



Bale Bulletin

Issue 4 March 2008

Fire incidences in the Bale Mountains Eco-Region

The forest fires in Bale started in mid-February, 2008. They were a synthesis of human interference and were exacerbated by a prolonged dry season. The fires spread in the forests, bush lands, woodlands and *Erica* sites in the highland and lowlands of the Bale and West Arsi Zones. Among the woredas where fires broke out included: Goba, Delomena, Haranna Buluk, Goro, Gurradhamole, Dinsho, Agafa, Barbare, Adaba, Dodola and Nensebo. [Read Full Story](#)

PFM working group workshop conducted

The 2008 PFM working group workshop was conducted with the support of BERSMP and FAO on March 18-19, 2008 in Awassa. This year's gathering was much bigger than the previous years with more than 60 participants from government offices, NGOs and forest unions. It was seen that PFM is now much better understood and accepted as a sustainable forest management system among stakeholders. The group discussed on a number of identified key issues including policies and sustainability of PFM after selected discussion papers were presented. The need for a Federal body to take over the lead in managing the PFM working group was widely agreed but details were left to be exhausted and finalised by the identified government bodies, with the facilitation of BERSMP.

[Read Full Story](#)

Beekeeping training for honey production improvement

BERSMP is working to support local bee farmers in the production, processing, packaging and marketing of bee products. To improve the current crude honey production system, beekeeping training was conducted in Goba Woreda in December 2007. Feedback from the trainees indicated that the advantages of the modern hives include increased honey production potential, management simplicity, avoiding risks of climbing trees, less exposure to honey thieves and avoiding unsustainable cutting of trees for hives construction. [Read Full Story](#)

BERSMP's website launches

The BERSMP website, <http://www.pfmp-farmsos.org>, has been made available to users as of this month. The website is under the joint participatory resources management programme of FARM-Africa and SOS Sahel Ethiopia along with the previous PFM programme of the two organizations.

The website is set up in order to ensure lessons and experiences from both programmes are available online. The BERSMP website provides information about the programme activities and avails various publications carried out in the implementation area. We hope it will serve you in obtaining the information you require.

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The Bale e- bulletin is prepared as a quarterly electronic document in order to keep interested parties abreast and aware of programme actions and developments. It is seen as a fast and effective mode of communication, taking advantage of the expanding internet capacity in the country. The e-bulletin is circulated to a restricted list of partners and collaborators. If you want to join or leave the mailing list please contact us through the email below. Also, please feel free to pass on this Bulletin to those that may be interested.

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