



## Dansha Aurora Multipurpose Farmers' Cooperative Union

### Profile

Dansha Aurora Multipurpose Farmers' Cooperative Union is situated in Dansha town, Tsegede *woreda*. The union was established by four primary cooperatives in December 2001. At that time, it had 2,057 farmer members and 140,000 ETB starting capital. It had only 14 shares. Currently, the union has 12 primary cooperatives with a total number of 9,190 (6,767 male and 2,423 female) members. It has more than 180 shares and the working capital increased to more than 17 million ETB.

The potential land for sesame is 35,000 hectare. Of this 32,734 hectare land is being cultivated by farmer members of the union. The union buys its members products. It has an annual production potential of 27,000 metric ton of sesame, 156,000 metric ton of sorghum and 6,615 metric ton of rice.

The union has started exporting sesame since 2014/15. It exported 6, 840 quintal whitish Humera type sesame. This type is highly appreciated by international buyers, and is especially found suitable for the bakery and confectionary industry.

Dansha union has 23 permanent employees including the general manager and three department heads. It owns its own building and warehouses which can hold 10,000 metric ton. Very recently, the union has installed a modern cleaning machine which can clean up to 99.9% purity level. The union has a plan to engage in agro-processing activities. It is also determined to export sesame which meets high quality international standards.

**Vision:** Realising improved living standard of members by doing a competitive work in the national and international market.

**Mission:** Doing continuous work through compromising the needs and aspirations of members; supporting members to use new agricultural technologies and engaging in agro-processing activities.

#### The objectives of Dansha Aurora Union are to:

- improve the bargaining power of members through collective effort, knowledge and resource of members.
- improve and maintain the quality, productivity and sustainability of sesame production.
- create competitive power in the market by enhancing the capacities of primary cooperatives members.
- industrialise sesame and other agricultural products with in medium and long terms to increase incomes of members.
- assist members in providing social services and infrastructures such as schools, health centres, access to clean water, roads etc.
- support farmer members improve the production of sesame, sorghum and rice

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