

Ongoing Development Derive Revitalizing Senafe Sub-Zone

Written by Kesete Ghebrehiwet



Senafe sub-zone borders to the East with Southern Red Sea Region, particularly with Foro and Gelalo subzones, to the South with Ethiopia, to the west with Tserona sub-zone, and to the North with Adi Keyih Sub-zone. This sub-zone has more than 100 villages inhabited by above 76 thousand people from the Tigrigna and Saho ethnic groups. Like in other parts of Eritrea, people of this sub-zone have a deep rooted culture of resolving conflicts through the involvement of community magistrates. This time there are 18 community magistrates that give services to the 23 administrative areas of the sub-zone. Geographically, Senafe Sub-zone is situated at 2004 above the sea level. Its annual rain fall range is a bit above 500 mm. Its total geographical areas covers more than 110 hectares that could be used for agriculture and for the construction of varied service giving institutions, but the rest is very mountainous area where the highest mountains of the country are situated in.

Of total area of Senafe sub-zone, above 16,000 hectares is favorable for conducting agricultural activities. However, only 10,000 hectares have been cultivated in this year's summer. Soil texture of this sub-zone and the weather over there is favorable for the cultivation of all sorts of cereal crops. It is, however, to be noted that most of the farm lands have been cultivated traditionally. Meanwhile modern farm practices have introduced. With the reinforcement of modern farm practices around 2000 apple and around 1,750 peach seedlings have been planted in different areas of the sub-zone. Hence, 90% of the apple seedlings are in a good condition whereas there is no major progress in the cultivation of peach. Water sources such as the 31 dams and 21 micro-dams of the sub-zone have been utilized for modern cultivation programs as well as for domestic uses. Utilizing such water sources, efforts have been exerted to enable the inhabitants of the sub-zone to cultivate twice or three times a year.

The Senfe sub-zone is also well known for bee keeping activities. The farmers over there have a good know-how on bee keeping. Therefore, bee keeping is well practiced in this sub-zone. Honey harvesting has been growing

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But the government has been pushing for a more integrated approach to development, one that takes into account the needs of the people and the environment. This is a challenge that the government and the private sector must meet if they are to succeed in revitalizing the Senafe sub-zone.