

## Zoba Gash Barka: Land of Palm Trees and Elephants PART II

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There is a Tigrign saying “Tetsgibeni kitcha ab moklo’a efelta” (I know the bread which satisfies me from its baking). This famous Tigrigna saying could be proved by any one visiting the Gash Barka region.

Zoba Gash Barka is extraordinarily rich in its resources in terms of agriculture, forests and animal life, both domestic and wild and mineral resources. The modern agricultural facilities at Gerset and the two Fancos, the gum trees found around Omhajer, crocodiles of River Tekeze and gazelles and wild pig like (Wedimbi) tigers, hyenas, and variety of minerals.

As Omhajer is a place of interest for eco-tourism with its indigenous trees and wild life the modern mechanized farms are where one could observe first hand where Eritrea is heading in terms of ensuring food security. Food security by its own toil and renovating minds of its citizens. The vast farmlands that are in place and already cultivated at Gerset, Fanco Zimue Fanco Rawi, Aligidir, Adi Umer, Molover and Afhiblo are vibrant demonstrations for in a short period of time Eritrea not only could feed its own people but will have the potential of exporting agricultural products such as sesame, cotton, variety of fruits like Banana and vegetables.

The above mentioned agro-industries were initiated and become reality by the government of Eritrea from the scratch some years back. These areas have been a barren land where there was no sign of any kind of



developmental activity. But in about ten years time these areas have been the concentration of heavy investment of the government in its bid to realize the much conceived self reliance and realizing its set developmental goals. Millions of cubic meters of water are being conserved in those dams and are expected to cultivate hundreds of thousands of hectares of land. The products are mainly cash crops currently for local consumption and have the prospect for export in the near future.

