

Agricultural Achievements From Ground Zero

Written by Kesete Gebrehiwet
Friday, 08 April 2011 11:48 -



Through a can-do spirit great achievements have been registered in the agricultural sector. Though the accomplishments attained so far have not yet met the envisaged goals, agricultural undertakings accomplished in the last 20 years have laid a good foundation for a higher degree of achievement. A three day symposium of the Ministry of Agriculture, conducted in Barentu highlighted the tangible achievements that have been registered, the challenges that were encountered during the course of implementing varied programs and the future plans of agricultural sub-sectors that are in line for implementation in the coming 5 years. Known for its abundant agricultural productions, Gash-Barka hosted the symposium that dealt with activities of boosting agricultural yield, enhancing agro- industrial projects and bringing solutions to the hurdles that have been preventing agricultural sub-sectors from progressing.

The symposium, which was held at the hall of the National Union of Eritrean Women in Barentu, the Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Arefaine Berhe, gave introductory remarks about the four main phases in agricultural endeavors.

He briefly stated that the phase between 1991 and 1993 was a revitalization period of the agriculture sector that had started from scratch. The second phase from 1994-1997, was a period in which extensive soil and water conservation activities, construction of water reservoirs in different parts of the country were carried out. The third phase from 1998-2004 was also a period in which good experiences in collective farming and the introduction of advanced agricultural mechanization impacted the scope of agro-industrial activities began to flourish. As such, small scale poultry industries were established, honey bee farming significantly grew with the distribution of about 20,000 bee hives as well as distributions of selected seeds of cereal crops, fruits and vegetables.

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