Awardee
Mr. Rezene Andom

Place of activity
Zoba gash Barka
sub zoba Logo Anseba
Administrative kebabi
Adi Neamin
Village: Adi Neamin

The government of Eritrea has been engaged in investing in combating land degradation through different campaigns that involve the whole community.

Adi Neamn administration Kebabi is inhabited by agro pastoralists who depend themselves on livestock, farming plots of land and some traditional bee keeping. Due to the steep nature of the land the small cultivable land of the area is equally divided among the inhabitants, every farmer is obliged to practice small scale sustainable agriculture. Most land owners practice soil and water conservation, applying organic fertilizer and do whatever is needed in order to produce the maximum yield the land can bear. The land was deforested with no trees to stop the washing away of the top soil, and no physical structures to stabilize it.

Mr. Rzene Andom, a hard working farmer, is one of the inhabitants of Adi Neamn who has been striving to feed his family from his small plot of land. In 1990 Mr. Rezene was concerned about the continuous decline of crop yield and raised an idea to the community that if he is given the land (gully), he will dedicate himself to conserve the degraded area. After he got a positive response from the local community, he began working with his power and his resources to struggle against the running flood and stabilized the gully to trap the eroded soil, and ultimately restore the ground water. At the beginning the area was a ragged gully with no sign of crop production and no ground water.

The work was very hard, breaking rocks, and transporting and arranging them on the gully. In this period of hard work the only one who was on his side was his wife Ms. Rgbe Afewerki. “At the beginning when my husband raised the idea I was reluctant, but when I saw him doing hard alone, I involve myself. Then we started to see some signs of hope, which results a success at the end. But still we will continue to save our land, until we have the resource and power”. After five years of hard work in the harsh climate, the land shows some signs of stabilization.

After 23 of striving hard work the dry land is stabilized and the ground water table is increased and the hard working farmer started cultivate vegetable three times year. Now the land is changed from the former unproductive gully to productive land with fertile soil and rechargeable ground water. Mr. Andom’s family started to feed itself and supply vegetables such as tomato, potato, onion and crops like corn to the nearby market.
The action of Mr. Rezene has influenced the inhabitants of Adi Neamn; as a result some farmers have taken major actions to save degraded dry land and make it productive.

**Awardee**

**Abdela Idris Omer**

**Place of activity**

Zoba Gash Barka  
Sub zoba Gogne  
Administration kebab  
Adal  
Village: Agaro

The government and people of Eritrea are engaged in several campaigns to restore and conserve the natural resources (forests) the country used to have. These have been done by individuals, communities, students, government and private sectors.

Experience has shown that tree planting projects are most successful when local people participate in their planning and implementation. In the Gash Barka Region afforestation and soil and water activities are made in such a way that the beneficiaries (communities) should have the upper hand in planning, implementation, follow up and evaluation of the activities. Besides the program give village farmers the ownership of any tree they grow on village land. As a result major actions have been taking place by individuals.

Adansonia Digitata is a tropical tree, long living and in the Gash Barka Region. It is mainly used by the local people as sources of wild fruit, its leaf as feed and fodder and at times of drought its bark is used as a fodder, beside the local medicines extracted from it. But in the recent years the tree is in an endangered state probably because of the reduction of rainfall or drought, or it could be because of an overall climate change.

Mr. Abdela Idris Omer an agro pastoralist is 60 years old. He is dedicated on planting of mainly Adansonia digitata. The tree is in an endangered state in the locality. Mr. Abdela Idris omer very concerned about the status is working to his full power and resources in saving the tree by collecting Adansonia seeds (which is a wild fruit in the area) planting by himself and disseminating to willing local inhabitant for free. As the area lies in the semi-arid region of the country, Mr. Abdela has to relay on his power to water the seedlings the whole dry seasons. His activity has no direct and/or short time benefit. Even the long time benefit cannot be feasible with the expenses he encounters.

Mr. Abdela Idris Omer is low income man who depends on casual job for living, before 10 years he had some livestock like camels and few goats inherited from his father but due to drought, they died one after the other. On his words, “My father had around 50 camels and seventy goats and I grew up in helping my father in keeping after the livestock. Through time their
number started to decline. Though this happened due to different reasons the main factor was drought”.

At that time the livestock depend on tree leaves for feed, and it was taboo to cut trees to feed animals. But through time this good culture start to decline and cutting of tree including Adansonia Digitata for different purposes has grew. If I had the power and resources, I would have helped to save the trees. Due to limited resources I dedicated myself to save the life of the gigantic and ancient tree Adansonia Digitata. In the future with help of the Ministry of agriculture in our region, I have a plan to increase my work in quantity and type of trees”.

His initiative is a model in the Gash Barka region and was prized on May 15, 2012 “Green work for Green Campaign” which was held at national level.

Awardee
Segem Middle and Secondary School, Tessenai

Place of activity
Sub zoba
Tessenai
Zoba Gash Barka Administrative Kebabi
Shaab Tessenai

It is believed that young students as owners of the future besides to the academic education they acquire, they should be involved on preserving and development of the environment. Their participation in such actions can create the sense of ownership and knowledge of the energy and power invested on sustainable development.

Taking this into account Sagem middle and secondary school is helping its students in reforesting not only its compound but also in the Tessenai town. At the initiation of the project in 2010 the main aim was to reforest the compound of the school, later when the action shows positive attitude on students it was decided to involve students in planting and management of tree in the Tessenai town.

Students were organized in to “Green clubs” In afforesting its compound and in the town Tessenai on the spare time they have.

This is besides the national students’ summer work program, which is held every summer (once per year). This program is assigned to involve young students in nation development endeavors moreover in conservation and development of natural resources.

As a result of its actions the school has got many prizes from the local, district and at national level. In this year it has a plan to establish a small nursery at the school compound which can help it in upgrading its afforestation actions. Though the action was started by responsible
students and teachers in the school, the ministry of agriculture Gash Barka Region has been helping the school technical and material resources.

Awardee
Liban Kebabi Administration

Place of activity
Sub zoba
Logo Anseba, Zoba
Gash Barka

Logo Anseba lies in the highland region of Gash Barka. The inhabitants are mostly agro pastoralists, who depend for their livelihood on farming and livestock. Due to clustering of villages an effective land use system need to be adapted. As a result of this classification the Adi Ghelay permanent Enclosure was established in 1993 with the initiative of the local inhabitants. The area is dominated with range of small mountains. As a result of this steepness and deforestation soil erosion was high.

The main aim of the enclosure was to preserve the remaining local ancient tree species. To do this the community has recruited two guards established management committee to follow up the status of the enclosure. Besides every individual villager has the responsibility to look after the running of the enclosure. According to the Administrator of Liban” at the beginning it was hard for the guards to protect it from livestock and cutting of trees by individuals but thanks to the committee and the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) extension agents, as a result of their continuous awareness campaign our dream come true”. In the past ten years the enclosure has been one of the main and safe sources for tree seed to the available nurseries.

In addition to conservation of the available a lot of work like construction of terrace, micro basins, pitting and planting of trees has been done in the past twenty years of the enclosure. Some of the tree species now available in the enclosure include: Olea africana, Acacia etbaica, Dodonae angustifolia, Calpurnia aurea, Euphorbia abyssinica, Euclea schimperi, Cassia stellatum. Some of those tree species are in danger of extinction in other areas.

What is unique about the Adi Ghelay enclosure is that, it has developed from bare ground to around 70% cover. It can be concluded that the objectives of the enclosure establishment are met. The grasses available are harvested once year and the dry wood once in three months with the permit from the local administration.

The enclosure is model to its environs on how conservation of forests and wildlife resources could be compatible with sustainable economic development.