



MOYESH Outcomes

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The story of Abeba Mebrate & Tesfaye Terefe Beekeeping Enterprise in Wonago district, SNNP region of Ethiopia



Photo: MOYESH programme youth partner sharing her excitement with quality packed table honey produced by their group, the Abeba Mebrate and Friends Beekeeping Enterprise.

The introduction of MOYESH programme has awakened many jobless young women and men in Kara Soditi village of Wenago district, Gedeo Zone of the Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples' (SNNP) Region of Ethiopia. Aster Bahiru is a member of Abeba Mebrate & Friends Beekeeping Enterprise. Members were jobless and spent their time without purpose. She said, “thanks to *icipe*, for connecting us with this important business. Now, we already understood how we can move forward, expanding the beekeeping and complementary income generating activities.”



Another member of the group, Abeba Mebrate, said, “Before the introduction of the MOYESH programme, we had no experience in the beekeeping practice. Especially the engagement of females in the business was not encouraged by our families and the entire community. In this regard, this programme brought about a major difference in our lives. As you can see, we are doing well in establishing apiary sites and produced quality honey within a short period of time.



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This is really amazing. I could not hide my excitement; a year ago we were jobless and had no means to engage in such life changing activity.” Both females and males are engaging equally in this business. Our engagement in the programme commenced with us attending basic entrepreneurship and beekeeping technical skills development training. We received the necessary starter kit items and started with 20 frame and 22 transitional and 7 traditional beehives. In the first harvest season, we produced 90kg of honey and generated about USD\$3,300 income from the beekeeping and complementary side businesses. We were also trained and guided to develop business plans and embraced the entrepreneurial saving culture. We received loans from the Omo Microfinance Institution to expand our business. Now, we are very happy with the programme which brought hopes to our lives.



In Wenago district 150 youth beekeepers' enterprises were established during 2020 and 2021 with the support of the MOYESH programme. The enterprises are doing very well in the beekeeping business; they have established apiary sites, bee forage development nursery sites and initiated side businesses that complement beekeeping.

Beekeeping has immense potential in creating youth employment opportunities and generating economic growth in the Wenago district of SNNP region. The district is known to have about 17,389 honeybee colonies and 4613 an officially recorded unemployed youths. The unemployment record does not include under employment and underpaid. Through the MOYESH programme, the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (*icipe*), the Mastercard Foundation, and partnering public and private institutions have joined their efforts to create dignified and fulfilling jobs for 1,500 young women and men in improved commercial beekeeping practices.

The MOYESH programme was designed to secure dignified and fulfilling direct employment and income for 100, 000 unemployed Ethiopian youth (60% women) through provision of appropriate knowledge and skills and enabling them to establish beekeeping and sericulture business enterprises. The programme will have further positive impacts on 14.6 million people along the honey and silk value chains through multiplier effects. MOYESH is a five-year programme (October 2019- September 2024) implemented by *icipe* (<http://www.icipe.org>) in partnership with Mastercard Foundation (mastercardfdn.org), the Ethiopian Job Creation Commission (jobscommission.gov.et) and several private public sector actors.



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