

GABBISA

Better Farming through Games



Games for Behaviour Change

Games are a powerful tool for learning: Learning by doing in a simulated reality. By trying and adapting different strategies in a safe environment the players are constantly confronted with the results of their decisions.

This leads not only to a better understanding of complex realities and longer-term effects, this is actually practicing behavior change: The learning is, in contrast to conventional teaching methods, already based on action, which makes it easier to transfer the acquired knowledge into reality.

In addition to this, games are fun. People love playing the same game over and over again, a feat that is difficult to achieve for ordinary training sessions.

At Desert Rose we have specialized on the development of games that encourage behavior change. Our games tackle challenges such as hygiene, soil fertility, reforestation, livestock market dynamics or math.

"This is like real life. This is exactly how it is. But now these things make sense to me."

Farmer in Hararghe after playing Gabbisa

Gabbisa: The Farmer's Game

Gabbisa is a game that takes the players as farmers through four annual cycles.

The players choose their own strategies in terms of choice of crop, tree planting, soil fertility, livestock and early warning systems.

Depending on the weather and a bit of luck, different strategies are more or less successful.

The major takeaways from the game are:

- in the long run, crop diversification minimizes the risk of total failure
- soil fertility is key to good harvests but needs to be maintained
- trees are both good for income as well as good for the soil
- keeping a lot of livestock can be a good investment in a good year but a loss in times of drought
- having access to an early warning system helps minimize risk and optimise investment

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*"This is amazing!
These farmers want to continue and even tell you what they have learnt after a very short time.
Do you know how hard it usually is for us to gather them for a lesson and keep them there?"*

Local NGO worker during a field test of Gabbisa in Hararghe

Desert Rose: Who we are

We are a social enterprise based in Ethiopia.

It is our passion to create innovative solutions to the challenges of our customers and society at large.

We are committed to gender equality and part of our staff are hearing impaired.

All our products are manufactured locally.



Our Services: Making Use of Gabbisa

In order for you to make the most of this tool, Desert Rose offers a range of services for this and other learning games.

The Game

The Gabbisa game in English, Amharic, Oromo or Somali, including the instructions, can be ordered and picked up from our office ready for use. Should you need it in other languages, contact us in advance, we can arrange of any language of your choice with some time and some additional cost.

Facilitators

In addition to providing the games, Desert Rose have trained their own facilitators.

They go wherever you need them to introduce the game to your target audience. In addition to making them play the game they facilitate discussions during and after the game in a way that will help them turn the learning into applied behaviour change.

Training of Trainers

If you have willing and motivated staff who want to become facilitators themselves, we are happy to train them. In our two-day workshops they will be introduced to the science of educational games, they learn to play and explain the game and to facilitate the necessary discussions for learning and behaviour change.

Developing New Games or Extensions

If you want to use our expertise in turning learning into a game, we love to collaborate with you on developing and designing a new game or build an extension into an existing one.

If you are interested in our services or a combination of them, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Also check our website for the other games and services we offer.