

Climate Smart Initiative Story of Change: Sadik Shabure, PSNP–PW Foreman

Halaba special woreda, SNNPR, Ethiopia

Sadik Shabure by
the gabion check dam
Photograph by Alemitu Golda

The Climate Smart Initiative (CSI) was launched in July 2013, as an adjunct to the existing Government of Ethiopia's Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP) and Household Asset Building Programme (HABP); two of the key mechanisms of the Government to tackle food security issues and related rural livelihoods strengthening.

CSI was designed to pilot approaches that consider climate change within this larger, established context, working within existing Government approaches and cycles. This Story of Change provides an example of how CSI has affected an individual or a household.

Story
Eight



Who is Sadik Shabure?

For the last five years he has been the PSNP Public Works (PW) foreman, working with Mesrak Gortancho kebele Agricultural Office and Halaba special woreda Agricultural Office. He is responsible for measuring and allocating soil and water conservation works to the PSNP–PW beneficiaries. CSI provided him with training on natural resources management

What are the climate and environmental problems facing Sadik in his area?

Water shortages at certain times of year contrast with the hazard of severe flooding, which has created a gully that divides the community.

Summary:

Sadik Shabure, an experienced PSNP–PW foreman, improved his understanding of how best to conserve soil and water and address flood risk after CSI–provided training on natural resources management. This on–the–job training boosted his knowledge, skills and confidence. One only needs to walk around Muleta Gojam watershed to see the impact of his PSNP–PW. In particular, he facilitated the implementation of non–stone check dams on 3km of gully. The community of Muleta Gojam watershed is now protected from flood and the gully has silted up, reuniting neighbours once divided.

CSI has been implemented by a consortium of organisations, led by CARE Ethiopia, and including Cornell University, Dadimos, FARM Africa, IDS, IICD, Itad Ltd, Jimma University, MMA Consulting, Mercy Corps, ORDA, REST, and SNV. In late 2015, CSI is closing down; leaving a legacy of learning and insights about “climate smart” and what it means, from the household reality to the highest level of policy making.



PSNP
Productive Safety Net Programme

Story of Change: Sadik Shabure

Training on soil and water conservation brings about changes in understanding

Sadik Shabure remains open to learning new knowledge and skills on soil and water conservation despite having five years experience as a PSNP-PW foreman: 'In September/October 2014, CSI invited me and other foremen for on-the-job training, which was conducted at Aymale kebele, on improved soil and water conservation implementation.' The trainer demonstrated the construction of check dams, using materials that are more easily available locally and are lower cost than stone. Sadik learnt, for example, that check dams could be made with gabion and plastic sheeting, compacted with soil. He states that: 'Due to participating in the training, my knowledge and skill improved.'

Applying this new knowledge and skills

Sadik asserts that this training significantly helped him to do his job: 'Following the training, I started applying knowledge and skills that I acquired. So far I have facilitated the implementation of check dams on about 3km of gully that begins from the mountain (west direction), its upper stream, and extends to Bilate River (east), its downstream.' Apart from being inspired to construct check dams, he is also facilitating the implementation of other soil and water conservation structures such as trenches, micro-basins and soil bunds.

Reaping the benefits of new non-stone check dams

Many positive benefits are in evidence from the construction of the check dams in the gully, using gabion and plastic compacted with soil: 'They have reduced flooding and the gully has filled up with siltation that means soil and water are retained in the gully. The check dam has significantly contributed to reduction in floods and people are able to walk and cross the former gully that had separated neighbours who lived on two different sides of the same plot of land.' Sadik is optimistic: 'In the near future, I believe that the entire gully will be recovered/rehabilitated with effective flood control and it will also be covered with vegetation.'

Planning for the future

Encouraged by the success of the check dams, Sadik has ambitious plans to spread the learning from CSI: 'My plan now is to empower households, through sharing knowledge, to be able to replicate the soil and water conservation activities that CSI has demonstrated in the area.'



The gabion and plastic check dam compacted with soil
Photograph by Alemitu Golda

