

FARM Africa

Woleo

Thanks to FARM-Africa, Woleo has learnt how to farm his dry land in Ethiopia's arid Afar region - enabling him to grow food to feed his family for the first time...



Semu Robi is a remote district in Ethiopia's arid Afar region. Water is scarce and almost no infrastructure exists. Woleo and his extended family were living, like almost every family in the area, in a temporary village with just a few livestock. Livestock sales were his only form of income, and only way to buy food to feed his family.

Sadly, recurrent drought means the pasture in the area and animal health are suffering. Animals in poor condition are less valuable and an absence of local markets makes selling livestock even harder. Woleo and others in his community were finding it increasingly difficult to earn money for food from their livestock.

Recognising the difficulties facing communities in this area, FARM-Africa started work last year setting up local agricultural groups. By providing training in crop cultivation, weeding, ploughing and harvesting, as well as some seeds, FARM-Africa gave Woleo the skills, tools and confidence he needs to effectively farm his plot of land.

With his new found expertise, and the loan of some oxen which his agricultural group bought through a loan from FARM-Africa, Woleo has already harvested enough beans and maize to feed his family (and some relatives and neighbours!) for three months.

Not only is his family much healthier and no longer hungry, but Woleo hasn't needed to sell any animals, and is starting to build up his herd once again.

'I proved that if we Afar people get the opportunity we can cultivate our land like our farmer neighbours and can have alternative livelihoods. If I had not joined this group I would have been forced to sell some of my animals to buy food for my family.' **Woleo Kodel**