

Integrated watershed development

Implementation of Integrated Watershed Management (IWSM) is the key agenda of government which is widely practiced with focus on the application of biological and physical methods and through the mobilization of communities. The government integrated watershed management interventions have been implemented through community mobilization and campaign. This project has strived to support the government initiatives in this regard by giving focus on use of rigorous participatory process that fits with the context and creates better ownership of the actions. It has also applied the IWSM linking with researches so as to make it more scientific and evidence based. Seven pilot watersheds, one at each of the sub Eco-regions, were selected for this intervention.

The IWSM management interventions has introduced some innovations in that it has established hydro-sedimentology and weather stations to have scientific measurement of the impact of the interventions and to get evidence on water discharge, sediment load and weather data for further planning and up scaling. Moreover, there have been nursery sites established at the selected watersheds so as to support the biological soil and water conservation and rehabilitation practices.

Livelihood improvement

The fourth major component is the livelihood improvement. Under this, natural resource compatible interventions are undertaken. The major ones are climate-smart agriculture (CSA), vegetable and fruit tree production, livestock productivity improvement and etc. Under CSA, we have introduced different improved crop varieties and as well as agricultural techniques for the highland, mid altitude and the lowland interventions. Based on this, the project is getting different results in terms of yield improvement. In crop production, for instance, farmers have registered two to three fold yield increment as compared to local crop varieties. So, with climate-smart agriculture intervention, the communities have been benefited from crop yield increment by withstanding climatic vulnerabilities such as short rainy season. The project has drawn attention to the adoption of different vegetables and fruits in the area as well as small scale irrigation practice, which also contributes for food security in the locality.

Livestock Productivity Improvement

Livestock is a principal component of SHARE BER project intervention. Enough supply of animal feed, animal health services, and improvement of breeds, access to market and improved marketing system and water supply were identified as key components to enhance the economic role of livestock production, while reducing its ecological impacts. SHARE BER has therefore intervened to work in these identified areas in an integrated manner, which sets a good example of improved livestock production. The project made significant contribution in improving the situation of livestock production in the area, which is in line with the national Ethiopia livestock master plan of 2015-2020.

Forage improvement

Introduction of improved varieties of forage seeds, grass species and fodder trees has been undertaken across the project intervention areas. With this regard, selected beneficiaries were provided with different varieties of forage seeds and each beneficiary has grown improved forage on average land size of 0.02 hectares. All the households who undertook the forage development activities were also

engaged with the artificial insemination program. Some of the improved forage varieties introduced to the area were oat, legumes (Gabisa and Lalisa variety), cowpea, tree Lucerne, pigeon pea, lablab, rodes grass, luceania and susbania. On top of farmers plot development of improved forage has been also done in communal lands. The project has managed to develop a total of 27 hectares with improved fodder/forage production across the different sites.



Fig. Introduction of improved forage in farmer's field in the highland (right) and lowland (left) intervention areas