PROJECT BACKGROUND

Feed the Future Ethiopia Growth through Nutrition Activity is a five-year multi-sectoral nutrition and Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) project which aims to improve the nutritional status of women and young children in four regions of Ethiopia. The project focuses on the first 1,000 days, from pregnancy through a child’s second birthday, recognized as the critical window of opportunity for a child’s growth and development. Save the Children manages the implementation of the project through a consortium of six international and five local partners. Growth through Nutrition delivers results through five intermediate result (IR) areas including agriculture and livelihoods, social and behavioral change communications, health and nutrition, WASH construction and marketing, and multi-sector coordination and per-service education. The project also implements cross-cutting activities, including gender and women’s empowerment, a rigorous learning agenda, convergence and overlay of multi-sector activities, and a crisis modifier to respond to emergency situations in the project’s implementation areas.

IR 1: Increased Access to Diverse, Safe, and Quality Foods

Growth through Nutrition aims to improve dietary diversity of pregnant and lactating women and children by supporting production and consumption of nutrient-dense vegetables, fruits, and animal source foods; promoting improved agricultural production practices and technologies; and economically empowering vulnerable households. The project provides direct support to food-insecure households including training on Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture (NSA) and provision of selected vegetable seeds, and fruit seedlings; basic hand tools for cultivation of homestead gardening; and small productive animals such as chicken, sheep, and goats. The project also adopts innovative technologies for processing, preservation, storage, and utilization of safe nutrient dense foods.

This component is implemented at all levels of the Agricultural Extension Service systems of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture. Farmer training centers, school gardens, and model farmers are used as demonstration points for the promotion of improved agricultural practices and technologies at the grassroots level.

Save the Children leads the implementation of IR1, with Land O’ Lakes International Development providing technical assistance on key agriculture and livelihoods activities.
PROGRESS ON THE GROUND (October 2016 - March 2019)

1. **Sustainable approaches for production of diverse crops and livestock adopted**
   - Prepared a training manual and trained nearly 32,000 farmers, government personnel, and people in private sector firms on NSA.
   - Provided nutrient dense crops planting materials and training on garden establishment and management for 34 schools and 21 model farmer training centers.
   - Developed a seasonal calendar on food production, availability, and consumption for seven agro-ecologies to improve decision making.

2. **Adoption of innovative technologies**
   - Growth through Nutrition piloted the following post-harvest handling technologies:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of technology</th>
<th>Best used for</th>
<th>Feature characteristic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Indirect Cabinet Solar Driers</td>
<td>Drying fruits, vegetables, grains, and herbs</td>
<td>Increase temperature by 15°C and reduce relative humidity. Dried fruits and vegetables can be stored up to one year if stored under airtight, dark, cool, and dry conditions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potato Harvesting Tool</td>
<td>Harvesting potatoes</td>
<td>Reduces harvesting time, labor, and post harvest loss due to mechanical injury, and increases tuber exposure.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Metata Ayib</td>
<td>Preservation of cottage cheese</td>
<td>Improves nutrient content, reduces microbial load in the cheese, and extends shelf-life for over a year.</td>
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3. **Increased participation in economic strengthening activities**
   - Provided planting materials of nutrient dense crops, farm tools, productive animals, and NSA training to more than 19,500 most vulnerable households who were organized into more than 1,000 savings groups and linked with micro-finance institutions.
   - Annual survey showed a 15.6% increase in children (6-23 months) achieving minimum dietary diversity after one year of implementation.

4. **Strengthened government systems and private sector linkages**
   - Provided 37 quintals of seeds of nutrient dense crops to farmer training centers and farmers in nine Seqota Declaration woredas.
   - Trained 30 private chick out-growers on chick rearing, and 64 input dealers on business management, to ensure sustainable access to improved inputs.