

We can train our farmers and their Oxen says Atem Deng, 34 from Bulanom village (Tieraliet Payam)



Fig 1:- Field Demonstration by Atem Deng

Before Tearfund's intervention in South Aweil we have to send our animals and the trainees to Aweil town which is 80 kms from Tieraliet for training on proper use of ox-plough says Atem Deng one of the current trainer who is trained by Tearfund). This was very expensive and again Save the Children and (Tearfund at initial stage) should bring trainer from other countries or from the other part of South Sudan. After the short training the farmer has to find others to train their oxen which was time taking. Recently we train the farmers in need with their oxen. To mention the earliest one, we trained 227 ox plough farmers for 21 days in the months of March and April 2009.

After we train the farmer each trained farmer knows at least 4 of the following advantages of ox-plough.

- Ox-plough cultivates large area in short time than local push hoes
- It increases the yield of staple food, because the soil is properly tilled
- It also reduces the workload to the family
- Provides the chance for the neighbours and the relatives who have no ox-plough to borrow ox-plough and complete their cultivation in time.



Fig 2:- Trainees with Atem Deng

We are communicating well with the animals than the outsider; we have the capacity to do that thanks to Tearfund.

If we want the animal to go straight, we say "bouthlinec,bouthlinec" and if to go left we said "douk,douk", to go right "doukchien, doukchien" and to stop "kaic, Kaic". All these words the trainers from outside did not know. Furthermore since the animals are from our own communities they are familiar to us than to outsider and make it easier for us to handle the ox plough training more easily and successfully.

Through the Tearfund agricultural extension workers we are getting continuous training at community level on better ways of crop production, the farmers in our community's have accepted the use of ox-plough and started to use their oxen for the agriculture purpose which was not here before few years. All what Tearfund need to do for us is to continue giving technical support through the extension workers who are from our own payams(villages) and assist us through the provision of relevant seeds like sorghum, ground nuts and rice.