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Barentu, 29 December 2012 – The Agriculture Ministry's branch in Gash-Barka region indicated that the experience acquired attests to the significance of land preparation in boosting harvest, and that more effort should be exerted in this regard. It made the call at an assessment meeting conducted recently.

Mr. Abubeker Osman, head of the branch office, explained that the past 4 years witnessed a relatively fair harvest level as 90% of the potential farmland could be tilled in collaboration with the Ministry and the regional Administration. He further disclosed that the sub-zones of Goluj, Laelai-Gash, Shambuko and Gogne are among the localities that witnessed bountiful harvest during the specified time.

Moreover, Mr. Abubeker pointed out that various select legumes, oil crops and sweet potato could be put under cultivation in the region in collaboration with the the National Center of Agricultural Research, besides the accomplishments registered as regards promoting fruits and vegetables as well as dairy farming.

Meanwhile, the Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Arefaine Berhe, called on the regional Administration to step up endeavors regarding promoting application of crop rotation, production of green feed, irrigated horticultural activities and soil and water conservation ventures. He also expressed the Ministry's readiness to collaborate with it.

The regional Administrator of Gash-Barka, Mr. Mohammed Hamd, on his part lauded the active role of agriculture experts in the region, and asserted that the Administration is seriously engaged in controlling illicit drug imports, conservation of wildlife and forestry, as well as combating deforestation.