KAFFA ZONE, BITA WOREDA, GAWETI KEBELE
COFFEE AND SHADE TREE NURSERY
OSSREA WOMEN COOPERATIVE
በከፋ ዞን በቢጣ ወረዳ የጋወቲ ቀበሌ ችግኝ
አቅራቢ የኦስሪያ የሴቶች ማህበር
OSSREA
ESTABLISHED IN 2026
spanish
cooperation

11th Field Report:

OSSREA Strengthens Community Engagement and Carbon Credit Readiness in Bita Woreda

Bita Woreda, Kafa Zone, South-West Ethiopia | August 2026

The Organisation for Social Science Research in Eastern and Southern Africa (OSSREA) conducted its eleventh field visit to Sheda, Gaweti, and Bita Woreda from 9 to 12 August 2026 under the project *Empowering Ethiopian Coffee: A South-South Approach to Climate Finance and Carbon Credits*. The visit focused on strengthening field implementation, reviewing seedling readiness, supporting local coordination structures, engaging communities, and deepening Woreda-level understanding of coffee-based agroforestry and carbon credit opportunities.

The OSSREA team, represented by Mr. Alemu Tesfaye and Dr. Yonas Yohannes, travelled to Jimma and then proceeded by road to Bonga. Upon arrival, the team held discussions with the local implementing officer, Mr. Atrise Oyetto, on current project activities and upcoming field

priorities. The discussion included a review of the annual activity and monitoring plan, which provides practical guidance on project tasks, monitoring responsibilities, indicators, data collection tools, reporting timelines, and follow-up actions. Dr. Yonas Yohannes also provided technical guidance on the upcoming planting activities and the planned dispatch of seedlings to farmers based on available seedlings and plot-level requirements.

As part of the mission, the team visited Gaweti nursery to inspect seedling readiness and assess preparations for the next phase of planting. The visit confirmed the importance of close follow-up, careful seedling management, and transparent coordination between the nursery cooperative, local authorities, and the project team. The team also visited the project office allocated by Bita Woreda and observed that the office equipment provided to support project implementation is being used for project-related activities. Practical support was provided to strengthen local documentation, including the preparation of forms needed for seedling dispatch, distribution, receipt, and field monitoring.

A key focus of the field visit was community engagement. OSSREA and local government representatives held a community discussion with members of the Gaweti nursery cooperative and their spouses. The meeting provided an opportunity to clarify the project's objectives, implementation arrangements, seedling distribution process, and the broader purpose of producing

seedlings for coffee-based agroforestry expansion. The discussion helped strengthen mutual understanding and reaffirmed the importance of local ownership, transparency, and shared responsibility in project implementation.

During the community meeting, the project team also reiterated the principle of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC). Farmers were informed that participation in the project is entirely voluntary and based on their free will. The project coordinator explained that any farmer who feels that the project is not beneficial to her, or who wishes to discontinue participation for any reason, has the right to leave the project at any time, including after receiving seedlings. It was also clearly communicated that withdrawal from the project would not result in punishment, coercion, or discrimination. This clarification was provided to ensure that all participating farmers understand their rights, responsibilities, and freedom of choice throughout the project period.

On 12 August 2026, OSSREA organised a sensitisation workshop at the Bita Woreda office conference hall for Woreda leadership and relevant sector offices. The workshop was designed to build a shared understanding of the project's purpose, progress, technical requirements, and expected contribution to climate-resilient coffee production. Mr. Alemu Tesfaye opened the workshop and presented the overall project design, implementation progress, field evidence, carbon project readiness, remaining gaps, and priority areas requiring local government support.

Following this, Dr. Yonas Yohannes delivered a technical presentation on carbon markets, carbon credits, coffee-based agroforestry, and Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV).

He explained that a carbon credit project requires more than planting seedlings; it also requires careful documentation, monitoring of survival and growth, evidence of land-use improvement, community participation, safeguards, and long-term commitment. The session helped local leaders better understand the technical and institutional foundations required for a credible carbon credit initiative.

Workshop participants raised useful questions and reflections on the project's gender focus, the role of men and household members, the importance of clustered plots, potential scaling to other kebeles, the need for continuous sensitisation, youth participation, cooperative strengthening, and the possibility of generating carbon benefits from coffee-based agroforestry. The project team explained that women are the primary beneficiaries of the initiative, while spouses and household members are important supporters of implementation. The team further clarified that future scaling will depend on pilot performance, community readiness, availability of resources, and the project's ability to meet carbon project requirements.

The sensitisation workshop also highlighted the importance of documentation and institutional collaboration. Participants emphasised the need for strong local support, continued awareness

creation, careful field monitoring, and transparent communication with communities. OSSREA welcomed these reflections and reiterated its commitment to working closely with Woreda, Kebele, cooperative, and community structures to ensure that the project remains inclusive, accountable, and technically sound.

In the afternoon, the OSSREA team held further discussions with Woreda leadership and Dr. Yared, the project contact person from Bonga University. The discussion focused on project progress, implementation challenges, and the need to maintain strong collaboration among OSSREA, local government, Bonga University, cooperatives, and community representatives. All parties underlined the importance of ensuring that the project continues to receive the necessary technical, administrative, and community-level support.

The eleventh field visit demonstrated encouraging progress in strengthening field-level implementation systems, community engagement, and Woreda-level ownership. It also showed that the project is entering an important phase where seedling distribution, planting, monitoring, and documentation must be carefully coordinated. The visit helped reinforce the shared commitment of OSSREA, local authorities, cooperative members, and farmers to advance a women-centred, climate-smart coffee agroforestry model in Bita Woreda.

Going forward, OSSREA will continue working with local partners to support seedling distribution, strengthen monitoring systems, provide technical guidance to farmers, promote women's leadership, and document lessons from the pilot. These efforts will contribute to building a credible and inclusive carbon credit model that supports climate resilience, sustainable coffee production, and improved livelihoods for women coffee producers and their households.