptions at project purpose (Specific Objectives) level remained true over the implementation period?</li> <li>• What are the key achievements of the interventions in terms of policy, practice and behaviour change?</li> <li>• What are the intended/envisaged pathways from project results to broader overall development outcomes?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Desk review</li> <li>• Key informant interviews</li> <li>• Focus group discussions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Document review template</li> <li>• key informant interviews guide</li> <li>• FGD guide</li> </ul>
<b>Sustainability</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How likely is it that outputs and outcomes of the interventions will be sustained?</li> <li>• What actions/conditions have been put in place to sustain changes in channels and mechanisms? Are capacities supported by the interventions likely to be sustained and result in sustained improvements in the future?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Desk review</li> <li>• Key informant interviews</li> <li>• Focus group discussions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Document review template</li> <li>• key informant interviews guide</li> <li>• FGD guide</li> </ul>
<b>M &amp;E systems</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assess the usefulness of applied monitoring and evaluation systems for achievement, documentation and communication of results.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Desk review</li> <li>• Key informant interviews</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Document review template</li> <li>• Key informant guide</li> </ul>
<b>Documentation of good practice</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lessons learnt from the project at all levels.</li> <li>• Good transferable practices to other projects;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Desk review</li> <li>• Key informant interviews</li> <li>• Focus group discussions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Document review template</li> <li>• key informant interviews guide</li> <li>• FGD guide</li> </ul>

## **4. Methodological Approach**

This section presents sampling techniques used for the selection of project Woredas for field. It also presents the evaluation methodologies used for gathering data from the field as well as approaches used for analyzing the data.

### **4.1. Sampling criteria for field visits**

For the selection of Woredas covered in the primary data collection process, YEM Consultant Institute P.L.C applied various considerations. The major applied criteria are:

- Geographic representativeness
- The inclusion of project Woredas covered by ADV and its co-applicant (Siltie Development Association).

Based on the above considerations, YEM Consultant Institute P.L.C selected three project Woredas (Sankura, Lanfuro and Hulbareg) for primary data collection.

### **4.2. Data Gathering Methodology**

Multiple tools have used to gather quantitative and qualitative data for the evaluation and include consultations with key stakeholders, desk review of relevant documents and field data collection.

#### **4.2.1. Desk Review of Relevant Documents**

The first point of departure was project specific documentation available from ADV. In addition, the evaluation team reviewed reports/correspondences held by and made available from the client; the donor, collaborating government sources, from resource organizations (network/ apex organizations), higher learning institutions, the media and the likes. Such reports included: reviews and profiles of NGO/CSO institutional and organizational capacities; the approaches and strategies mostly promoted; internal networking for shared learning and joint actions; their participation and/or contributions in the overall national/regional development processes; status/trends in their partnerships with government and donors; status/trends in the operational environment, and the likes.

#### **4.2.2. Discussion and Approval of the Inception Workshops**

In the first place, inception report (output of the desk review) is presented to the client. At the finalization phase, a second workshop will possibly be organized so as to help validate the main findings, contribute to cross learning between organizations and facilitate buy-in from key stakeholders (dissemination) at head office level.

#### **4.2.3. Field Data Collection**

Field team was organized for data collection. The field data was collected through focus group discussions (FGDs), key-informants interviews (KIIs), case story approach. The efforts of model farmers as a result of the project intervention were assessed as part of the field data collection processes.

Data collection tools are prepared based on desk reviews and submitted with the inception report to get feedback from ADV on the suitability of the items. The questions were carefully constructed so as to capture the required data that reflect the prevailing contexts of the project implementation.

#### **4.2.3.1. Key Informant Interviews (KII)**

Key Informant Interviews (KII) was conducted with key stakeholders including the implementing co-applicants, the collaborating governmental departments (Finance and economic development, Bureau of Agriculture/natural resource department, and Project Advisory Committee Members. Key areas for discussion were identified and elaborated in line with the evaluation framework.

#### **4.2.3.2. Focus Group Discussions**

A mapping of model farmers and school environmental club members was done to identify the range of groups for the Focus Group Discussions (FGDs). Six<sup>1</sup> FGDs were conducted with the Model Farmers and School Environmental Club Members.

#### **4.2.3.3. Field trips**

The data collection team undertook field trip to Sankura, Lanfuro and Hulbareg. The purpose of the fieldtrip was to collect information on the implementation of the project, both by ADV and its co-applicants. The data collectors have got the opportunity to interview field-based staff, project beneficiaries and relevant stakeholders and partners.

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<sup>1</sup> two FGDs per woreda

## 5. Findings

### 5.1. Relevance

Ethiopia is experiencing the adverse effects of climate change. Besides the direct effects, such as an increase in average temperature or a change in rainfall patterns, climate change also presents the necessity and opportunity to switch to a new, sustainable development model. Following the conventional development path would result in a sharp increase in Green House Gas (GHG) emissions and unsustainable use of natural resources. To avoid such negative effects, the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia has initiated the CRGE initiative to protect the country from the adverse effects of climate change and to build a green economy that will help realise its ambition of reaching middle income status before 2025. The policy gives emphasis on suitable natural resource rehabilitation, management and utilization in order smallholder farmer to reduce their vulnerability to external shocks. The strategy is to follow a green economy pathway that fosters sustainable development. This has occurred through four pillars:

- ✚ Improving crop and livestock production practices for higher food security and farmer income while reducing emissions
- ✚ Protecting and re-establishing forests for their economic and ecosystem services, including as carbon stocks
- ✚ Expanding electricity generation form renewable energy for domestic and regional markets
- ✚ Leapfrogging to modern and energy efficient technologies.

The CRGE initiative also outlines the structure of a permanent institutional setup to drive implementation, and to promote the participation of a broad set of stakeholders. Moreover, the current GTPII document has also give emphasize on (i) Concerted efforts will be made to expand water shade management and to carry out effective soil, water and moisture retaining works. These will help also to better cope with the challenges of climate change (ii) Proper utilization of agricultural land (iii) expansion of renewable energy usage (iv) Carry out massive physical soil and water conservation works will through proactive and organized community participation (v) Concerted efforts will be made on forestry development, protection and utilization by the participation of communities.

SNNPRS's development strategy builds upon the national policy and strategy, taking into account the food security constraints and potentials and the extent of environmental degradation in the Region. This strategy focuses on conservation of natural resources through community participation as a basis for sound sustainable use of natural resources, including land, water and forests.

The national and regional development policies provided the broader policy framework and institutional environment for the relevance and successful implementation of this particular project. Hence, there is no doubt that the project is highly relevant and timely in addressing the needs, priorities and aspiration of the people that may enhance the opportunities of the communities in the targeted intervention areas and beyond. Thus, the evaluation team feel that all the above policy statement makes the project consistent with and supportiveness of the policy and program framework of GoE.

The overall objective of ADV/ EU-CSFII project is to address climate changes and restore ecosystem health and through and promotion of successful local mitigation and adaptation strategies.

This makes consistent with the priority needs of the local situation and ongoing initiatives which have been carried out by community and government intuitions such as the distribution of rehabilitated communal areas closures to land less youth and distribution of climate smart agricultural practice, expansion of low cost renewable biogas and solar facilities, introduction, demonstration and promotion of Small Scale irrigation are consistent with the project design.

With regard to project design and formulation, the team revealed that the description of the actions and logical framework matrix are clear and of good quality, and the objectively verifiable indicators stated in the project document are specific and measurable. Moreover, they are achievable particularly for enhanced capacity of small scale farmers and local government personnel on climate change related risks, scaling up of successful climate adaptation and mitigation strategies, and policy engagements for sustainable management of land and agro ecosystems.

The team revealed one of the fundamental aspects of the programme is its strong participatory and consultative element. The project advisory committee and different government sector offices were consulted to design the framework of the programme, and its implementation. Focus Group discussants in all assessment areas noted that the various t components of ADV project were derived from participatory needs analysis with the target communities. Model farmer group were trained to cascade best practices on climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies identified by the baseline assessment to their fellow farmers. It was hoped that this would encourage local ownership of the intervention and thus more likelihood of its positive impact being sustained beyond the programme completion.

The project was very much relevant to enhance the organizational and institutional capacities of ADV and its co-applicants. Through this project, ADV has purchased a project car that is essential to strengthen their outreach work to its constituent members and other stakeholders. The project was very much relevant to ADV from different perspective. It was relevant enhance its organizational capacities in organizing different trainings, exposure visits, consultative meetings between and among model farmers and government partners in an attempt to create demonstrated recognition for the farmer to farmer extension approach and cooperation among different actors. The project was also relevant in improving the institutional capacities of ADV and co-applicants to scale up local climate adaptation and mitigation efforts.

From the discussion with local government officials, the evaluation team learnt that the local government has accepted the relevance of the project and are fully supporting its implementation. Because of the positive reposes of various government organs at different level, good practices related with climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies, which were identified by ADV baseline assessment, have got recognition by Siltie Zone government officials. In this connection, the evaluation team observed a reform action plan developed during the zonal level dialogue to apply the identified good practices related with climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies. As to the reform action plan, zonal level government officials have allocated all necessary budgets to scale up the identified good practices on climate change adaptation and mitigation. This effort could help to sustain results and the replication / scale up the best practices.

## **5.2. Project Efficiency**

The relationship between ADV and its applicants during the implementation of the project was governed by MoU. The development of the MoU was a consultative process between the partners based on the rules and procedures of the EU -CSF II Programme. The MoU also clearly identified the respective responsibilities of the partners consistent with their respective

roles. This allows for a synergetic partnership capitalizing upon the strengths of ADV and its co-applicants. In all cases, the project was an efficient project. The project has been supporting the scaling up of local climate adaptation and mitigation efforts. As a result, the project has invested on identifying existing best practices on climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies. The effort to create enabling environment, capacity building for model farmers and other anticipated project results had fertile grounds even before the project. As a result, most of the project results explained have used smaller amount of money than they would have consumed if the project had started from the scratch.

Furthermore, ADV and its co-applicants have used their own office set up, office equipment and facilities to implement this project. On top of this, staff members of ADV and its co-applicants were active supporters and contributors of the project.

At local level, the model framers were active and alive. They had played their respective roles in cascading best practices on climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies identified by the baseline assessment to their fellow farmers. Hence, the project had stimulated, catalysed and enhanced the capacities of farmers' and organizational and institutional capacities of ADV and its co-applicants.

In terms of financial resource management and utilization, ADV has exhibited remarkable achievement. The overall planned budget of the project was ----- birr. ADV had actually received \_\_\_\_\_ birr (----- %) from its donors to rollout the planned project activities. By the end of the project period, ADV was able to utilize -----birr (----- %) of the received budget. ADV has received lower than the agreed amount of money to rollout the project. This has happened because ADV did not receive the third (final) instalment from EU. ADV may ask the remaining balance (or third instalment) from EU upon fulfilling its requirement as agreed. Although the above financial statement could be unaudited and not yet approved by the donor (s), ADV was able to use nearly -----% of the agreed project budget to rollout the planned project activities.

Given the implementation modality of the project where ADV had the obligation to support, coordinate and ensure the timely and proper budget implementation of the project, the financial performance of ADV could be stated as “exemplary” and progressive. As contacted staff of SDA stated rightly, the finance staff of ADV used to visits our office offices and used to provide the necessary guidance and support. In addition, ADV has been closely supporting SDA to implement their activities and utilize the project budget within the time period agreed and acceptable financial procedure. Provided existing experiences, systems and capacities of SDA, strong and close follow up, supervision and constructive relationship of ADV and its co-applicants would have been the leading success factor in this regard. ADV has also utilized its own meagre financial resource to complete the project activities regardless of the unreleased third instalment budget from EU which could have negative impacts on the project performance. Hence, the financial performance shows ADV's growing financial management capacities.

ADV undertook its monitoring roles through its organizational framework and staff deployed for the project under review. The chief monitoring mechanism for the project is periodic reporting. Quarterly reports are submitted by SDA to ADV on the implementation of project activities within its responsibility. ADV then prepares a consolidated quarterly report incorporating its own activities. The quarterly reports are finally submitted to the TAU of CSF II. These narrative reports present the activities planned for each quarter, status of implementation of activities, reasons for non-implementation and an updated action plan for the next quarter in the annexes. The reports for the latter quarters also include a section

assessing progress towards the achievement of the expected results with particular attention to the implementation of major activities as well as addressing impact, sustainability and visibility issues. .

The monitoring mechanisms put in place for the project were operational in measuring progress towards the achievement of the expected results. The periodic narrative reports provide an opportunity to assess the performance of the project on a regular basis. The incorporation of sections on the overall assessment of the project to date has strengthened the effectiveness of performance and result monitoring. Yet, the absence of appropriately designed specific indicators within a comprehensive monitoring framework has deducted from this positive trend. A more comprehensive monitoring system with appropriate indicators could have further enhanced the effectiveness of performance and results.

The monitoring mechanisms were able to identify and address the challenges arising in the implementation of the project. The follow up field visits enabled ADV to address a range of barriers to the functioning of the farmer to farmer extension approaches. Follow up activities were also instrumental in addressing issues pertaining to soliciting the support of key institutional actors for activities. The periodic reporting system, on the other hand, informed the updating of periodic implementation plans taking into account performance related and external issues in the previous implementation periods. Finally, the terminal evaluation provided a unique opportunity to map the way forward for project implementation with feedback from key partners and stakeholders.

## 5.2. Effectiveness

The question of effectiveness<sup>2</sup> touches on whether or not the primary objectives of the project interventions have been achieved. For this part of the assessment, a heavy reliance was placed on the evaluation of the results of the project as outlined in the project documents as well as on what was seen and reviewed during the field missions. The findings are organized and presented following the project log frame.

**Impact:** to address climate changes and restore ecosystem health through the promotion of successful local mitigation and adaptation strategies. The project reports revealed that all the planned project activities were implemented. Therefore, there is a general assumption that “if the planned activities were implemented, intended objectives are met or have the likelihoods of being attained because there is direct and logical relationship among the activities, outputs and higher level results of the project.

- **Impact indicator:** Number of Kebeles started address climate changes and restore eco systems health and functions;
- **Baseline value:** 10 project Kebeles are characterized by degraded environment, arid/semi-arid dry land;
- **Target value:** 10 project Kebeles will start to address climate changes and restore the health function of their eco systems 2018;
- **Evaluation result:** 10 project Kebeles started to address climate change and restore their ecosystem by applying indigenous best practices on climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies which have identified by the baseline assessment of this particular project.

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<sup>2</sup> “Effectiveness: The extent to which the development intervention’s objectives were achieved, or are expected to be achieved, taking into account their relative importance. Also used as an aggregate measure of (or judgment about) the merit or worth of an activity, i.e. the extent to which an intervention has attained, or is expected to attain, its major relevant objectives efficiently in a sustainable fashion and with a positive institutional development impact.”  
Source: OECD Glossary of Key Terms in Evaluation and Results Based Management.

The field level observation revealed that EU-CSFII has supported ADV to train model farmers from ten project kebeles and found out that the model farmers have been actively promoting the identified best practices for economizing water use for irrigation (drip irrigation), organic soil fertilisation (by making compost) and the planting of multi-purpose plants for erosion control and for livestock feed. The model farmers communicated during the evaluation data collection process explained that they have started making demands (advocacy) to local government authorities to give more attention and support for the promotion of climate-smart agricultural practices. ADV has also organized various workshops which aimed at disseminating indigenous knowledge and best practices for climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts. The report on the workshop highlights that the participants have endorsed the suggested action plans of the baseline assessment.

Further to this finding, all focus group discussants at the sampled project sites said that, *"before this project, due to the climate change that was happening in our locality, farming related activities became challenging and led towards recurrent crop production failures over the years and shortage of pasture land and water for livestock. Consequently, our household income has declined. But, through this particular project, we (farmers) have received training on how to manage natural resource and combat climate change in our locality. Following the training, we (farmers) have been applying best practices on climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies. Apart from that we have implemented afforestation campaigns whereby the larger community contributed their part in combating the negative effects of deforestation. In addition, the experience sharing forums organized by the project enabled follow farmers to enhance their knowledge and experience on climate changes and eco systems health.*

The model farmers and local government officials interviewed during the data collection acknowledged that EU-CSF II project enabled ADV and its co-applicants to engage in enhancing the capacity and knowledge of small scale farmers and local government to respond to climate change, drought and soil degradation.

The evaluation team has also noted that model female farmers are empowered (most of the trained women met has already become an 'activist') and started to provide orientation for farmers on soil conservation, compost making and drip irrigation at government organized community mobilization event. In this regard, Delbo who is a model farmer has narrated how her involvement in this project helped her to improve her life and became an agent for change as follows:

*I learned a lot about indigenous climate adaptation and mitigation best practices. Being convinced by the identified indigenous climate adaptation and mitigation best practices, I committed myself to practice them and cascade for my fellow farmers. Personally, I have cascaded the knowledge and skills obtained from the ToT training for more than 30 fellow farmer (more than 15 females) in three rounds. Similarly, the trained farmers have been disseminating the knowledge and skills obtained from the farmer to farmer extension approach for their fellow farmers.*

*Things started to change in a positive manner on my side immediately after the TOT training. The farmer to farmers extension approach and other follow up supports provided by ADV to me created new opportunities to learn new experiences and helped me to develop new skills on indigenous climate adaptation and mitigation practices such as drip irrigation, compost making, plantation of disho and elephant grasses, forage preparation, soil conservation, watershed management, and animal husbandry.*



From left to right: Delbo while she was feeding her cow (elephant grass) and preparing compost from organic manure.

Through the farmer to farmer extension approach, my fellow farmers learnt that the above mentioned indigenous climate adaptation and mitigation efforts are effective adaptation and mitigation strategies. After cascading of the skills and knowledge acquired from the ToT training, all of my fellow farmers have been practicing almost all of the above indicated indigenous climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies. Though there was reluctance on some of the trainees at the beginning, later each of them start implementing all the strategies and observed by themselves that what change the strategy can bring.

Before ADV project intervention, shortage of animal food, particularly during the dry season was one of the major factor limiting the productivity of cattle and small ruminants in our district. To address this problem, the district agriculture office was bought the seedlings of disho and elephants grasses from Wolayta Sodo and distribute for the farmers. At that time, the district agriculture office was paid 16,000 ETB/car for the transportation of these seedlings from Wolayta Sodo.

In spite of such kind of exerted efforts by the district agricultural office, the purposes of these grasses were not recognized by us (farmers) at that time. Consequently, we are not in position to effectively use these grasses. Thanks for ADV intervention, huge number of farmers are currently producing the seedlings of these grasses and selling to the government and other farmers. Thus, the project has been highly supporting the government by availing the seedlings of these grasses locally. Above all, the project brought major attitudinal change on the communities as it created opportunities to promote climate smart initiatives among the communities. Due to the efforts of Delbo and her trainee farmers, their vicinity is named as 'Milk cluster' by the Woreda Agriculture office; and visited by Zonal and regional authorities to scale-up the success. From this, one can understand that if farmers are educated on how best they can get benefit from different climate smart agricultural initiatives through a peer to peer extension approach; they are more likely to own and practice the initiative, and also increase their resilience from climate change and shocks.

**Result-1:** Enhanced capacity of small scale farmers and local government on climate change related risks.

- ✚ **Result indicator:** % of farmers demonstrated appropriate knowledge and skills and on climate change related risks in the project areas;
- ✚ **Baseline value:** 30%;
- ✚ **Target value:** 75%;
- ✚ **Evaluation result:** 80% of the framers in the project areas have been demonstrating appropriate knowledae and skills and on climate change related risks in the proiect areas.

This indicator was measured by reviewing the project woredas' Agriculture and Natural Resource Office annual report. The report shows that, 80% of farmers identified as having gaps in demonstrating knowledge and skills on climate change related risks in the project areas. As compared to the baseline value (i.e. 35%), this particular project intervention has contributed for the *decrease in percentage of farmers who have gap in demonstrating appropriate knowledge and skills and on climate change related risks in the project areas*. Further to this finding, model farmers of Menzo Seyato kebele have narrated the contribution of this particular project for enhancing the capacity of small scale farmers and local government on climate change related risks as follows:

*ADV has used farmer to farmer extension approach to cascade effective indigenous climate change mitigation strategies among farmers in the project area. In this regard, AATVETC has conducted baseline assessment to identify indigenous climate adaptation and mitigation efforts for scaling up. Then, AATVETC has organized ten days TOT training based on the findings of the assessment for 100 model farmers drawn from five project target districts at AATVETC training centre. After the training, the trained model farmers have been cascading best practices for economizing water use for irrigation (drip irrigation), organic soil fertilization (by making compost) and the planting of multi-purpose plants for erosion control and for livestock feed.*

The other intention of the project was to enhance the capacity of development agents and NGO staff on climate change related risks. In this regard, ADV has organized on spot training based on the findings of the assessment for development agents and NGO staff. In addition, ADV has organized a dissemination workshop in the presence of participants from relevant stakeholders on the best practices identified by the assessment. Furthermore, ADV and SDA have conducted the Earth Day Campaigns where community members from the target districts have attended. On these events, various climate change related issues and their local level adaptation and mitigation strategies have been promoted through different means including stimulating plays and poems.

### **Case Study #2**

Ato Lalega is a 36 years old farmer and living in Menzo Seyato Kebele of Sankura Woreda. He joined the farmers to farmers cascading activities organized by ADV during group formation. He joined the cascading program immediately when he heard about the project's objective because there is no as such learning with each other and experience sharing events in the community which aims to reduce environmental degradation and climate change.

Through extension work and dialogues facilitated by ADV not only me but the dwellers of in my community at large were aware on how to protect our environment and the impacts of climate change.

By being member of farmers to farmers extension work, I was familiarized with modern farming methods and practiced planting densho and elephant grasses and prepared a wide hole for water harvesting. Consequently, my income has been increased. I have six ox, three cow, six goats, and seven hens. I have also divided my farm land for animals feeding and crop cultivation. I am also planting multipurpose nutritious value fruits such as mango, avocado and commercial vegetables for cash and food supplements by using relevant land technology.

With respect to environmental protection and soil conservation, I planted one hectare densho grass for cattle. From the disho grass, I expect to earn at least 40,000 birr by two rounds. By mobilising our community, we were able to rehabilitate around 8 hectare of

land by working different terracing, soil conservation works, and planting indigenous trees to create a green, productive environment and also to transfer forests for our future generation. Finally he said “after some years I will plan to be rich and investor.



*From left to right: Lalega while he was in his Disho Grass and together his cattle*

## **Result 2-:** Scaled up of successful climate adaptation and mitigation strategies

- **Result indicator:** % of representative target group reached by the project apply at least one of the proposed measures for adapting to climate change
- **Baseline value:** 0
- **Target value:** 60% of representative target group reached by the project apply at least one of the proposed measures for adapting to climate change
- **Evaluation result:** 70% of representative target group reached by the project have been applying at least one of the proposed measures for adapting to climate change.

This indicator was measured by reviewing the Woreda agriculture and natural resource office report and the grantee's latest narrative report. The review of reports show there is evidence of an improved use of the proposed climate change mitigation strategies. With ADV support, 70 % of the target farmers have been took the benefit of the best practices of the assessment findings on their farm plots. In this regard, ADV and its co-applicants have prepared a training manual on climate smart agricultural practices to facilitate the farmer-to-farmer extension approach. The manual outlines procedure on compost making, developing and managing drip irrigation, and improved livestock husbandry, protection of soil erosion and preparation of animal feed. The contents of the manual are fitting the project purpose of scaling up good practices.

In addition to the above, the grantee provided a mix of agricultural hand tools (including hoes, shovel, sickle, and mattocks) for selected poor farmers to enable them take on and benefit from application of the best practices on their farm plots. In the selection of these beneficiaries the focus group discussants the indicated the involvement of local authorities and government extension personnel, and the evaluation team feels such collaboration is essential to assure the transparent and effective implementation of the project. During the field work, some of the beneficiaries of the hand-tools distribution informed the evaluation team that they are making effective use of the support for the intended purpose improving their farming practices towards better resilience to climate change. ADV also produced documentary film on lessons and best

practices, which have been added values for scaling up of successful climate adaptation and mitigation strategies.

### **Case study 3: Farmer to Farmer Extension Approaches to Scale up Climate Smart Initiatives**

H/Komicho E/shifa is among the model farmers who has taken the TOT training. He attended the training to cascade success full climate adaptation and mitigation best practices identified by the baseline assessment for their fellow farmers in Adasha Ziko Kebele. So far, he cascaded the identified good practices about drip irrigation, compost making, and purpose of disho and elephant grasses, crop production, soil conservation, watershed management and animal husbandry for 80 fellow farmer in four rounds.

The evaluation team met H/Komicho while he was caring his drip irrigation with his neighbourhood farmer. He has narrated the purpose of Allage training as follows:

"I have learnt about drip irrigation, compost making, and the purpose of disho and elephant grasses, crop production, soil conservation, watershed management, and animal husbandry at AATVETC training centre. I have come to learn about the purpose of some grasses which we didn't know that are essential for both animal feedings and soil conservation. For example, the disho and elephant grasses are versatile species that can be productive and effective for smallholder farmer. Now, I am highly cultivating and promoting these grasses to my fellow farmers because they are the highest yielding grasses."

He said "personally, I have got exposure, when I went to Alage, I learnt that climate smart agricultural practices are possible and they can work, I changed my attitude about climate smart agricultural practices and believed that they works. When I returned, I trained forty people in my village including the chief administrator of my kebele. Now, I am empowered and asking government officials to give prior attention for the promotion of climate smart agricultural practices to the farmers and to be responsive in their day to day operation."

The Chief Administrator of Adasha Ziko kebele said:" in spite of the district agricultural office's exerted efforts, the purposes of disho grass was not recognized by the farmers. Consequently, we are not in position to feed our cattle during Bega season. Following ADV intervention, the trainees of model farmers including me planted disho grass and secured fodder for our cattle. The project brought major attitudinal change on the communities. It created great opportunities to promote climate smart initiatives among the communities through farmer to farmer extension approaches."

From left to right: Trainee farmer & H/Komicho E/shifa



**Result Area 3:** Enabling policy, planning and legislative conditions are in place to facilitate the sustainable management of agro systems and the restoration of degraded land

- **Result indicator:** Number of dialogue session organized on implementation of government policies and programmes focusing on the mitigation and adaptation to climate change
- **Baseline value:** No dialogues on the implementation of government policies and programmes focusing on the mitigation and adaptation to climate
- **Target value:** Quarterly dialogue session will be conducted throughout the project implementation phase.
- **Evaluation result:** ADV and SDA conducted quarterly dialogues on the implementation of government policies and programmes focusing on the mitigation and adaptation to climate.

Document review proved that ADV and SDA conducted quarterly dialogues about the implementation of government policies and programmes focusing on the mitigation and adaptation to climate change. The session covered the topics of good practices and existing challenges in the application of indigenous knowledge and practices for climate change adaptation and resilience building which were identified by the baseline assessment. In line with this, the evaluation team observed the reform action plan prepared by the participants for enhancing the application of indigenous knowledge to climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts identified by the assessment. As to the proceeding of the zonal dialogue session, the reform action plan has been properly handed over to the climate change advisory groups for further follow up.

ADV and SDA have also conducted campaigns where relevant climate change related issues and their local level adaptation and mitigation strategies have been promoted through different means including drama, poem and flyers. In this regard, the evaluation team learnt that the target beneficiaries are empowered as they have started increasingly demanding locally tested climate resilience focused inputs. The local government is also struggling to supply climate resilience focused agricultural inputs for the target beneficiaries.

Despite the short period of time under evaluation, the project has already resulted in visible attitudinal and practice changes in terms of enhancing policy engagements for sustainable management of land and agro ecosystems.

### **5.3. Impact**

It is a well-established fact that the impacts of the project related to address climate changes and restore ecosystem health through the promotion of successful local mitigation and adaptation strategies. However, clear trends towards the desired impacts have been identified. As discussed in the previous sections of the report, impacts that can already be clearly observed include enhanced capacity of small scale farmers and local government personnel on climate change related risks, scaling up of successful climate adaptation and mitigation strategies, and policy engagements for sustainable management of land and agro ecosystems. Attempts were made to the impact of the project against the target result areas and ADV and its co-applicant level.

#### **5.3.1. Impacts against Targeted Result Areas**

The activities so far implemented under the project have already started producing positive impacts related to each targeted result areas of the project. There are also good indications of further potential benefits in the future.

## **1. Enhanced capacity of small scale farmers and local government**

The farmer to farmer extension approach has created opportunities for the increased capacity of small scale farmers and local government personnel on climate change related risks. It is interesting that the farmer to farmer extension approach was facilitated in collaboration agriculture and rural development offices of the project districts. This can be considered as the sign of the grantee's collaboration with government counterpart. Currently, the model farmers have demonstrated their knowledge and experience at government organized watershed management programmes. At these programmes, the model farmers shared their new skills and experiences on contour and terracing making approaches for the communities.

The campaigns and lobby components of the project have created opportunities for increased capacity of small scale farmers and local government personnel on various climate change related issues and their local level adaptation and mitigation strategies.

One of the indicators set in the log frame of the project to assess the achievement of this result area is % of farmers' demonstrated appropriate knowledge and skills and on climate change related risks in the project areas. The project has made tangible contributions towards increased awareness farmers and government officials on climate change and its related factors and mitigation strategies.

Firstly, the projects supported a series of trainings and workshops which have been organized for relevant stakeholders on indigenous climate adaptation and mitigation practices, such as drip irrigation, compost making, and plantation of Dinsho and elephant grasses as fodder to livestock, soil conservation, watershed management, and animal husbandry.

Secondly, the project is implemented in partnership with different government agencies, mainly with NRM related institutions. This particular project enabled NRM related institutions and model farmers to develop linkage and cooperation with different government institution at kebele and woreda levels. Apart from discussion on the implementation of the project, a significant number of NRM related institutions and model farmers have reported that due to the linkages and cooperation developed through the project, ADV and the model farmers have been receiving an increased level of invitations from GoE institutions to attend and participate in government organized discussion forums.

It has to be noted, however, that such progress in discussions of model farmers group on policy issues has been taking place essentially at lower government levels, while such consultations remain very limited at the regional and national levels.

## **2. Scaling up of successful climate adaptation and mitigation strategies,**

The project has resulted in remarkable achievements in terms of scaling up of successful climate adaptation and mitigation strategies. In this connection, the focus group discussants of model farmers group in all visited project areas explained the role of this project in scaling up of their knowledge and best practices to their fellow farmers as follows:

*After the project intervention, we (farmers) have been frequently practicing and scaling up of indigenous climate change mitigation and adaptation approaches. We (farmers) have also received a mix of agricultural hand tools (including hoes, shovel, sickle, and mattocks) support us to uptake good practices and benefit from application of the best practices on their farm plots. After the training, we have been working towards the improvements and resilience of our livelihood means by applying drip irrigation, organic soil fertilisation (by making compost) and the planting of multi-purpose plants for erosion control and for livestock feed. Consequently, our social economic*

*capacities are improving and becoming more resilient to shocks and climate change; and ultimately our dependency on other external support has significantly minimized. These have been improving not only our situations but also the overall community.*

The implementation of the project has resulted in the engagement of farmers in economizing water use for irrigation making compost and the planting of multi-purpose plants. In this regard, key informants from the model farmers explained that ADV and its co-applicants have prepared a training manual on climate smart agricultural practices to scale up the farmer-to-farmer extension approach. The evaluation team has also noted that grantee has published newsletters and human-interest case story. It is interesting that the ADV has been distributing these publications for relevant stakeholders. Besides, ADV has produced the documentary film and widely disseminating to initiate leanings and dialogues for scaling up of local climate change mitigation strategies among stakeholders.

### **3. Policy advocacy for sustainable management of land and agro ecosystems**

As part of their policy level engagement for sustainable management of land and agro ecosystems, ADV together with its co-applicants (SDA and AATVETC) organized Woreda and Zonal level dialogues with the involvement of relevant sector officials, council members, farmers and representatives of community based organizations. The session covered the topics of good practices and existing challenges in the application of indigenous knowledge and practices for climate change adaptation and resilience building which were identified by the baseline assessment. In line with this, the evaluation team observed the reform action plan prepared by the participants for enhancing the application of indigenous knowledge to climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts identified by the assessment. As to the proceeding of the zonal dialogue session, the reform action plan has been properly handed over to the climate change advisory groups for further follow up.

#### **5.3.2. Impacts at ADV and co-applicant level**

##### **1. How CSFII addressed the organizational capacity of ADV and its co-applicant?**

ADV and its co-applicant had received several capacity building supports from the project. In this regard, ADV team stated that they have attended various trainings (M&E, Project management and EDF procedures organized by TAU). The team also indicated that they have obtained various technical supports (through field visit, in person discussions and telephone communications) and feedbacks on the draft interim reports (narrative and financial).

ADV also mobilized project staffs to spearhead and facilitate the implementation of the project. These project personnel were provided orientation and capacity building training on the project objectives and implementation modalities. With the help of the CSFII project, the co-applicants have recruited one advocacy officer.

Another important impact of the project was its capacity to improve the visibility of ADV among the funding agencies, especially with EU and EU member countries. The visibility and capacity of ADV is growing from time to time. More importantly, the wining and proper implementations of EU-CSFII have created its strong partnership with EU. ADV has also used several visibility methodologies and technologies to enhance its visibility. Among others, ADV used fliers, brochures, newsletters and production of documentary film to promote the works of ADV and its co-applicants.

The project had also added values to the systems and institutional capacities of ADV and its co-applicants. For instance, ADV prepared tailors made prepared a training manual on climate smart agricultural practices to facilitate the farmer-to-farmer extension approach, The manual

outlines procedure on compost making, developing and managing drip irrigation, improved livestock husbandry, protection of soil erosion and preparation of animal feed.

This guideline was developed in a participatory way where the co-applicants were active role players. The guideline, according to model farmers, has become a resource material within ADV and its co-applicants to promote climate smart agricultural practice. ADV and co-applicant were already using the guideline for the project implementation. The processes of the National environment day celebration were also an exemplary approach recognized by the local governments which adds on the credibility of ADV and its co-applicant. Furthermore, ADV has purchased project car using CSF-II project resource, which will be good asset to continue to work on its mission even after the close of the project.

## **2. Improved coordination and networking of ADV and Its Co-applicants with other CSOs**

The implementation of the project has resulted in the establishment of different long-term networks and short-term partnerships of ADV with government counterpart. In this regard, the evaluation team noted that the financial support of EU-CSFII has enabled ADV to strengthen its network and linkage with agriculture and natural resource office of the project areas, farmers training centers, NGOs and other relevant stakeholders. Because of the improved network and linkage created in project districts, the evaluation team met the trained model farmers while providing orientation about improved contour making for the communities at the local government organized community mobilization event in different project target areas. In addition, ADV has also organized on spot training based on the findings of the baseline assessment for development agent and NGO staff so that they are guiding and monitor farmers' climate adaptation and mitigation actions. Furthermore, ADV conducted the Earth Day Campaigns in six schools where school principals, project advisory committees, agriculture and natural resource bureau representative, members of parent teacher association, elected council members, and model farmers' representatives from the project districts have attended. In this regard, one model farmers from Menozo Seyota Kebele narrated the main points of the event as follows:

*At the events, various climate-change related issues and their local level adaptation and mitigation strategies have been promoted through different means including stimulating plays and poems. Participants have also prepared action plan to clean the school compound once per week and planting two hundred new tree seedlings in the school compounds. Finally, participant gathered the dirt from the school compound and put in the garbage dug well.*

## **5.4. Monitoring and Evaluation**

In order to ensure comprehensive monitoring and evaluation, ADV has an M&E plan in place for its CSF II project. The plan includes wide ranging indicators and action points that should help monitor the enabling environment for its co-applicants. In addition, government counterparts have actively engage in following up the project implementation status. SDA has also comprehensive standard M&E framework that can be easily applied or this project. ADV has set up systems of regular and closes monitoring of the projects implemented by its co-applicants. The local government officials also monitored the project quarterly and annually using its own reporting templates and tools. Each co-applicant signs a project agreement with a relevant government office. This means checks and balances and a commitment to M&E are at every level in the project.

Of particular importance is the fact that the ADV has been conducting close monitoring of the project. From the discussions with the co-applicants, ADV team has been able to intervene or

give advice in various stages of the project already to mitigate risks, something that is good practice in the project and should increase the likelihood of achieving the planned outcomes.

#### **5.4. Sustainability**

The project proposal has treated the issue of project intervention sustainability in detail. The project result sustainability is ensured by building resilient and empowered farmer institution (model farmer). From the process, the evaluation team has also learnt that the project results will sustain beyond the lifespan of the project. This is mainly because of:

**Policy support:** The project is aligned with government (National, Regional, and Woreda) priorities and strategies. Therefore, government officials and frontline service providers are ideally continue to support project objectives and results.

**Supported institutions:** More than 4000 farmers and government extension workers have passed through the farmer to farmer extension process. Each of the model which had communicated by the evaluation team had action plans to work on the issues of promoting climate smart agricultural practice. Hence, there are a number of new farmers trained by the model farmers. The project has also supported the institutional and organizational capacity building supports of the model farmers and government counter parts. As a result, there is likelihood of continuing the farmer to farmer extension approach.

**Institutional capacity building:** The project has been designed as a sustainable initiative because of the different awareness raising sessions organized for ADV and its co-applicants. This guarantees the sustainability of the project gains.

#### **5.6. Challenges:**

- ❖ The project had made slower than the anticipated progress on policy advocacy related result areas due several factors including the stringent CSO Proclamation.
- ❖ The intervention logic of the project requires more time. However, the project implementation period is not enough to properly implement the project
- ❖ Security concerns- the occurrence of conflict around the project sites has been negatively affecting the implementation of the project.
- ❖ Government official's turnover: the turnover of government official was also the other challenge as it forced ADV and the co-applicant to start a new contact, instead of its already established relationship. The newly assigned government officials are also coming with less/no knowledge and experience about the project.

#### **5.6. Lessons learnt**

- Repeated capacity building inputs for and experience sharing among farmers is very important for sustainability, growth and increase their awareness and engagement in scaling up local climate adaptation and mitigation efforts.
- Consultative meetings and regular dialogues on the application of indigenous knowledge and best practices for climate change adaptation and resilience building approaches with the involvement of relevant actors are crucial to scale of the local climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts.
- There is need to conduct research on the result of this project and its benefits in enhancing Sustainable Natural Resource Management and Resilience to Climate Change of framers and disseminate the result to the wider public as well as use it as a policy advocacy and lobbying tool.
- National Environment Day commemoration is important to create mutual learning on the causes and consequence of climate change.
- The communities have untapped indigenous knowledge and best practices for climate change adaptation and resilience building approaches.

## **6. Conclusions and Recommendations**

### **6.1. Conclusions**

As we have seen in the previous sections, the project was innovative in its nature and relevant and appropriate to the realities, target groups and the agriculture and NRM sectors as it applied effective approaches for engaging local communities and local government for scaling up local climate adaptation and mitigation efforts. The evaluation also found out that the project is in line with local and national development policies of Ethiopia.

With regard to effectiveness, the project was effective in terms of executing the planned activities as scheduled and within the life time of the project. It could be said that the project achieved its end results as intended, i.e., enhanced capacity of small scale farmers and local government personnel on climate change related risks, scaling up of successful climate adaptation and mitigation strategies, and policy engagements for sustainable management of land and agro ecosystems. The project had made good progress in terms of its advocacy on the application of indigenous knowledge and best practices for climate change adaptation and resilience building approaches identified by the assessment with the involvement of relevant actors. The project was also generally efficient in terms of its management, implementation, and financial resource utilization. As far as sustainability is concerned, most of the sustainability strategies are promising to sustain the activities and results of the project.

Generally, all the planned outputs and expected results were fulfilled and the project got high level of acceptance among the beneficiaries, local government officials and the community at large. Therefore, the overall conclusion of the evaluation is that the “implementation” of the project has largely been successful in achieving its objectives and bringing dynamic and significant progress in the promotion indigenous knowledge and best practices for climate change adaptation and resilience building approaches.

### **6.2. Recommendations**

Based on the findings obtained and conclusions drawn, the following recommendations have been forwarded:

- ✚ ADV and its co-applicants needs to continue producing evidences on the contribution of the project on managing natural resources, mitigating and adapting to climate change impacts thereby presents evidence for scaling up the gains.
- ✚ ADV and its co-applicants should continue to build a strong network and platform that can positively influence and enhance scaling up of the interveticion logic to other areas, such as INGOs, universities, relevant government structures and research institutes. This could be a good opportunity to share learning and scale up the approach.
- ✚ Building the capacity of influential farmers and local leaders should be crucial to mobilize and convince the communities on the importance of this kind of dvelopment approach for community development.
- ✚ The celebration of annual eviroment day was the most effective project action that should be strengthened and scaled up for evidenced documentation and learning develop learning agenda during future programming and capture the learning.
- ✚ Repeated exposure using different examples will deepen understanding of the dialogues on the application of indigenous knowledge and best practices for climate change adaptation and resilience building approaches with the involvement of relevant actors are crucial to scale of the local climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts. Awareness creation and capacity building should be provided on regular basis due to the following reason:High level of literacy means continuous practical and intensive training to raise awareness, and to empower and engage farmers

- ✚ Rapid turnover of local officials, sector officers and service providers affects effective institutionalization and mainstreaming of the approach in the government’s NRM and climate change efforts: This can be remedied by providing training to the new officials, officers and staff immediately after they assume their posts. It can also be addressed by requiring that all public officials have training on the application of indigenous knowledge and best practices for climate change adaptation and resilience building approaches

## 7. Annexes

### Annex A: Key Informant Interview Guide for Project Staff and Management

My name is \_\_\_\_\_. I am consultant contracted by YEM Consultant Institute P.L.C to collect data for the final evaluation of ADV project entitled **Scaling up local climate adaptation and mitigation efforts** in Five Woredas Silte zone within SNNPRs.

Thank you very much for cooperating for the Evaluation. You have purposively selected to participate in this evaluation. I would like to encourage you to speak freely and honestly about what you know.

There is no direct benefit to you personally for participating in the interview. We are asking you to talk with us in this interview because you work as Project Staff and Management. What you tell us will help to assess the performance of the project against the evaluation criteria of relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, impact, value addition and sustainability with reference to the objectives indicated in the project document. It will also help us to extract lessons learnt, identify challenges, document best practices and forward recommendations for future programming. If at any point you would like to stop the interview, please let me know and you can leave.

We anticipate that this interview will take about 30 minutes to complete. Do you have any questions before we begin? Now we need to ask you whether you agree to participate in the study.

Would you like to give your consent to participate in the interview?

If yes, continue with the interview

If no, thank the respondent for his time and STOP

Signature of interviewer \_\_\_\_\_

Name of interviewer \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Part I: Demographic Information of the Key Informant Interviewee

- 1) Name of the organization \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) Region/Woreda \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) Date of KII \_\_\_\_\_ Start Time \_\_\_\_\_ End Time \_\_\_\_\_

### KII Participants' Description

S.No	Name of the Interviewee	Sex		Age	Level of Education	Position	For how long you served in this position	Telephone No.
		Female	Male					
1								
2								
3								
4								
5								

## 1. Relevance

1. To what extent the project interventions have been consistent with the socio-cultural, institutional, political and economic contexts of your target groups and the country/region?
2. Were opportunities, entry points and risks clearly articulated and employed or managed?  
**Prove:** Tell us the overall project activities implementation status and their achievements?

## 2. Value addition

- To what extent was the grant innovative to implement strategic action to respond to the prevailing challenges of the community?
- To what extent was the grant support ADV and its co-applicants to promote local climate adaptation and mitigation efforts?

## 3. Efficiency

- Are the objectives of the project being achieved in an economical way?
- How efficient has the project been in converting its inputs (funds, expertise, materials etc.) to outputs? - including a review of whether and how management structures contribute to efficiency.
- The efficiency of the financial management system of the project.
- Is the expenditure justifiable when compared to plans, progress and the output of the project?
- Do the financial management systems and staff capabilities prove to be sufficient for the implementation of the project?
- Are the internal control systems and measures to prevent and avoid financial irregularities functioning well?
- Were there any noticeable/verifiable instances of waste or inefficiency?

## 4. Effectiveness

- Has your project achieved or are likely to achieve its objective?
- Have the objectively verifiable indicators (OVI's); targets according to the log frame, been achieved as planned to date?
  - **Probe:** What is the likelihood of the Specific Objectives to be achieved as envisaged and measured in the OVI's of the Log frame?
- What are the main obstacles/challenges to achieve the intended results?
- Has there been any change in objectives?
- What explains any non-achievement of objectives?
- Are there any unexpected outcomes?
- Which activities and strategies are more relevant and which are impractical and irrelevant?

## 5. Impact

- Did the assumptions at project purpose (specific objectives) level remained true over the implementation period?
- What are the key achievements of the interventions in terms of policy, practice and behavioural change?
- What are the intended/envisaged pathways from the project results to broader overall development outcomes?

## 6. Sustainability

- How likely is it that outputs and outcomes of the interventions will be sustained?
- What actions/conditions have been put in place to sustain changes in channels and mechanisms?
- Are capacities supported by the interventions likely to be sustained and result in sustained improvements in the future?

## 7. M & E systems

- The efficiency of the planning, monitoring, review and reporting (PME) system and the usefulness & appropriateness of the performance indicators: is there evidence of timely corrective action? - does the M&E system allow to credibly measuring success?

## 8. Lessons learnt and challenges

- Lessons learnt from the project at all levels.
- The failures/gaps/problems of the project and what are the internal and external factors contributing to the failures or gaps.

## **Annex B: Key Informant Interview Guide for Government Officials (Agriculture and Environment, and BoFED) and Project Advisory Committee Members**

My name is \_\_\_\_\_. I am consultant contracted by YEM Consultant Institute P.L.C to collect data for the final evaluation of ADV project entitled **Scaling up local climate adaptation and mitigation efforts** in Five Woredas Silte zone within SNNPRs.

Thank you very much for cooperating for the Evaluation. You have purposively selected to participate in this survey. I would like to encourage you to speak freely and honestly about what you know.

There is no direct benefit to you personally for participating in the interview. We are asking you to talk with us in this interview because you work as Government Counterpart/ Project Advisory Committee. What you tell us will help to assess the performance of the project against the evaluation criteria of relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, impact, value addition and sustainability with reference to the objectives indicated in the project document. It will also help us to extract lessons learnt, identify challenges, document best practices and forward recommendations for future programming. If at any point you would like to stop the interview, please let me know and you can leave.

We anticipate that this interview will take about 30 minutes to complete. Do you have any questions before we begin? Now we need to ask you whether you agree to participate in the study.

Would you like to give your consent to participate in the interview?

If yes, continue with the interview

If no, thank the respondent for his time and STOP

Signature of interviewer \_\_\_\_\_

Name of interviewer \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Part I: Demographic Information of the Key Informant Interviewee**

- 1) Name of the organization \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) Region/Woreda \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) Date of KII \_\_\_\_\_ Start Time \_\_\_\_\_ End Time \_\_\_\_\_

### **KII Participants' description**

S.no	Name	Gender	Responsibility
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			

#### **1. Relevance**

- To what extent the project intervention has been aligned with government development plans and policies?
- To what extent the project intervention's objectives or result areas correspond to identify needs/problems of target community?

#### **2. Value addition**

- To what extent was the grant innovative to implement strategic action to respond to the prevailing climate change challenges?
- To what extent was the grant support ADV and its co-applicants to promote local climate adaptation and mitigation efforts?

#### **3. Efficiency**

- To what extent has the management of the project been adequate to achieve its expected results of the project?

#### 4. Effectiveness

- To what extent the project has achieved its objectives and results?
- What results have been achieved?
  - **Probe:** What are the reasons for the achievement or non-achievement of results?

#### 5. Impact

- What are the key achievements of the interventions in terms of policy, practice and behavioural change?
- What are the intended/envisaged pathways from the project results to broader overall development outcomes?

#### 6. Sustainability

- How likely is it that outputs and outcomes of the interventions will be sustained?
- What actions/conditions have been put in place to sustain changes in channels and mechanisms?
- Are capacities supported by the project intervention likely to be sustained and result in sustained improvements in the future?

#### 7. M &E systems

- The efficiency of the planning, monitoring, review and reporting (PME) system and the usefulness & appropriateness of the performance indicators: is there evidence of timely corrective action? - does the M&E system allow to credibly measuring success?
  - Probe: Did your office conduct joint monitoring with the grantee

#### 8. Lessons learnt and challenges

- Lessons learnt from the project at all levels.
- The failures/gaps/problems of the project and what are factors contributing to the failures or gaps.

### Annex C: FGD Guide for Model Farmers and School Environmental Club Members

#### Instruction for use

Greet the FGD participants and introduce yourself. Explain carefully about the purpose of your visit and ask permission for the time to be taken for the interview as follows: My name is \_\_\_\_\_. I am *here to collect information from different stakeholders in \_\_\_\_\_ Woreda for the purpose of collecting data from community members in this worda to conduct an assessment entitled as” **Scaling up local climate adaptation and mitigation efforts**” which has been implemented by financial and technical support of EU. You are one of the selected Informants for providing information for this evaluation. Hence, I will ask you some questions related to the project implementation. This may take about 30 minutes. Would this be all right? Are you willing to participate in the study and continue with the interview?*

If permission is granted, proceed to the questions in the order as presented below. In case permission is not granted due to different reasons, make a note of this and move to the other FGD participants.

**Note:** *This work is for collecting information, not for teaching people. Do not try to correct or lecture the FGD Discussants. A minimum of 8 and maximum of 12 discussants shall be considered for each FGD session. The summary sheet for each item is attached herewith. Please probe for each issue under discussion so that different perspectives are reflected.*

#### FGD participant description

S.no	Name	Gender	Responsibility
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			

