



Annual report 2021

March 2022

Introduction

2021 was just as 2020 a special year for SME. Corona made that many activities could not be done or very delayed. Among other things a necessary work field visit could not be realized. We were also worrying about the consequences of the war in Tigray for Ethiopia. This concerns also the economic development of Ethiopia in general and especially for the agricultural sector (food production).

Another thing to worry about was the draught in the eastern part of Africa. The lack of water was a thread for the production of food for people and animals.

The consequences of Covid were limited in Ethiopia; the number of infected people was relatively low. There were no lock downs and hospitals were not overcrowded with very ill people.

Cooperation with Bora

In 2021 Bora Integrated Commercial Farm PLC (Bora) became a partner in the cooperation with SME. In February a Memorandum of Understanding was signed. Mutual intentions and responsibilities were well described for the coming time. The core of the appointments was the creation of a training centre, called Star Chicken. The infrastructure for this has to be built on the area of Bora. A model chicken stable has to be built as an important part of the centre. A stable has a capacity of 2000-4000 chicken per shift. Also the fodder production unit of Bora will be part of the centre. About 20 good farmers will be selected as a leading group for training and innovation.

In March 2021 SME and Bora made together a project plan for the longer term. The plan consists of 5 phases and these all together need at least 5 years for implementation. The needed budget is a challenge to realize. Both parties have a responsibility in that. SME is responsible for the costs of the first phase of the training centre.

The communication between Bora and SME was predominantly by e-mail, but there also was video meeting.

Bromaxx chicken stables

SME investigated the possibilities of a suitable Bromaxx stable for a number of 2000 chickens per shift. The delivery of the stables was a problem and the prices were rising strongly. Bora thought it better for its farm to have a stable for 4000 chickens per shift. Because of these and other questions, and the uncertainty about available money, buying a stable was postponed to 2022.

Next to this Bora made a design for a training room as part of the training centre. This also costs a lot of money and SME was not yet capable to approve these opportunities.

Network and expertise

The board of SME still consists of 4 persons with different fields of knowledge and expertise. It was a useful step that two new persons joined SME to support the development. One has years of experience in the field of chicken fodder, the other is an expert in chicken stables and he has a lot of experience in developing countries.

Fair & Sustainable (F&S) Ethiopia is a social enterprise working towards achieving inclusive and sustainable development. F&S is, as it was in previous years, still a useful partner of SME in advices and investigation. A Dutch employee of Fair&Sustainable did a short field research to the competences of Bora with the question if Bora can be a central actor in the realization of a sustainable supply chain for chicken meat. The outcome is that Bora has the competences and expertise to fulfill this role.

SME also joined webinars of the embassy, which were useful for new insights and possible contacts. The intention for 2022 is that these contacts should be used in a better way.

The perspectives for 2022

SME will realize a contract with a professional fund raiser. The first appointments for this are already made and there is good perspective that this will lead to the needed money in 2022. If that is the situation then the steps in 2022 will be – based on the project plan for phase 1 and 2- :

- Buy a Bromaxx stable and send it to Ethiopia
- Prepare the infrastructure of the training centre for the first trainings sessions
- Prepare the content for the first trainings for a selected number of chicken farmers
- Bring a work visit to Ethiopia
- Consultation of Bora to come to a better production and quality of chicken fodder.