Urban Agriculture the Overlooked Opportunity in Ethiopia

The Case study of:

CDCB Ongoing Model-Innovative project

In partnership with

September, 2017

Finfinne
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1. Part I. Introduction

The contribution of urban agriculture in income generation, employment generation and food security is indispensible. However, this huge opportunity is overlooked; it is with this understanding that CDCB initiated a project entitled “Urban Rural Linkage and Urban Agriculture for livelihood diversification and food security in Oromia Special zone surrounding Finfinne” in 2014. The long term objective of the project is to influence policy makers and development actors to give due attention to this overlooked opportunity and address the challenges fast urbanization processes in Central Oromia. It was a one year project with a limited budget given its expected outcome. Although the project faced-out more than a year ago CDCB is still working towards the realization of the project objectives with its own meager resources and with the limited support of its partners; nevertheless, this didn’t bring the project to the expected level. Given the urgency of the challenges of urbanization and timely nature of the project it is apparent to call upon development actors and all concerned stakeholder and citizen to support the realization of the project. Hence, this document is to briefly communicate the project to potential partners, government body and concerned citizens to support the initiative.

The document is divided into three parts: part one gives highlights of the project, part two briefly describes major activities carried out and their influences. Finally, part three points out key challenges and areas of intervention to realize the project objectives.

CDCB kindly requests interested individuals, organizations and potential partners to support the project taking into account areas of intervention indicated in way-forward part (Part-III) of this document.
1.1 About CDCB

Centre for Development and Capacity Building (CDCB) a local, non-governmental, civil society non-profit making organization established in 20212 by a group of practitioners, civic organization leaders and academia with the view of working in partnership with the regional states and local governments. The prime objective of CDCB is to support regional states and their respective local governments through independent and external professional inputs in scientific research, expertise advisory services and tailor-made capacity building trainings, organizing forums for Government, private and academia and civic societies and implements innovative projects to be scaled up by government and development partners, currently with emphasis on Oromia Regional State.

1.2 Project Background

Ethiopia is one of fast growing sub-Saharan African (SSA) countries that has been registering modest growth rate for nearly one decade. Ethiopia is among the least urbanized countries in the world and the urbanization rate is even less than the average SSA countries in the past, currently it is one of the countries in region where the urbanization is expanding at fastest rate. The country doesn’t have policy and strategy to sustaining the livelihood of farmers dislocated due to urbanization and urban agriculture policy vis-à-vis institutional framework to support urban agriculture.

Urban expansion in Ethiopia, particular Finfinne (Addis Ababa) is dislocating and marginalizing indigenous farmers surrounding the capital. These farmers are forced to be jobless due to two reasons. Firstly, they are not included in the rural Agricultural extension package anymore as they become urban dwellers, and secondly they cannot cope up with the life of cities as they are landless framers and the only “opportunity” they have is to be a guards and subjected to miserable life.

Understanding this policy and institutional gaps CDCB initiated innovative Urban-Agriculture project to generate evidences for policy inputs and to recommend appropriate institutional framework to support urban agriculture. This Urban-Agriculture project is an innovative and model project under implementation in the peri-urban area of Oromia special zone surrounding Fininfine, Berek district, in Laga Bari Lega Bollo kebele since October, 2014. It is a pilot project intended to improve the livelihood of the dislocated and marginalized community
members due to investment and urban expansion in the area to and generate evidence and draw lessons for policy makers in designing the region’s policy in this regard. The project was designed on Poultry and Horticulture farms engaging selected households of the locality.

Oromia Special Zone Surrounding Finfinne was selected as a project site due to high urban expansion and severity of its negative externality in the area. The district was chosen among the districts in the special zone because there is no urban agriculture initiative as compared to other districts of the special zone.

Following district selection locality and project beneficiaries were selected on meticulous criteria and through participatory approaches. First, a team comprising different community groups and local authority (DA, HEW, kebele officials, and Representatives from district offices) was formed to undertake the selection of potential beneficiaries. Second, the team developed selection criteria using different parameters including: education level, age, sex, interest, income level and motivations of the beneficiaries. Finally, the team preliminary screened out 185 households out of 465 households. The target was to engage 100 households; hence the team selected those households ranked from 1 to 100 for poultry and Horticulture farm.

2. Part II. Project implementations and current status

The project is intended to generate evidences for policy inputs and institutional reform that contributes towards addressing the challenges of the fast urban expansion process particularly around the capital Finfinne (Addis Ababa) and towns in the central part of Oromia. Encouraging results has been gained so far to use the intervention for policy inputs and scaling-up. However, there are a number of key activities need to be done for scaling-up and generate sufficient evidences to advocate for institutionalization of urban-agriculture in the region. Despite challenges and a need for further interventions there are key activities undertaken in the course of implementing the project. Brief description of implemented key activities would help in evaluating the current status, drawing lessons and setting roadmap to attain the ultimate goal of the project.
2.1 Project launching participants (right)

The project was officially commenced by launching workshop conducted at Sandafa Town on 25th April 2015, with 50 participants drawn from target beneficiaries, relevant district, and invited guests from two Regional Bureaus. On this workshop, consensus was reached among all stakeholders with regard to the importance of the project and its commencement was officially declared.

2.2 Assessment

Before implementation of the project, systemic assessment was conducted to investigate urban agriculture opportunities in Oromia special zone in general and Sandafa Bakke district in particular. The assessment identified various urban agriculture opportunities in the area, nevertheless, horticulture and poultry farm were identified to be the best urban agriculture practices because of budget limit of the project. The study also helped to develop proper project implementation strategy and best criteria to select beneficiaries. The assessment also reviewed various urban agriculture policies and different country’s experiences and their relevance to our context. The finding of the assessment is available as a reference for further studies and could be used as evidence for policy dialogue and scaling up of the project.

2.3 Training

Five days generic training was provided for the selected beneficiaries on poultry and horticulture farms. Accordingly, 51 households (household heads) on poultry and 14 on horticulture farm received training as per the type of farm they selected to involve in. To this end:

a) Two standard training manuals on Poultry and Horticulture farming were developed by pertinent professionals in the field.

b) Intensive training was provided for the target beneficiaries for five days.
2.4 Input supply and Supportive Follow-up

After completion of the training, on May 25, 2015 CDCB provided six hundred (600) chickens, anti-disease chemicals, and one month chicken food for the entire target beneficiaries (51 persons-16 male and 35 Female). On July 9, 2015 eight quintals (800kg) of improved potato seed acquired from Holeta Research Center was supplied to the target beneficiaries (14 persons _ 13 male and 1 Female). Similarly, 1.8 quintal (180kg) Garlic/onion seed provided for the same beneficiaries.

The beneficiaries entered an agreement not only for receiving the inputs but also to implement the project as per the training and the manual which guide the practice. The Development Agents were highly engaged in the whole process of the project with a responsibility to support the implementation in addition to the CDCB project officer.

*pullets delivered to the beneficiaries*
During supplying improved seeds of Vegetable

2.5 Project Expansion and Cooperative Formation
Beneficiaries are collecting eggs daily for sale and their income is improving. As one can learn from the interview conducted with some of the beneficiaries, it is not only their income that changed as a result of the project but also nutritional diversification as they have been using eggs for feeding their family. Although there are positive changes market is becoming a serious due to lack of regular buyers. Chickens food is supplied at high price because the supply is monopolized by only two suppliers. To address these problems CDCB with the financial support of OXFAM-USA constructed animal food processing center with the necessary machineries. The project beneficiaries are supported to form cooperative and legally registered.

2.5.1 Chicken Food Processing Plant
Following the cooperative formation of the project beneficiary they secured land from local authority for the purpose of establishing animal food processing plant, office and product sales site. The chicken food processing plant is furnished by user friendly machines to be operated by the beneficiaries (local community). The food processing plant is also designed for multi-purposes as a center for animal food processing and training center for the community, for office, and for sale center.
2.5.2 Animal feed processing Machines

With the financial support from Oxfam America, CDCB procured animal food processing machines (miller, and mixer) simple and user friendly one.

2.5.3 Training section

The animal food processing center has a section designed to serves as community training center and office for the cooperatives and furnished for this purposes.
2.6 Key Achievements of the project

The result of project evaluation shows that, the innovative project in spite of its magnitude and duration has changed the attitude of the community (beneficiary and non-beneficiary) and local administrations towards diversified income generation schemes and urban agriculture. The beneficiaries’ income improved and motivated non-beneficiaries to take part in similar activities. An average of 320 household members including women and youth are directly or indirectly engaged in poultry management.

2.6.1 Beneficiaries’ Testimony

Obbo Sisay Demise
Once I was engaged in small-business (with no profit but high risk) driving donkeys in the lowlands of Minjar until I heard about the innovative project of CDCB. It was at critical time for me when I was selected as one of the project’s beneficiary. I have attended the training provided by CDCB but I could not wait until the start of the project that I had started irrigation of horticulture like potato and onion on my plot.

With the support and follow up of CDCB I proceed and I sold potato to ETB 10,000 (Ten thousand Birr) and Onion to ETB 8,000 (Eight thousand Birr) form on harvest (the house consumption is not included). Having seen this result, I progressed to using pump and now I have recruited 4 workers in my farm. From this success, I have started poultry farm by receiving chickens from CDCB along with their food and disinfecting chemicals.

Today I built my own house in the town and pay ETB 420 (Four hundred twenty) for my children’s school fee a month. Observing the positive change in my life, friends and neighbors are requesting only training and technical support to start poultry and horticulture farm on their own.

**Adde Aberash Tadase (beneficiary)**

I was working for Arab families in Kuwait and regularly sending my wages to my fiancé when I came back home; he was married to another woman and refused give my money back. When I learned this I was distressed, my Dad gave me a plot of land and built house for me with what I
had and with his own. I started my life by selling local alcohol (Arake). Then I was married to a person working in one of the sectors of the district. My marriage could not sustain for more than a year as I got pregnant and gave birth to twin babies my husband betrayed me leaving the kids with me, the worst time in my life. While I was in this situation, CDCB staff Mr. Soboka and local administration told me that I am selected to participate in the project which was about to start in my kebele that I realized good time would appear again.

I participated in trainings and received chickens, chicken food and disinfecting chemicals home and started poultry farm on my own plot of land. Now in addition to the income I earn from the farm coupled with local Alcohol, I am now selling soft drinks in my house that my life is improving from then on wards.

2.6.2 Local administration and non-beneficiary local communities view

Local administration and non-beneficiary local community members also expressed their view regarding the project’s positive influences on their attitude, motivation, and in initiating similar activities and management of small business. (Refer to annex one- regarding the view of Local administration and non-beneficiary local community on the positive influence of the project).

3. Part III. Project Challenges and way-forward

As briefly discussed in the preceding part, encouraging results have been witnessed to attain the intended goal of the project. However, further efforts of deepening and broadening of the project is needed for scaling-up and to generate sufficient evidences for institutionalization of urban-agriculture.

Some of the key challenges are attributed to: beneficiaries’ skill and technical gaps on proper management of poultry farm (feeding and maintaining house and health condition) is causing negative impact on the success of the project. Animal food processing plant is constructed and furnished with necessary machineries to address the problem of availability and quality chicken food in the area; however, it is not functional due to electric power supply which needs immediate action with the support of stakeholders. Due to the limited number of chicken per-household, beneficiaries are not committing their full working time on the project. Increasing each household’s number of chicken and size of horticulture so that beneficiaries practice poultry farm and horticulture as fulltime job is very important. Due to budget limitation and
unavailability of fund CDCB is unable to supply additional inputs currently and need the support of its partners and potential partners’. Above-all, to attain the intended project objectives, further broadening and deepening of the project through solving the immediate challenges is indispensable.

### 3.1 Summary of the project’s Success, Bottlenecks and way-out

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<th>Shortages/Bottlenecks</th>
<th>Way-out</th>
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<td><strong>Income:</strong> beneficiaries daily income improved</td>
<td><strong>Income:</strong> the number of chickens distributed is too few to bring about significant change on their income. shortage of fund to supply enough chickens and input</td>
<td>Seek for additional fund to increase the number of chickens for each beneficiary. This is to bring about significant change on the lives of the beneficiaries so as to make the project model for other parts of Oromia and country as well.</td>
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<td><strong>Machine:</strong> Chickens food processing machine procured and installed but not functional.</td>
<td><strong>Machine:</strong> the machine is not operation due to electricity. Even if the machine starts producing chickens food, the number of chickens of the beneficiaries cannot consume all the inputs which increase operational cost.</td>
<td>Additional chickens for each beneficiaries helps to increase their income and utilize the machine at its maximum capacity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Shade:</strong> land for shade for sale is secured.</td>
<td><strong>Shade:</strong> Is not functional due to shortage fund.</td>
<td>Seek fund to construct shade (sale point).</td>
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<td><strong>Cooperative:</strong> Beneficiaries formed cooperative and legally registered.</td>
<td><strong>Cooperative:</strong> the cooperative formed is at infant stage, it has not started working as cooperative yet.</td>
<td>This needs further trainings to raise the awareness of all beneficiaries to act actively as a member. Increase their management capacity to run the formed organization.</td>
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<td><strong>Attitudinal:</strong> starting from the commencement of the project, change in attitude on the beneficiaries with regard to diversification of income and urban-agriculture improved</td>
<td><strong>Attitudinal:</strong> the impact of change in the attitude of the beneficiaries is only on the surrounding community.</td>
<td>Need further partnership and resources for deepening and broadening the project</td>
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4. Part VI: Way for ward

The innovative project is aimed at addressing the negative externalities of Urbanizations and intends to exploit its positive influences for institutionally-Hard to reach peri-urban rural community. The ultimate goal of the project is to institutionalize urban agriculture in Oromia regional state, which lacks this key institution and to scale up the project to other part of the region with similar context. Remarkable achievements have been made so far in creating interest among the local community and local government of the project area yet still need follow-up and technical support to attain the project’s goal. The immediate areas intervention to realize the project objective could be categorized into two.

4.1 Creating Model Community

Strengthening the ongoing project activities by giving additional support and follow up to beneficiaries to deepen and broaden the project’s impact and form the project beneficiaries as a model urban agriculture practicing community. The formation of successful/model urban agriculture practicing community will serve as experience sharing/learning for community of similar context, civil society organization having interest to work in the area, policy makers, relevant government institutions and different development actors working in the area or having interest in to work on the area.

Key activities to be carried out to attain this objective are:

1. Provide additional input for target beneficiaries
2. Identifying potential market opportunities for beneficiaries and linking them to the end users,
3. Additional refreshment trainings and experience sharing within the cooperative members
4. Developing case study on urban-agriculture project; aiming to draw good practices and lessons for the institutionalization and scaling up to be presented for policy dialogues and consultations.
4.2 Scaling up and institutionalization

Policy dialogues and consultations are crucial to institutionalize urban agriculture and scale up the project to areas of similar context in the region and the country. The policy dialogues targets policy makers, relevant government institutions, and civil society organizations working in the area of livelihoods, food security and working on urban agriculture. Policy dialogues could serve as a platform to engage various development actors, civil society organizations, policy makers and NGOs to take part in designing appropriate institutions of urban agriculture and scaling up the project to areas of similar context in the region and country. To this end the following major activities need to be carried out to attain the ultimate objectives of the project.

1. **Local level policy dialogue**

Organize consultation workshop at grass-root level with district and local leaders to ensure the sustainability of the project.

2. **Regional level policy dialogue for Civil societies and development actors**

Awareness creation workshop for stakeholders including key professionals, NGOs and CSOs, and key development actors operating at the regional level on how to institutionalize urban agriculture, scale up the project.

3. **Regional higher level policy dialogue**

Organize a consultative meeting with Regional level key stakeholders’ leadership and key development actors having regional influences, to design the strategy to institutionalize the result of the intervention to enable transformation in to the modern urban agriculture, processing and marketing of the product.

4. **Taskforce formation and mentoring**

To use the aforementioned policy dialogues inputs to institutionalize urban agriculture in a relevant regional government office and scaling up of the project, it is important to have a taskforces to work on the matter. Government and development actors’ commitment is to empower and support the team for its realization. CDCB being with the concerned government body and interested civil society and development actors would work on the formation and strengthening of the taskforces through:

- Organizing a visit program to learn lesson from the pilot project and support the institutionalization of the project,
- Preparation of a guideline on the institutionalization of the urban agriculture.
5. Annex: Non-Beneficiaries (Neighbors and Local Administration workers) view

**Obbo Tamiru Tadesse (Dweller of the locality and Neighbors of the beneficiaries):**
Obbo Tamiru is not enrolled in the CDCB’s innovative project; he is married and has one daughter living opposite to Adde Aberash Tadesse (project beneficiary and sister). He has already acquainted profound knowledge about poultry farm by observing his sister’s and has already prepared a place for chickens waiting for CDCB’s training.

What Do District officers Say

**Obbo Mindaye Magarsa (Barek district deputy Agriculture office):** Due to rapid expansion of investment and urbanization in our area we believe that urban agriculture is with no option to sustain the livelihood of the dislocated farmers. CDCB’s innovative project should be encouraged to cope up the consequences of urbanization and investment expansions in our district. There is untapped market opportunity for horticultural products and poultry in our district due to the proximity to the capital. On top of that, the way CDCB handled the project is so good that beneficiaries could acquire technology transfer, the spirit of working in team and increases their bargaining power. Thus as district official, I ask the scale up of this effective project in our district to expand the benefit of the project to all residents of the district.

**Obbo Fikadu Gerba (Barek district Livestock expert):** Even though urban expansion is moving at alarming rate in our area causing many dislocations, leaving many farmers landless and their offspring’s jobless, there was no attention from policy makers and other higher officials to urban agriculture as a remedy. This has affected many families in our districts that many farmers are becoming hopeless because they neither cope up with economic situations for they do not have knowledge and skills necessary for the competition in the towns nor continue as a farmer due to loss of their land to the investors.
In our district CDCB’s project is crucial as a solution of the problem. Thus, as I have participated in the project many times, I learned that this project has created interest for urban agriculture specially poultry on the beneficiaries and the surrounding community. Not only this but also the way CDCB approached the beneficiaries and their problem is innovative which has shown an impact on their interest for the work. I recommend the scale up of the project to other areas in the district.

Obbo Abriham Alemu (Barek district Livestock expert): I have made field visits to the kebeles where the project is being implemented and grasped that changes between what was prevailing in the area before the project was started and what is going on after the implementation of the project. I remember similar endeavor made by a given NGO in Yeka 3 kebele distributing chickens for farmers with no follow-up due to this, the project is now ended up and no impact of the project is left there. What I learned from CDCB is that from the begging to an end every action was taken with consultation with beneficiaries, training was given, interest was created, chickens, disinfecting chemicals and chickens food was given to them, follow up was made, problem of input is being solved by installing milling machine and cooperative was formed to solve their market problems. Now beneficiaries have started to buy chickens and their food on their own especially when we see data from input suppliers most of their clients are from the kebele where CDCB project is being implemented. I believe that the project is innovative and sustainable so I recommend its scale up in other areas of our district.