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Swiss humanitarian agency hands over irrigation dams with 800,000 birr to farmers

AXUM (WIC) – Tigray has given due attention to irrigation development so as to help the farmers in the state sustainably ensure their food security, the Agriculture and Rural Development Bureau said.

Speaking at the inauguration of two irrigation schemes constructed in Adwa Woreda by the Swiss Humanitarian agency Green Ethiopia Foundation, Bureau Deputy Head Berhane Haile said the state government has given special attention to irrigation development in order to ensure the food security of farmers residing in arid woredas and kebeles.

It is also providing experts and training to help the farmers increase productivity by using inputs and water technology, he said.

The Deputy Head who stressed the role of development partners in

the endeavour added that the development activities of Green Ethiopia Foundation are encouraging and exemplary.

The two irrigation dams constructed with 800,000 birr have the capacity to develop 50 hectares of land and would benefit over 1,500 farmers, it was learnt.

Handing over the irrigation dams and other development facilities to the public, Foundation President Kurt Pfister said he was engaged in the development activities so as to enable farmers earn additional income by utilizing irrigation schemes.

The labor contribution of the farmers and their determination to free themselves from poverty plays an important role in doing away with destitution, Pfister said, pledging to further support the effort to eradicate

poverty.

Adwa Woreda Agriculture and Rural Development Office Head, Goitom Yibrah, said on his part various development projects have been executed during the last two years with 1.2 million birr donated by the foundation.

They include construction of five medium dams, including the harnessing of two river and eight motorized water pumps as well as seedling nurseries, he added.

Goitom said the foundation has also concluded agreement to furnish the eight farmer training centres in the woreda.

Over 5,000 residents of the kebeles attended the inauguration to express their delight.