**Narrative Report Summary: Youth-Led Agricultural Innovations for Sustainable Livelihoods**

**Every Woman’s Rights and Youth Organization for Community Advancement (Ewryoca) Profile**

**Physical Address:** Somali Regional State of Ethiopia, Jigjiga Main Road, Hilal Building  
**Contact Information:**

* **Email:** [adisababaliasonoffice@ewryo.org](mailto:adisababaliasonoffice@ewryo.org) | [info@ewryoca.org](mailto:info@ewryoca.org)
* **Telephone:** +251 252 78 0907 | +251 929 510 538
* **P.O. Box:** 438, East Action
* **Website:** [http://ewryo.org](http://ewryo.org/)

**Project Overview**

* **Project Name:** Youth-Led Agricultural Innovations for Sustainable Livelihoods
* **Location:** Dagaxle Farming Area, Fafan Zone, Somali Regional State, Ethiopia
* **Date:** December 2024

**1. Introduction**

Every Woman’s Rights and Youth Organization for Community Advancement (Ewryoca) is a dynamic, youth-led collective that unites locals, internally displaced persons (IDPs), and refugees to promote equal representation and shared decision-making. With a diverse membership composition of 50% locals, 25% IDPs, and 25% refugees, Ewryoca was founded by young people aged 18 to 30 who are committed to fostering inclusive leadership and driving community-led change.

Ewryoca’s leadership structure includes eight decision-makers, with half representing IDP and refugee communities. Members hail from various communities, including Kebribayah, Dollo Ado, Awbar, Shedder, Kobe, Qoloji, Tuliguled, and Gunagado, incorporating voices from individuals living with HIV/AIDS. Ewryoca’s mission is to empower youth and create sustainable impact in the Somali Regional State, Ethiopia.

The **"Youth-Led Agricultural Innovations for Sustainable Livelihoods"** project is a strategic initiative aimed at empowering young farmers by introducing modern agricultural practices to boost productivity and sustainability in the Dagaxle farming area. The project focuses on improving farming techniques, ensuring food security, and creating economic opportunities for youth in the region.

**2. Site Visit & Harvesting Overview**

In December 2024, a site visit was conducted to assess project progress and observe the harvesting phase. The visit included interactions with young farmers, evaluation of crop performance, and documentation of both successes and challenges. The harvest yielded key crops such as red onions, tomatoes, and maize, demonstrating the project's positive impact on agricultural productivity.

**3. Key Achievements**

* **Enhanced Crop Yields:** Adoption of innovative farming techniques significantly boosted agricultural productivity.
* **Youth Empowerment:** The project successfully mobilized and trained young farmers in sustainable agriculture practices.
* **Efficient Resource Management:** Advanced soil and water management techniques, including efficient irrigation, optimized water usage in the semi-arid region.
* **Market Linkages:** Young farmers were connected to local markets, increasing income-generating opportunities.

**4. Challenges**

Despite notable successes, the project encountered several challenges:

* **Funding Constraints:** Limited partnerships and donor support impacted project expansion.
* **High Cost of Seeds:** The high cost of quality red onion seeds posed financial challenges for young farmers.
* **Insufficient Farm Inputs:** Limited access to fertilizers, pesticides, and modern farming tools affected productivity.
* **Lack of Modern Equipment:** The absence of advanced agricultural technologies hindered efficiency.
* **Climate Variability:** Unpredictable rainfall patterns disrupted irrigation and affected crop yields.
* **Market Fluctuations:** Price instability in local markets impacted farmers' profitability.
* **Infrastructure Barriers:** Poor road conditions made it difficult to transport produce to markets.

**5. Conclusion & Recommendations**

The **"Youth-Led Agricultural Innovations for Sustainable Livelihoods"** project demonstrated the potential of youth-driven agriculture to transform livelihoods in Dagaxle. To sustain and expand this progress, the following recommendations are proposed:

**Recommendations:**

1. **Subsidizing Seed Costs:** Collaborate with government and NGOs to provide financial support, reducing the cost of quality seeds.
2. **Improving Input Accessibility:** Establish robust supply chains for fertilizers and farming tools to enhance productivity.
3. **Climate Adaptation Strategies:** Introduce drought-resistant crop varieties and promote efficient irrigation techniques to manage climate risks.
4. **Strengthening Market Access:** Facilitate direct market connections to ensure fair pricing and profitability for farmers.
5. **Infrastructure Development:** Improve roads and storage facilities to enhance logistics and post-harvest management.

**Conclusion**

This initiative highlights the critical role of youth in advancing agricultural innovation and the need for continued investment to address existing challenges. By focusing on sustainable practices, market access, and climate resilience, Ewryoca aims to contribute to long-term economic stability and growth in the Somali Regional State.







