



Beneficiary highlight: Emidio Regol, progressive farmer

KEY IMPACTS

- + Rapid increase in productivity linked to better farming techniques and a greater diversity of crops cultivated
- + Irrigation via pump from the Kenneti River and drip irrigation allows flexibility and year-round cropping
- + Higher income for the farmer and his family improves nutrition and leads to long-term investments in land, education, and sanitation
- + Farmers can link with Water and Farm Service Centres (WFSC) where they can procure required parts and seeds

Progressive farmers are early adopters of new techniques - and it pays off

Emidio Regol was already interested in learning new techniques before the project began, so he was among the first to be offered direct support. He got hands-on trainings in the field and help acquiring pumps and irrigation equipment. In just a year, he's been able to double the size of the farm and cultivate six new crops.

This is knowledge which will remain in the area after the project ends, and Emidio is the first to say that he's happy to share what he knows with others. The benefits both to the farmers and to the community are immediately clear: the prices of locally-grown produce has fallen from 200 SSP to 150 SSP, while Emidio has earned record profits of 300,000 SSP in a single cycle of tomato production. He has 3 permanent employees, hires casual labourers for farm tasks, and is installing a septic system.

He told the gathered conference about his successes - and had the gathering laughing and smiling.

"It's hard work, it's challenging. But I know more now... I asked and learned. Now I can deter pests. We change crops each cycle. And I add new crops too - see, over there, that will be watermelon soon.

All the farmers are producing okra, but these other crops, that's just me, none of my neighbours. Eggplants, cucumbers, kale, collards, watermelons, tomatoes. And I don't just grow, I do value addition, I cut and dry the okra, to sell at the market.

What I earn, I use for expanding and making the whole thing more sustainable. And above all, part of it goes to the house for feeding, paying for school fees, paying for medical fees, even improving nutrition. ... Are things better off now? Of course they are! Two hundred times better now than I was a year ago. I'm proud now. And I think we get this for three or four more years."

Emidio Regol, progressive farmer from Torit

Working with Premium AgroConsult, a NIRAS subcontractor, Emidio was able to employ new techniques to improve productivity, helping him sell more and better-quality produce..

