



## Study Tour to Tanzania Fruitful: Participants

By Yakob Adugna, PFMU

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Arusha, Tanzania

Participants of the study tour to Tanzania, organized by the Participatory Forest Management Programme (PFMP) of FARM Africa and SOS Sahel, said they have gained good experience in PFM, Agroforestry, Community Based Tourism and other related fields from the tour. The participants drawn from Regional, Zonal and Woreda levels government offices of natural resource management and the three Ethiopians PFMP projects were in Tanzania from March 11-21,2004 to share experience with their Tanzanian counterparts.

“The exposure was a great advantage for me to realize that, PFM if backed by relevant policy can really improve people’s lives while at the same time protecting natural resources like forests.” says Legesse Seyoum Head of the Agriculture Bureau of the Southern Regional State.

In different parts of the forest, for example in Bereko forest area there are Village Forest Management Areas (VFMA) and each VFMA has its own PFM plan and By law. The district council should approve the Bylaws. The Monduli district forest catchments officer Mr. Lubambula M.P. told the visitors that benefit sharing of the forest products between the government and the community is still an unresolved issue which both parties are working on.

During the visit the participants observed that there was a similar challenge faced by their Tanzanian counterparts when launching PFM. The challenges came from what they call “traditional foresters” as these foresters doubted the success of PFM implementation. The problem was resolved by conducting series of awareness raising workshops and study tours to Asian countries.



The visiting team discussing with a farmer



The communities in Monduli and Boay told the visitors that grazing was one of the serious problems in the forest. Now the communities are applying zero grazing policy and it is no more a critical snag. However cutting grasses for their cattle is possible under the surveillance of the communities' forest management committee.

On the other hand communities are allowed to collect fuel woods on conditions that they have fuel efficient improved stoves in their house. This is to decrease the consumption of fuel wood by the community as the stoves consume less fuel wood.



Delegation visiting a PFM site

In a refectation meeting between the visitors and the Tanzanian foresters it was pointed out that though Tanzania has enabling forest policy the problem lies on implementation of the policy. Lack of skilled manpower and finance were mentioned as a few of the reasons for the inadequate implementation of the policy.

For the other activity of the tour the delegation was to visit the Longido Cultural Tourism Programme as an example of Community Based Tourism (CBT) activity. The site is situated under the Longido Mountain. According to the advisor of the Programme Mr. Vedasto Izoba, most of the tourists come to see the Maasai culture and to climb

the Longido Mountain, which has different species of birds.

The community runs the programme and the money secured from the tourists goes to the Village Development Fund (VDF). The village council controls this fund, which is part of the government structure. The visitors spotted as a challenge for the community to independently decide on what to do with the money. The delegation forwarded a suggestion if the community could have its own separate account, and if they could also establish like user groups in PFM. Mr. Izoba accepted the idea and has vowed to do his best to materialize the comments made by the delegation.

Among the things stressed by Mr. Izoba was, CBT should be seen as a business and it should be business oriented from its inception. The communities have to know that it is their service that can bring more tourists to the village. "CBT should not be considered as some charitable act," said Mr. Izoba. Here again the issue of benefit sharing among the community members, for example between members of the programme and those who are not is a critical challenge for the practice of community based/cultural tourism. Efforts are underway by the programme to come up with a solution.



Mr. Sumari's wife showing her stove to the visitors

Another field of visit was agroforestry activities. The delegation visited a farmer called Mr. Sumari who has beehives and a fishpond. He planted Maize, beans and Cassava to support the livelihoods of his family. Mr. Sumari explained to the visitors that

every three months, he gets 20kg of honey from each of the eight beehives he has. He also secures 150-170USD every three month from the sale of fish to the community. This he said helps the family to afford for their children's school fee and to cover expenses of food and cloths of the family.

At the reflection meeting held after the visits the delegation pointed out some of the lessons they got from the agroforestry process in general. The existence of Farmer- to –Farmer extension, strong and binding community Bylaws, training and follows up of farmers, gender sensitive approaches and integration of activities were mentioned as some of the lessons the group obtained from the visit.

## Consultants say establishment of development center in Bonga essential

*By Yakob Adugna, PFMU*

Bonga, Southern Region - In a two day workshop organized by PFMP in Bonga town to discuss on findings of an agroforestry and NTFP potential study of the Bonga forest, the consultants Dr. Amare Getahun and Dr. Menwuyellet Mussie said a development center should be established to promote the huge potential of the forest for agroforestry and investment. The center is believed to promote the opportunities available in the area. It will also have a responsibility to create networks and find markets for the agroforestry and NTFP products. A documentation center where proper information is kept should also be part of the development center.

The workshop participants drawn from government offices, the private sector and NGOs, have agreed on the idea and elected the Keffa Zone Agriculture and Natural Resource Bureau to take the lead in coordinating efforts to establish the development center. In the meantime FARM Africa has requested the participants to think of immediate interventions based on the findings of the consultants. The consultants have presented a ten volume report on possible Non Timber Forest Products (NTFP) interventions. The interventions include spices, coffee, fruits, medicinal trees, bamboo and tea plantation. The report strongly recommends multi story home gardening as the best way to practice agroforestry in a bid to improve the livelihood of the community.



Dr. Amare presenting the study

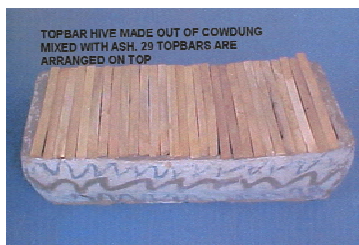
The workshop was seen by many of the participants as a good start as it paves a way for many similar NGOs to organize similar forum where stakeholders are provided with a chance to give feedback on consultancy works.

## Various studies conducted in PFM Projects

By Yakob Adugna, PFMU

Addis Ababa, PFMU– Various studies have been conducted in the PFM projects under the auspices of PFMU. The studies conducted by various consultants mainly focuses on Agroforestry, Beekeeping, Community Based Tourism and Ecological studies. These studies are believed to come up with relevant recommendations which will help enhance the livelihoods of communities living in the PFM project areas. Some of the studies are completed while the others are being conducted.

A study conducted by Mr. Mark Chapman on the potential of Chilimo forest for Community Based Tourism (CBT) says “The forest (Chilimo) contains a wide range of indigenous trees including *Juniperus procera*, *Podocarpus sp.* *Prunns africana*, *Olea africana*, *Hagenia abyssinica*, *Ficus sp.* and *Acacia sp.* This makes for an attractive forest not only for the experts but also the non experts. There is a variety in colour and form to the canopy, which is visible from many vantage points, and it does encourage a wide variety of wildlife.”



Top Bar hive made out of cow dung mixed with ash

The study also outlines steps to be considered to launch CBT In the Chilimo forest. Draft budget for start up activities of CBT is also part of the consultant’s report. The study also suggests that in order to be able to measure the effectiveness of the CBT, to improve incomes it is important that PFM conduct some simple baseline surveys with the local community to assess income levels, attitudes to the use of the forest, attitudes towards tourism, feelings about their own culture etc.

In another circumstance, a study conducted on the agroforestry potential of the Yabello, Liben and Arero woredas which are under the Borena PFM Project indicates that “*Carica papaya* (Papaya), *Persea americana* (avocado) and *Mangifera indica* (Mango), or as alternative to mango, ‘Qasmir’, have been selected as high priority fruit tree species to be introduced to the studied areas ...” The fruit tree planting has been recommended under irrigation and/or using specialist Dryland planting techniques.

Similarly a study conducted by Ato Tilahun Gebey on improving beekeeping activities in the PFM projects, indicates that especially in Chilimo there is a high rate of success by applying intermediate technology like Top Bar beehives. Some of the existing opportunities in Chilimo are presented below as listed in the study report. Strong local honey market, strong government support, high interest of local beekeepers to adopt new technologies and availability of suitable area for more beekeepers and beekeeping activities.

Ato Tilahun strongly recommended the use of Top Bar hive as it is modern and easy for management compared to the traditional beehives. A half day training will do for farmers who have hints about beekeeping. The study also recommended strong follow up and training for beekeepers so that they can be more productive.

Apart from the above mentioned studies consultants who are hired by PFMU are conducting further studies on Ecology and agroforestry potentials of PFM projects.

# "BUNO UYOTE"

*By Mesfin Tekle— Bonga Project Team Leader*

## **INTRODUCTION**

"Buno Uyote", literary meaning, "come and drink coffee" is a traditional invitation to drink coffee by ordinary Kaffa people. Kaffa people live in the Southern Region of Ethiopia. The area is believed to be the origin of coffee, and the name coffee / kaffa actually originates from this place. The coffee ceremony in Kaffa is a means of social gathering, where neighbours and friends get together, especially during the morning and at night, to pass some time discussing matters of interest and current relevance. Such issues range from small local issues, to big and complex zonal, regional and national matters.

Coffee is served for all household members, including children, of all ages during such gatherings. Apart from the simple physical presence, which is often witnessed in more formal meetings where presence is important, (but active participation not so), every individual in coffee gatherings participates in the ongoing discussions.

The Bonga Integrated Participatory Forest Management and Reproductive Health Project has taken-up the coffee gatherings as an opportunity to communicate with local people, and to disseminate information about Participatory Forest Management (PFM)

## **INNOVATIVE APPROACH**

The Bonga project approaches requires the community's high involvement in project activities. The community's participation and understanding of PFM is the core part of the process. All groups within the community need to be involved in a proactive dialogue. Arranging many meetings in order to bring all groups of the community into one forum, within the short timeframe of the project, and the time constraints of the community themselves, has been a key challenge for the project. The first project approach was either the calling of formal village level meetings or traveling from house-to-house.

Both these methods have their limitations. They are both time consuming and inconvenient. They often do not reach all sub-groups within the community in one meeting, and are often limited in terms of participation.



Coffee ceremony

In our experience, mostly men attend formal village meetings. Men are one of the biggest interest groups, however based on the local Kaffa social, economic and cultural setting, roles in natural resource management cut across community sub-groups. Because of such reasons the intended proactive participation during village meetings often fails, and women and youth that have a real stake in forest utilisation and management are often overlooked and their views and valuable inputs are ignored. This is compounded by the wide variation in meeting attendees different interests and time availability.

In response to the above challenges the project therefore sought a new approach to community meetings. This new approach is simple, logical and appropriate. The approach is using the rich and traditionally accustomed "Buno Uyote", an invitation for coffee. The time for coffee drinking is either early in the morning or in the late afternoon / evening, when all family members including neighbors and friends have time to come together and spend time. During the coffee drinking they have a culture of discussion of any issue arising. Therefore introducing project ideas and issues as a dialogue topic enables all the attendees to participate and get into proactive discussion. The result is that hot and lively dialogue evolves, and can be developed over a number of coffee meetings.

Within these coffee meetings the formality and dynamics of the meeting is very different from a formal village meeting. Friends and neighbors as intimates discuss deeply into a variety of topics with each other. Issues of PFM need this type of in depth discussion. Reviewing the many implications of changing NRM systems. Women and youths, who are often excluded from such development dialogue, get a chance to forward their inputs, that in turn enrich and broaden the discussion.

In conclusion the approach is said to be new and innovative in that it shifts from the usual general, formal village level meeting to a new and proactive way in which a small core neighborhood meeting, involving all sub-groups of the community get a chance for discussion. In this way, the approach makes use of the existing traditional way of dialogue and oral information exchange where all members of the community has equal weight in dialogue, and involvement in decision-making. We would argue that this is a recognition that this is still the most important level of information exchange for semi-literate local communities of Kaffa.

In conclusion the advantage of the system can be summarized as follows: It enables to use the existing traditional small groups for dialogue in a more natural way. Meaning neighbours and friends that have experience in discussing broad and commonly agreeable matters have now started to give room to incorporate project ideas and issues It gives all sub-groups within the community a chance to come together and discuss in a proactive way. All issues come to the surface in an open and transparent way. It reduces competition for time. Because this is mostly done at night, this time is free. It makes deadline work easier for staff. It avoids the problem of the failed meeting. It is working in peoples time.

# Some Benefits of Acacia Senegal

*Taken from consultancy report of Yitebitu Moges*

## **Acacia Senegal (L.) Wild. (Available in Borena Zone)**

Syn.: *Acacia vereke* Guill. et Perr. Mimosaceae

Gum Arabic, Senegal Gum, Sudan Gum Arabic, Kher, Kumta

### **Ecology**

A. senegal thrives on dry rocky hills, in low-lying dry savannas, and areas where annual rainfall is 25–36 cm. This hardy species survives many adverse conditions, and seems to be favoured by low rainfall and absence of frost with annual mean temperature of 16.2–27.8°C (mean of 9 cases 23.8°C), and soils with pH of 5.0–7.7 (mean of 7 cases = 6.4), but Cheema and Qadir (1973) report 7.4–8.2. Two varieties exist in Borana area: var. *kerensis* and var. *senegal*. Var *kerensis* is a shrub up to 4 m tall and usually branching from near the base. The bark is Yellowish brown. Thorns are known as prickles and arranged in 3's, the central one curved backwards, the laterals directed forward. This variety is the most common one in Borana Zone (Chikamai, 2003).

Var. *senegal* is a tree to 10m tall with distinct trunk and flat or round crown. This is observed in Ade Gelchet surrounding and is locally known as gogole

### **Uses**

A. senegal yields commercial gum arabic, used extensively in pharmaceutical preparations, inks, pottery pigments, water-colors, wax polishes, and liquid gum; for dressing fabrics, giving lustre to silk and crepe; for thickening colors and mordants in calico-printing; in confections and sweet meats. Causing partial destruction of many alkaloids including atropine, hyoscyamine, scopolamine, homatropine, morphine, apomorphine, cocaine, and physostigmine, gum arabic might be viewed as a possible antidote. Pharmaceutically used mainly in the manufacture of emulsions and in making pills and troches (as an excipient); as demulcent for inflammations of the throat or stomach and as masking agent for acrid tasting substances such as capsicum; also as a film-forming agent in peel-off masks. Its major use is in foods, for example, as suspending or emulsifying agent, stabilizer, adhesive, flavor fixative, and to prevent crystallization of sugar, etc. Used in practically all categories of processed foods (candy, snack foods, alcoholic and nonalcoholic beverages, baked goods, frozen dairy desserts, gelatins, and puddings, imitation dairy products, breakfast cereals, and fats and oils). Use levels range from less than 0.004% (40 ppm) in soups and milk products, 0.7 to 2.9% in nonalcoholic beverages, imitation dairy, and snack foods, to as high as 45% in candy products (Leung, 1980). Preparations designed to treat diarrhea, dysentery, coughs, throat irritation, and fevers.

It serves as an emulsifying agent and gives viscosity to powdered drug materials; is used as a binding agent in making pills and tablets and particularly cough drops and lozenges. Because of its enzyme, the gum is not suitable for use in products having readily oxidizable ingredients. For example, it reduces the vitamin A content of cod liver oil by 54% within three weeks. It is incompatible with aminopyrine, morphine, vanillin, phenol, thymol, - and -naphthol, guaiacol, cresols, creosol, eugenol, apomorphine, eserine, epinephrine, isobarbaloin, gallic acid, and tannin; also with

strongly alcoholic liquids, solutions of ferric chloride and lead subacetate and strong solutions of sodium borate. It was formerly given intravenously to counteract low blood pressure after hemorrhages and surgery and to treat edema associated with nephrosis, but such practices caused kidney and liver damage and allergic reactions and have been abandoned (Morton, 1977).

Strong rope is made from bark fibers. White wood is used for tool handles, black heartwood for weaver's shuttles. The long flexible strands of surface roots provide one of the strongest of local fibers, used for cordage, well-ropes, fishing nets, horsegirdles, footropes, etc. Seeds are dried and preserved for human consumption (NAS, 1980). Young foliage makes good forage. It is useful for afforestation of arid tracts, soil reclamation, and windbreaks (Duke, 1981a).

Currently the feasible next step for the community is to organize itself as an association and get into an agreement with the Natural Gum Processing and Marketing Enterprise to collect the Gum Arabica and supply it to the enterprise. The enterprise is responsible for marketing Gum. On the other hand the enterprise should provide training to the community on collecting the Gum in a better way.

## **Field Experiences from PFM Projects**

### **Highlights of Participatory Forest Resource Assessment (PFRA) activities in Chilimo project**

*By Olika Belachen– Community Dr't officer-Chilimo project*

#### **Experience Sharing Tour & Field Exercise**

Chilimo Project Team Leader and a Forester from Woreda office of Rural Land Administration & Natural Resource (RLAR) made experience sharing tour to similar projects in Bonga and Borena projects of FARM Africa and SOS Sahel. They also participated in field exercise to develop PFRA methodology under the facilitation of an external consultant, Dr. Gavin Jordan, for about 2 weeks. Chilimo staff together with Bonga and Borena staff members visited German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) office in Addis Ababa and they were briefed about the PFRA activities of the GTZ Adaba Dodola project. As an out put of the experience sharing visit and the field exercise a PFRA draft methodology was developed by Dr. Gavin Jordan.

#### **Farmers Training.**

Based on the developed methodology, training was given for 51 selected farmers drawn from 9 user groups. Different Assessment Teams was also established to accomplish the tasks of PRFA with (RLAAR).

#### **Practical field activities**

After awareness creation, capacity-building and other preparatory works for both concerned experts and community representatives, Participatory Forest Resource Assessment activity was commenced in two operational sites : Chilimo & Galessa.

Major activities performed were: -

- .. Delineating the external boundaries of the two Forest Users Groups.
- .. Together with villagers, the forest was divided into different blocks in accordance with the current prevailing situations of the forest (natural, plantation, dense, open and etc.) and internal boundaries were demarcated as well.
- .. Mapping was done for the whole forest and for each block for the two Users Groups.
- .. Areas of entire forest and of all blocks were also calculated.

### **Problems encountered**

- .. Long hours walk in the forest
- .. Time consuming
- .. lack of efficient materials and equipments for field works (field shoes, over wear and etc.)
- .. Low participation of women

### **Lessons Learnt**

PFRA is relatively a new task and it requires involvement of all stakeholders. The role of each stakeholder is equally important. In realizing this new task, project staff, experts of line offices and the participated farmers have gained a paramount knowledge and experiences. The project has learnt that for future PFRA activity, the following points need more attention:

- .. Adequate field equipment & material
- .. Participation of women
- .. Involving all stakeholders during planning

### **Achievements attained**

- .. Potential of the forest and constraints for development interventions were assessed and documented.
- .. Farmers gained basic knowledge on how to undertake resources assessment and even they are capable of manipulating and managing relascope to asses basal area.
- .. Capacity of farmers built in the area of resource monitoring

### ***PFM contribution to the conservation of dryland Biodiversity.***

*By Mitiku Tiksa Hinsene – Borena project manager*

The Arero Forest serves as a dry season grazing area for the pastoralists. Most of the permanent water points are found in the forest. In this remote area the livelihood of the community is highly dependent on what they directly get from nature. This is to show the significance of the ethnobotany of the forests. The pastoralist community has a very high regard for the Juniperus tree and the whole forest. As Arero is the seat of the Borana Gada the Boran consider Juniper as a ritual tree, "jiruu kuraa " is what they call it. The Arero Forest is totally ca. 10,650 ha in which large villages like Bobella, Bokidha, Oblo are found. The forest is highly valued due to the presence of endemic species like Ruspolis Tauraco and the adjacent Dawa Riverine vegetation, which is expected to be an ecological niche for rare species. Arero forest is also the first breeding record for Salvadori's seedeater (EWNHS, 1996).

The Juniperus stand in Arero forest is mainly damaged with fire as compared to anthropogenic effects like the Negelle forest. This is due to the reduced demand for firewood in the nearby villages and the remoteness of the forest from the main tarmac road. But these conditions don't seem to be a strong shield to save the Arero forest and its heritage. It is promising that the community is struggling to save their heritage by forming "Jaarsa Finna Baddaa" /Forest Management Groups/with the facilitation of the FARM Africa-SOS Sahel PFM intervention. Positive indicators to manage the Arero Forest and its unique biodiversity are underway. Some of these are:

- The Jaarsa Finna Baddaa/JFB conduct their own self-initiated meetings to discuss and strengthen the community centered forest management system. This is at all levels ie. Madda/PA, Forest Block and district levels. The district police, attorney, cooperative, agriculture, administration and natural resource sector offices are all represented at district level JFB.
- Community members at different sites are involved in self-initiated tree planting activities. Based on recommendations of a consultant and discussion with the pastoralist communities themselves, fruit trees are being introduced by SOS Sahel.
- From boys to elders almost all members of the community are involved in the forest monitoring . Women are also equally represented in the forest management institutions and are participating in the decision making process for the sustainable management of the forest.
- The forest product use system is changed from the previous indiscriminate cutting of trees to the use right of only dry wood. Charcoal is completely prohibited. Approval of the forest management group is a must to consume forest products for construction of houses.
- Almost in all community members the ownership feeling for the forest has tremendously increased. The ownership right, which was eroded by the centralized forest management system, is now recovering gradually.

Some of the indications for this is the community began:

- Convincing and stopping some individuals that have a plot of farmland in the forest to stop farming in the forest area. ,
- Continuous follow up and monitoring of fire during the dry season. ,/' Teach and advise some forest users that are found abusing the rules by their traditional elders not to repeat the mistakes.
- Bring challenges encountered to the government forestry department.
- Fence some places where seedlings are planted.
- They have started sending the minutes of their meetings and agenda discussed to the Natural Resources bureau and SOS Sahel office.

### **FARM Africa and SOS Sahel International (UK)**

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