

REST facilitates General Assembly, Board Meetings

(REST) April 2014 - The Relief Society of Tigray (REST) successfully concluded its annual general assembly and board meeting. The general assembly, REST's highest body and the board together evaluate all REST achievements and performances of fiscal year 2013 and ratified REST's budget for 2014 fiscal year.

The general assembly, which is responsible to evaluate all works of REST, includes all REST beneficiaries, farmers from five rural weredas and government and private offices. The five weredas present were (Kilte-Awlaelo, Degua-Tembien, Samre-Seharti, Hintalo-Wejerat and Raya-Azebo) and were represented individually by 10 model farmers.



Participants of the general assembly in a partial view

REST board chair man, H.E Ato Abay Weldu president of the regional government of Tigray said “REST is expected to do more in development works as it has done in past years parallel to works in relief assistances.” He added that, “in the former years, REST formed different farmers and youths based cooperatives in the rural areas. These cooperatives have good income and have scaled up their model practices into other peasants and development activities.” Regarding to linking these cooperatives to market the board chair man forwarded the following two solutions. First, strengthen the cooperatives themselves to help each other and Second, develop agro-processing centers in areas of honey



Ato Abay Weldu and Ato Teklewoini Assefa chairing the general assembly

production, milk and milk products, poultry production etc and then create market link with private institutions. The congress also heard a variety of questions and all were answered by the responsible bodies.

Ato Teklewoini Assefa, the Executive Director of REST answering a question said, “we, the REST people achieved our plan 100%. If we did not achieve our plan 100%, we could not get funds. All our projects are donor based, which requires us to achieve 100%. Our potential donors evaluated us quarterly to see our project status. We have performed more than our fiscal year plans in order to get more funds at times.” .

On behalf of the general assembly, the board, the management and the whole staff, the external audit report CONGRATULTED REST for its accountable financial systems and other audit related cases.

There were totally more than 110 participants in the general assembly representing government officials, REST management, staff members, DECSI management, workers and model farmers,