PROCEEDINGS OF OPERATIONAL

WORKSHOP

ON

SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL ECONOMICS POLICY FORUM FOR ETHIOPIA/
ETHIOPIAN DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH INSTITUTE

SPONSORED BY THE PREPARATION BUDGET FOR THE WB/GEF
SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

WORLD BANK

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Executive Summary

The major objectives of the operational workshop was to (i) present anoverview of selected projects and emerging lessons and selected planned projects; (ii) discuss critical gaps in interventions to address land degradation in Ethiopia; (iii) present and discuss the concept note of the Ethiopian SLM project/program; (iv) discuss how donors and international research institutions that are interested/working at the operational level on SLM in Ethiopia can support the development of a national framework for SLM and country program and (v) potential mechanisms for more coordinated support for sustainable land management.

The workshop was divided into four major sessions: Overview of selected SLM projects; Critical gaps in efforts to address Land Degradation in Ethiopia; The proposed World Bank support operation on sustainable land management; and a Panel discussion on agreed actions and next steps.

In the first session, a number of successful sustainable land management practices such as the GTZ sustainable utilization of natural resources program, Ethiopian land tenure administration program, and the World Food Program's "MERET" project of managing environmental resources to enable transition to more sustainable livelihood were presented. Various lessons were learnt from the presentation and participants made a number of comments.

Session two was related with identifying the critical gaps in efforts to address the problem of land degradation in Ethiopia by the MoARD. The presentation focused on the historical background of soil and other natural resource conservation activities in the Ministry and the identified gaps in implementing SLM practices which include: the presence of inadequate awareness on soil erosion problem and the importance of conservation measures, lack of uniformity and consistency in planning and implementation, frequent and abrupt shifts in strategies and approaches, improper choice

of technologies not suiting the local conditions, inadequate staffing and the dynamics involved, lack of systematic monitoring and evaluation of the programme etc.

The third session focused on discussing the proposed World Bank supported operation on SLM which included discussion of the design concept of the SLM program and the undertaken detailed process of demonstration areas selection for the pilot SLM project. The presenter on the design concept of the SLM program stated that the starting point in the whole sustainable land management program is preparation of the program concept note which has main components of selection of potential demonstration sites, preparation of the terms of reference (TOR) for program design and then announcement of an international bid for preparing the project. This will be followed by the program design which includes a thorough revision of the whole process and experience of SLM. The final task will therefore be program implementation, which is to be effective with the active involvement of the different stakeholders. The presentation on the procedures of pilot areas selection for the SLM project showed that a number of criteria were applied to choose among the different watersheds of the country, which include: the existing land degradation, ecological variability, land fragmentation, ground water recharge potential, current land use, livestock feed balance, accessibility, market access and the need for watersheds to be in one woreda administration.

The final session was a panel discussion on agreed actions and next steps on the SLM program. It was noted in the discussion that land degradation is a very serious problem in most developing countries including Ethiopia and one can now claim that we are in a national emergency to combat the problem. In view of this, a coordinated and well organized campaign is needed to adress the problem. The starting point is hence adressing conservation as well as human dimensions or livelihood dimensions of land degradation. Once this is clearly adressed, it is very important to build on existing practices and on-going initiatives to avoid duplication of efforts and use scarce resources in an efficient manner. This however requires proper harmonization and alignment of efforts.

Opening Session

Introductory Remarks

Dr. Gunnar Kohlin, (EEPFE)

Representing the workshop organizing institution (The Environmental Economic Policy Forum for Ethiopia (EEPFE) of the Ethiopian Development Research Institute (EDRI), **Dr. Gunnar Köhlin** welcomed and thanked all the participants and briefly elaborated the major objectives of the workshop and the expected outcomes. **Dr. Herbert Acquay** of the World Bank also made welcome remarks.

Dr. Köhlin started by recalling the deliberations during the previous two days of stakeholder workshop on Sustainable Land Management. He mentioned that three papers had been discussed: One was a critical review of past estimates of costs of land degradation at the national level. From the discussion that followed it was clear:

- That the cost of land degradation in Ethiopia amounts to at least 2% of GDP per year, but given the limitations of the studies the figure is likely to be higher, much higher.
- That some areas are experiencing rapid degradation and that many so called high potential areas are in great danger for long-term degradation.
- That there are still major data limitations that prevent us from knowing the true extent of land degradation in Ethiopia.

Another was the "Stakeholder Analysis for Sustainable Land Management in Ethiopia: Assessment of Opportunities, Strategic Constraints, Information Needs and Knowledge Gaps." The presentation by Dr. Gete led to a stimulating discussion, much too rich to summarize in a sentence or two. One thing clearly outlined in the report and confirmed by the discussion was the limited synergies between research on SLM and extension. Another conclusion, which we can expect to be related, is the limited success in scaling up promising sustainable land management practices.

Dr. Köhlin noted that many left the first day with a constructive feeling of impatience. Given all the work since the 1980's or even earlier - wouldn't it be possible to know more by now? To do more given all that we should have learnt? People were asking What's new? The second day was devoted to such an innovation. A cost-benefit framework for pro-SLM decision making in SSA was presented and discussed. The framework is part of a TerrAfrica initiative by the WB to direct more attention (and funds) to the costs of land degradation, and to help decision makers to allocate sufficient resources to deal with this important problem and use them wisely by well-based priorities. The framework for Ethiopia builds fully on past research and data collection in Ethiopia and presents an opportunity to act as a unifying framework for much of the applied research in this area to be fed onto decision makers and the extension service.

Dr. Köhlin noted that there are definitely a number of positive signs wrt a new impetus for SLM in Ethiopia:

1. On Tuesday morning
    - His Excellency Professor Mesfin Abebe
    - His Excellency Ato Neway Gebre-ab
    - His Excellency State Minister Abera Deressa
    - His Excellency State Minister Ahmed Nasser

All pointed out the importance of agriculture for the development of Ethiopia and the seriousness of land degradation. The urgency of the situation is now shared by everyone – farmers, policy makers, donors, researchers.

2. There is an international re-awakening to the seriousness of the slow disaster of land degradation facing large parts of Africa, and there are signs that the awareness will be followed by funds.
3. There is a host of positive field experiences that is waiting to be replicated and up-scaled.
4. There is a strong sense of learning from past experiences and attempts to create new knowledge to base future interventions on. This is particularly good news for Ethiopia that has been struggling with limitations in its institutional memory at the same time

as it has a lot of very gifted professionals. Given the seriousness and urgency of the situation, a more knowledge based approach can't be wrong.

Dr. Köhlin went on to commend the World Bank for spending hard cash in advance, not to waist the resources that are intended to help Ethiopia in the future. The three papers in the ESW that have been presented have had a clear ambition, not only to review past experience but also to synthesize, learn, and draw conclusions from these experiences. And the same is true for today's workshop. It is strategically drawing on important experiences and lessons learnt in ongoing projects; it will identify critical gaps in past efforts to address land degradation and it will invite to a discussion regarding a future program-based approach.

Dr. Köhlin then reminded the audience of the **Objectives of the Workshop**:

- Presentation and discussion of SLM work including:
  (a) overview of selected projects and emerging lessons; and
  (b) selected planned projects;
- Discussion of critical gaps in interventions to address land degradation in Ethiopia;
- Presentation and discussion of the Bank concept note of the SLM project/program, including approach to program/project design and site selection;
- Discussion of the proposed World Bank/GEF contribution to the Ethiopia SLM program including how donors and international research institutions interested/working at the operational level on SLM in Ethiopia wish to:
  (a) support the development of a national framework for SLM and country program, and
  (b) be kept informed and/or wish to join the Bank in providing financial and technical support for the preparation and implementation of the World Bank contribution to the SLM program; and
- Potential mechanisms for more coordinated support for sustainable land management.

Dr. Herbert Acquay, representing the World Bank welcomed and thanked all the participants and briefly discussed the importance of making harmonized approaches to SLM instead of fragmented ones. The speaker also emphasized the presence of a number of successful sustainable land management practices from which important lessons can be learned. Dr. Herbert wound up by inviting all the participants to participate and contribute to the successful completion of the workshop and implementation of the SLM project.

SESSION 1

OVERVIEW OF SELECTED SLM PROJECTS AND EMERGING LESSONS

GTZ Sustainable Utilization of Natural Resources

Winfried Zarges (GTZ)

The GTZ is a German agency engaged in disseminating different sustainable land management practices in different areas of Amhara, Oromia, and Tigray regions of Ethiopia. The main methodologies adopted by the institution in addressing the issues of SLM in the community are: participatory planning approaches, participatory forest management, watershed management and policy strategies, which incorporate the issues of food security, controlling grazing, land use etc. GTZ mainly supports the development and dissemination of technologies and methods related to SLM practices of the following kinds: contour hedge technology, gully rehabilitation, fruit trees promotion, riverbed cultivation, conversion of degraded hillsides for fruit production, fuel saving stoves, improved physical soil and water conservation, biodiversity conservation and forage production.

In addressing the issue of sustainable land management, the specific roles that the GTZ is playing are related with introducing and developing technologies, species and approaches, training of farmers and partners, playing advisory roles on partners and supporting of the implementation activities. In doing so the institution focuses on

developing participatory approaches, appropriate NRM techniques and agricultural technologies, conservation of genetic resources, identification of biological measures (sustainability), use of appropriate and cost effective combination of measures, identification of appropriate strategies and approaches for watershed treatment, incorporation of indigenous species, regulating access to common resources, and improvement of livelihood of farmers.

There were a number of achievements that the institution made in promoting SLM in the country, which includes: enhanced capacity of partners, developing approaches and technologies acceptable to farmers and experts, introducing important tree, shrubs, legumes and grasses to the country, successful dissemination of approaches and technologies in some areas (stove, Triticale, WAJIB, etc.), provision of planting material to development actors from all over the country, training of farmers and experts sent by development actors in the country, shared experience through different forums and committees (e.g. CBPWD manual preparation).

During the course of its project implementation, the GTZ identified a number of constraints on up-scaling of successful SLM practices. Some of these are: absence of effective and institutionalized dissemination of SLM practices, the presence of weak private sector for availing inputs such as planting materials, lack of appropriate economic analysis of the impact and viability of the different SLM practices, lack of proper incentives for government and other experts to introduce successful SLM practices, high staff turnover, etc.

Ethiopia Land Tenure and Administration Program (ELTAP): A Brief Overview

Solomon Bekure (USAID/ARD)

ELTAP is a three-year program being implemented by the Federal Government of Ethiopia in collaboration with the four regional states of Amhara, Oromia, SNNP and Tigray with financial support of USAID. The main objectives of the program are establishing and implementing a sound land certification system that provides holders of

land use-rights in Ethiopia with robust and enforceable tenure security in land and related natural resources. ELTAP has five components, which are: i) land titling and administration, ii) security of land tenure and dispute resolution, iii) public information and education, iv) capacity building and v) monitoring, impact evaluation and special studies.

Component 1: Land Titling and Administration.

The main objective of this component is rectifying the systemic problems in the design and execution of the current land certification and registration procedures in order to help ensure that streamlined and efficient procedures are implemented and that land records are kept current. Technical and logistic support will be provided to federal and regional state governments to build their capacities and improve their systems of land administration. While computerization of records is inevitable in the long-term, the focus would be on establishing a viable quality of well-organized records, encompassing a mixed technology system administered and maintained by well-trained and adequate number of staff. The remaining components support and reinforce this major activity.

Component 2: Security of Land Tenure and Dispute Resolution:

The main objective of this component is harmonization the legislative framework and regulations governing land tenure policy and its administration at the federal and regional levels to strengthen tenure security and dispute resolution mechanisms. In doing so, efforts will be made to:

- Strengthen the legislative framework by providing technical assistance in the revision of land legislation to federal and regional governments.
- Strengthen the enforcement and protection of rights conveyed by this legal framework to land tenure beneficiaries by enabling and strengthening legal recourse.

Component 3: Public Information and Education:

This component of the ELTAP aims at informing holders of rural land their use-rights and obligations. A robust PIE program will be conducted to clarify and widely raise public awareness of:

- Rights provided by statutory law, including use-rights, inheritance rights, transfer rights, and exclusion rights along with duties and obligations, and by whom.
- Basic land regulations, functions, roles, and responsibilities of federal, regional, and local governments and communities assigned the tasks of and administering land use-rights.
- Mechanisms and procedures for lodging land claims or disputes (both formal and non-formal) that may arise due to conflicts over ownership, boundaries, inheritance, sharecropping and leasing arrangements, and/or compensation.

Component 4: Capacity Building:

Component four is essentially designed to build the federal and regional governments' capacity to deliver and implement programs that provide land tenure security, land rights awareness and legal recourse to rural landholders. This component would strengthen capacity to improve land rights delivery by training the trainers on: Improved Land Administration, Survey, and Registration Approaches and Methodologies; Land Information and Land-Use, including regulations on land use and environmental protection and Index Mapping and geo-referencing methods and procedures.

Component 5: Monitoring, Impact Evaluation and Special Studies:

This is the last component of ELTAP and it mainly aims at gauging program progress and impact, bridge knowledge gaps and share lessons gained with all stakeholders in the land sector to better inform policy formulation and program implementation. Special studies in this component would investigate: Rural land valuation and compensation, Gender issues in land tenure and land administration, HIV/AIDS and orphans issues in land tenure and administration, Pastoralist and agro-pastoralist land tenure and land administration issues and interface of land and water rights issues.

Implementation

Implementation of these components in six Woredas and 90 Kebeles in each of the four regions is expected to introduce increased efficiency and bring about considerable improvements in the ways, methodologies and procedures of land administration in the four regions, resulting in enhanced land use right security.

The most important implementing agencies of the program are: Land Administration and Land Use Division (LALU), MOARD; Amhara Regional State Environmental Protection and Land Administration and Use Authority (EPLAUA); Oromia Regional State Land Administration and Use Department (LAUD); SNNP Regional State LAUD and Tigray Regional State EPLAUA. There are also other partner institutions such as the Ethiopian Mapping Agency (EMA), national universities and research institutions, international research and service institutions (e.g. IFPRI, USGS EROS Data Center) that will be contracted to provide specific training and research services under ELTAP.

Management of ELTAP

ELTAP has a Program Steering Committee (PSC) that provides guidance in formulating work programs and budgets, program implementation and policy issues. The PSC is chaired by H.E. the Minister of State, MOARD (Natural Resources) or his/her designee. Other members of the PSC include: The Head, Forest, Land Administration & Land Use, and Soil Conservation Development Dept. (MOARD); the Team Leader, Land Administration and Land Use Division, (MOARD), the heads of the implementing agencies of the four focal regions of ELTAP, listed in Section 1.4 above; the Cognizant Technical Officer of ELTAP, USAID/Ethiopia; The Technical Manager of ELTAP, ARD, Inc. Vermont, U.S.A.; and the Chief of Party (COP), ELTAP. The PSC meets formally twice a year, but may convene as necessary on an ad hoc basis. The PCU serves as the secretariat of the PSC and the Head of LALU serves as the secretary to the PSC.

ELTAP has been accomplishing a number of noticeable tasks from each component among such as:

- Preparation of manuals for land registration and certification procedures and for cadastral surveying,
- Giving extensive comments to all the four regions on their revised draft land administration and land use laws by a Tenure Security and Dispute Resolution Specialist, and
- Preparation of strategies and plans for public information & awareness for each region

Managing Environmental Resources to Enable Transition to more Sustainable Livelihood (MERET)

Volli Carucci (WFP)

Managing environmental resources to enable transitions to more sustainable livelihood (MERET) is an SLM program that has been undertaken in selected parts of Amhara, Oromia, Tigray and SNNP regions of Ethiopia and run by the World Food Program (WFP). The program started during the 1980s the project has been progressively learning from its successes and failures. Since the year 2000, and the project has been focusing on improving livelihoods, partnerships, higher technical standards, integration, capacity building, and income generating activities, policy dialogue on food security and synergies and education. The main objective of MERET now is improving livelihoods and food security opportunities for the most vulnerable and in particular women-headed households though the sustainable use of the natural resource base.

The rationale behind implementing the MERET project is the existence of an alarming land degradation problem in Ethiopia. An about 1.5 billion tons of topsoil is washed away every year and totally about one third of the stock of soil is already lost. The prevailing deforestation also contributed a lot to soil erosion and loss of precious biodiversity and other resources including reduction in tourism flow in the country. All thee exacerbated the existing poverty and food security problems.

In addressing all the above mentioned problems of land degradation, MERET achieved a number of successes which includes improved participation of the community in SLM, enhanced capacity of implementation, creation of productive assets in the community, development of natural resources and improved land husbandry and generally improvement in the livelihoods of the community and the natural resource management. The main building blocks of the project that resulted in the above outcomes are: the utilization of local level participatory planning approach (LLPPA) which included women as important component, application of quality and technical standards, exercising result-based management, and provision of training and capacity building of the project.

Major Achievements of MERET

- Training → 2500 field staff – rolling
- Technical and planning Guidelines → over 20,000 copies
- Improved labour work norms (53 activities) and 30 new activities introduced (jointly with MOARD)
- Result-based Monitoring (RBM) established at all levels
- Group Formation for improved management of assets and income generation promoted
- Homestead Development and Income Generation Activities scaled up
- Seed networking-diversification (biodiversity) ongoing
- Training of beneficiaries (30,000 on-the-job, field tours, etc)
- Linkages with research established (ICRAF, ERO, IFPRI, EDRI-EEPFE, etc)

Major Biophysical Achievements

- Approximately 130,000 ha of cultivated land treated with conservation terraces and various biological measures
- Over 800 water springs developed and 211 community water ponds constructed
- Over 1000 shallow wells constructed (self-help mostly)
- 19 farm dams and 50 soil storage/overflow dams
- 317 million trees grown and planted

- 11,000 ha of woodlots and 26,000 ha of degraded land closed from interference and planted with trees
- Over 1000 km of gullies checked and planted
- Over 2000 km of feeder roads constructed/maintained.
- Compost making promoted in all regions

Impacts on Society and the Environment

- 85% are better able to cope with drought;
- 84% have increased production of 150-400 kg/yr;
- 72% report an increase in income;
- 73% are able to invest more in education, health, shelter, and clothing;
- On average, their annual food gap has been reduced from 5 months per year to 3 months per year and more in sites with over 5 years interventions
- Cost benefit analysis indicate economic rate of return and financial rates of return > 12% on average making project measures economically and financially viable
- Downstream and environmental effects visible and sustained (water tables, water flows, biodiversity, flood protection, fertility, etc)

MERET in the Next UNDAF (2007 - 2011)

- Next WFP Country Programe fully integrated in the new UNDAF
- MERET-PLUS a major component of CP: evolves from MERET to a MERET-PLUS i.e. MERET through Partnerships and Land Users Solidarity. MERET plus will focus on:
    - Sustainable land management and effective partnerships for multiple community and household assets generation, with focus on Impact Points – the need for a partnered approach to scale up SLM (include exiting from food aid)
    - Community-driven biophysical and social assets-creation targeted to the poorest (solidarity)
    - Technical innovation, diversification and promotion of IGAs
    - Empowerment, including of women

- Capacity building and support to Sustainable land management and food security programmes (training, exp. sharing, PSNP, etc)
- Promotion of SLM "beyond borders"
- Synergies with CHILD-Food for Education and HIV/AIDS
- Mainstreaming HIV/AIDS

Constraints

- Extension system inadequate to tackle SLM – quota driven
- Resources limitation for long term development
- Decision-making support to SLM limited (though improving)
- Best practices ignored till recently
- Partnered support in-action limited
- Dichotomies (eg high potential/low potential)
- Lack of flexibility in implementation modalities

Comments

- Recent research proved the efficiency of cooperatives in natural resource management and it is good to focus on cooperatives
- Most SLM activities failed not due to lack of incentives from the side of farmers but due to inappropriate approaches used
- Most scaling up activities of existing SLM practices failed due to lack of commitment
- Sequencing programs is important because overlapping activities make taking lessons difficult
- The land use proclamation which has been issued by the government recently is expected to help in facilitating the implementation of SLM

Response by Mr. Zarges: Donors are interested to follow and collaborate with the government and other institutions to work on sustainable land management practices based on the recently developed watershed guidelines. It is however important to note

that SLM and soil and water conservation are cumbersome processes which need to be tackled one by one

SESSION 2

CRITICAL GAPS IN EFFORTS TO ADDRESS LAND DEGRADATION

DANIEL DANANO (MoARD)

SLM Programme in Retrospect and the Present

Soil and water conservation activities started in Northern Ethiopia in 1973 although the first Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) in Ethiopia was established in the year 1908. These soil and water conservation activities were however scattered and focused on food for work based activites in drought affected areas with mass conservation campains. The soil and water conservation department was established in the year 1980 to undertake systematic and planned SWC activities and focused maily on incentive-based watershed approaches in selected regions.

Although there were fragmented efforts to combat land degradation and excercise SLM practices, the following were the gaps that fostered the problem of LD and inhibited the implementation of successful SLM practices.

Gaps Identified

- Inadequate awareness of soil erosion problem and the importance of conservation measures
- Lack of uniformity and consistency in planning and implementation
- Frequent and abrupt shifts in strategies and approaches
- Improper choice of technologies not suited to the local conditions/introduced
- Lack of willingness /land users/ to maintain
- Open grazing practices / overstocking /
- Low quality of measures
- Inadequate staffing and the dynamics involved
- Slash and burn cultivation practices in the regions with vegetation potentials

- Charcoal production and bush / forest fires
- Use of animal dung and crop residues for other purposes than soil fertilization
- The prevailing small land holding
- Failure of road constructing organizations to consider environment aspects in the design (Poorly designed and constructed roads)
- Cultivation on steep slopes without conservation measures considered
- Limited numbers of sectoral policies for soil and water management
- Inadequate extension work
- Lack of genuine participation
- Lack of systematic monitoring and evaluation of the programme
- Improper use of incentives
- Poor management of plantations and area enclosures

Strategies for Enhancing SLM

- Reducing soil erosion and combating land degradation
- Make the public aware of soil erosion problems and demonstrate sustainable land management practices
- Scaling up and out of the existing technologies and approaches in SLM
- Linking conservation with improving productivity
- Building upon traditional / existing practices
- Participation and Participatory approach
- Incentives and rewarding well managed achievements
- Organize SLM committee and groups
- Enhance women participation in SLM
- Documenting the existing technologies and approaches
- Policies, regulations and byelaws
- Watershed management approach
- Improving soil fertility
- Package approach
- Area enclosure for severely degraded lands.

- Promoting water harvesting.
- Increase land tenure security.
- Maintaining the quality of activities.
- Strengthening extension service

Practices to Capitalize On and Scaling up and out: the Bright Spots

- Traditional knowledge and experiences
- Introduced technologies
- Participatory approaches
- Motivation and incentives

Processes in Strategies Development: MOARD's Achievements

MoARD has been making documentation efforts on Sustainable Land Management practices and for further improving strategies and decision making. These efforts of the Ministry can be listed down as follows.

- Documentation of SWC technologies and approaches starting 2001
- Establishment of EthiOCAT (the Ethiopian Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies network), which is housed in the MoARD and uses WOCAT tools for documenting technologies, approaches and maps of land degradation, SWC technology area maps, and spatial distribution maps
- Reports on LD different SLM practices
- Overview book on technologies and approaches
- Maps
  Land degradation mapping
  Soil conservation activities mapping
  Soil Conservation Technologies suitability mapping

Knowledge gained: methods and tools for analysis, evaluation and documentation have been developed.123 SWC specialists trained on the application and practicing of the tools

Data base established: A wealth of data and information has been collected and stored. A number of researchers, educationists, development workers and planners have benefited from the output.

Decision support systems developed: About 38 technologies and 25 approaches have been analyzed and evaluated [technical effectiveness, replicability, adoption and adaptation, cost benefit (CBA) and economic analysis]. CBA made for 38 technologies.

Networking, Linkages and Capacity Building Strengthened:

- The networking established for exchange and share of knowledge on technologies and approaches, maps among SWC specialists, easy access to information has improved conservation planning and decision making
- Strengthened linkages between federal and regional institutions

Comments

- Most scaling up activities failed mainly due to lack of commitment and accountability in MoARD
- Planting perennial trees can be an advantageous SLM practice with a double benefit i.e. providing ecological and economic benefits
- Provision of alternative energy sources such as solar energy need to be one component of the NRM activity

Questions: Why have high potential areas been ignored in natural resource conservation activities by MoARD? Is there a clear linkage between the federal ministry of agriculture and regional agricultural offices? What about the linkages and coordination between the different MoARD offices in terms of NRM activities?

Responses by Ato Daniel: The government is engaged in the decentralization process and there is a clearly defined linkage between the federal MoARD and regional agricultural offices. High potential areas were ignored in the past mainly due to donor focus and lack of resources but there is an ongoing effort by the ministry to focus on these areas too.

SESSION 3

TOWARDS A PROGRAM-BASED APPROACH: THE PROPOSED WORLD BANK/GEF- SUPPORTED OPERATION ON SLM

Sustainable Land Management (SLM) program

The design concept: Process towards a program

Geofrey King (World Bank)

The starting point in the whole sustainable land management program is preparation of the program concept note which has main components of selection of potential demonstration sites, preparation of the terms of reference (TOR) for program design and then announcement of an international bid for the project. This will be followed by the program design which includes a thorough revision of the whole process and experience of SLM. The final task will therefore be program implementation, which is to be effective with the active involvement of the different stakeholders. The whole process of the SLM program can be shortly presented as follows.

TOR Preparation

- Project concept note and report on demonstration site selection
- Review basic documents on SLM in Ethiopia
- Discussions with key stakeholders (MoARD, EPA, MoWR, WFP, GTZ, etc.)
- Work with WB to clarify project concept
- Prepare TOR: background material and identify key issues to address in design

SLM Program Objectives

- A transformation from an economy undermined by land degradation, to an economy sustained and enhanced by productive ecosystems
- A move from discussion to action
- Recognition throughout the system of the central importance to the Ethiopian economy of sustained ecosystems (mainstreaming of SLM)

Program Components

- Preparation of a sustainable land management framework

- Support to Woreda integrated planning
- Strengthening the enabling environment
- Supporting learning and innovation
- Creation of a national land monitoring system
- Program management

Program Implementation

- To be implemented though the existing system
- Coordination through the MoARD
- Components will be implemented through different agencies
- Coordination and supervision through the Inter-Agency Technical Working Group

Component 1: Integrated Woreda planning based on SLM framework

- Capacity support to integrated development planning based on agreed SLM conceptual framework as cross-cutting issue
- Build on existing systems, support, and capacities

Component 2: Strengthening the enabling environment

- Support to strengthening land tenure security and transferability
- Institutional networks

Component 3: Learning and innovation (incubation)

- Field test to adapt best practices to different environments
- Evaluate best practices (profitability, ecological, social)
- Targeted research to complete knowledge base (local partnerships)
- Capacity building in best practices
- Targeted dissemination

Component 4: Land monitoring system

- Creation of a data bank of current information
- Build the data bank
- Location and access
- Updating
- Capacity building

- Information and planning

Component 5: Program Management

- Roles and responsibilities, amongst different players and at different levels
- Coordination mechanism
- Monitoring and evaluation system
- Financial management system (based on government systems)

Comments

- How to make the SLM program interactive between the different stakeholders and how to make it a component of a broader program are important issues to address
- Market development is not given due consideration in the program component
- It is a good idea to try to implement the SLM by giving more responsibilities to Woredas since they have the real interest and incentive to apply it successfully
- Both the top-down and bottom- up approaches need to be used complementarily in the Ethiopian context

Question: Is the SLM a program or a project?

Responses from Mr. Geoffrey: What was presented is a sort of long term sequential activities of the SLM which can be further improved and modified based on feed back.

Responses from Dr. Herbert: The recently issued watershed guide and the tenure security activities are expected to help for a successful SLM program. As soon as possible a ground implementation is needed and facilitation of scaling up and adaptation mechanisms with a participatory planning approach. The SLM is a program and not a project because it is a comprehensive activity led by the government for which remarkable amounts of resources will be pooled together. The whole implementation of the SLM is going to be though the government system.

SLM PROJECT: PROJECT AREA (DEMONSTRATION SITE) SELECTION PROCESS

LEUL KAHSAY (WORLD BANK CONSULTANT)

The main objective of the assessment here is to select potential demonstration sites or sub-watersheds from five of the basins identified by MoARD, which are the Upper Awash, Bilate, Omo-Gibe, a non-Nile watershed in Tigray, and a pastoral area. The selection process was justified on the basis of criteria developed by the Eastern Nile Technical Regional Office (ENTRO) located in Addis. These criteria were first listed and short list of criteria was made based on importance and data availability in collaboration with institutions such as MoWR, MoARD, ENTRO, and OBoARD.

Review of Selection Criteria

It was agreed by the team that the area to be selected for the pilot should:

- Offer quick and visible benefits, with first benefits demonstrable within about three years from project start,
- Be implemented within a short period,
- Demonstrate integrated and holistic approach
- Result in improved local livelihoods (increased security, livelihoods diversification and income diversification),
- Show reduced sediment load,
- Ensure full participation of the local people
- Be located in different basins (*and ecosystems*).
- Include both food secure and insecure areas.

List of Selection Criteria in Order

The following is list of criteria used for site selection for the SLM pilot projects ranging from physical to administrative criteria. In addition it is important to note that efforts have been made not to include areas where other SLM initiatives are ongoing.

- Land Degradation

- Ecological Variability
- Land Fragmentation/ Labor Availability
- Ground Water Recharge Potential
- Current Land Use
- Livestock Feed Balance
- Accessibility
- Market access
- Sub Watersheds need to be within one Woreda

Data Sources for the Site Selection Process

Secondary data sources

- Genale Dawa Master Plan Study (Indicative) – ongoing
- Bilate River Basin Master Plan –1974
- Rift Valley Lakes Basin Reconnaissance Master Plan Study ---- 1992
- Awash River Basin Master Plan Study– 1989
- Awash River Basin Flood Control & Watershed Management Study --- Ongoing
- Woody Biomass Inventory and Strategic Planning Project Reports--- 2004
- Omo – Ghibe Master Plan Study
- WFP map on elevation (small scale)
- CSA publication
- Topography maps 1:250,000 scales
- Other unpublished papers from MoWR

Primary Data Sources

- Field Observation and Key informants

In addition to data obtained from the above sources, site identification was undertaken using 1:250,000 scale topographic and other maps. Consequently the team for the pilot project on SLM selected two watersheds.

Questions: Why are only two areas selected from the Amhara region? Why are two of them from low potential areas? Do all the selection criteria have equal weight? Did the

team undertake inter Woreda discussion since watershed and Woreda administrative boundaries differ? Why did the team choose accessible areas only for the pilot? What about inaccessible areas? Why are watersheds where other agencies are operating ignored?

Responses from Ato Leul: The pilot areas were selected outside the Nile basin because currently there are other ongoing projects in it. The criteria and the weights were set in consultation with the MoARD and other concerned regional offices. The pilot considered only accessible areas because of the need to learn fast on outcomes of the pilot. Finally, areas where other agencies are operating in were not considered to avoid duplication of efforts.

SESSION 4

PANEL ON AGREED ACTIONS AND NEXT STEPS

Sustainable Land Management Program

Where do we go from here?

Herbert Acquay, World Bank

Land degradation is a very serious problem in most developing countries including Ethiopia and one can now claim that we are in a national emegency to combat the problem. In view of this, a coordinated and well organized campaign is needed to adress the problem. The starting point is hence adressing conservation as well as human dimensions or livelihood dimensions of land degradation. Once this is clearly adressed, it is very important to build on existing practices and on-going initiatives to avoid duplication of efforts and use scarece resources in an efficient manner. This however requires proper harmonization and alignment of efforts.

What institutional mechanisms should be used to continue the dialogue on partnership and harmonization? Two important bodies that are expected to play vital roles in the whole program harmonization are a national Steering Committee with a clearly defined role of leading the harmonization process and a Technical Committee, which is expected to provide the desired technical support on the design and implementation of the

sustainable land management process. A number of federal and regional level governement institutions and other international organizations are included as members of the Steering Committee including EPA, MoRAD, EPA, MoWR, UNDP, WFP GTZ etc. The Technical Committe also includes some of the above mentioned institutions, but it is still in the process of establishment. In addition to the Steering and Technical committees, other parties such as woreda level administration are supposed to be active participants in the whole implementation process of the SLM program.

CLOSING REMARKS

Representing the workshop organizing institution EEPFE of the EDRI, **Dr. Gunnar Köhlin** made the following conclusions that were drawn from the full three days of workshops on SLM in Ethiopia.

- These three days of workshops have shown that there are a number of experiences of SLM interventions in Ethiopia but there is an urgent need for much more action – and better action.
- Future SLM interventions need to be more people responsive and account for peoples' need for profitable SLM technologies, interventions that reduce the risks in agriculture and these can be expected to be adopted slowly.
- There should be more focus on alleviating peoples' constraints for adoption, including their high discount rates, extreme risk aversion, labor constraints. This could eg be done through credit schemes, improved market access, improved tenure security, and decreased uncertainty wrt prices and policies.
- In order to reach this one would need an integrated approach at macro level that includes relevant policies, legislation and capacity building.
- How 1: Government interventions are needed, in tandem with private sector initiatives. This is needed to scale up interventions and prioritize allocation of funds. The proposed CBF is a good alternative to the current implicit quota system.

- How 2: The up-scaling of good practices also demands an integrated approach at the local level (eg through participatory watershed management) that includes crop, livestock and energy considerations.
- There is a great potential in the existing extension system, but
    - Give them tools that work (need for applied research, documentation of best practices and use of test sites.)
    - Give them training.
    - Give them freedom to make mistakes.
    - Make them responsive to peoples' needs, and in particular gender sensitive since female headed households is the most vulnerable group.
- How 3: There is a need for donor harmonization and combined initiatives. MoARD needs to take the lead for this and among other things create a platform for up-scaling of interventions and sharing of experiences, and preferably basket funding.
- The workshops have come to focus on a number of themes where successful SLM interventions can be described as:
    - Responsive and realistic
    - Experience and knowledge based
    - Integrated and harmonized.
- Most importantly, the incredible engagement has proved the urgency in dealing with the current rapid rate of land degradation. The participants were therefore enticed to rally for an Ethiopian Millenium Declaration for SLM and Livelihood Enhancement to End Poverty and Enable Growth.

Dr. Herbert Acquay of the World Bank thanked all the participants and presenters for their lively and well organized presentations and discussions. He also thanked the staff of EEFPE/EDRI for their efficiency in getting the workshop well organized and for acting as the secretariat and brought the workshop to an end.

Operational Workshop on Sustainable Land Management (SLM) in Ethiopia:
Towards a Program-based Approach
May 4, 2006 at ILRI
Agenda

Time	Topic	Presenter	Affiliation	Chair person
May 4, 2006				
08:30	Registration		EEPFE	
09:00	Introduction of the Chairperson and the objectives of the workshop	Dr. Gunnar Köhlin	EEPFE/GU	**Ato Amare Worku**
09:10	Welcome remarks	H.E. Ato Ahmed Nasser Dr. Herbert Acquay	MoARD World Bank	
09:30	Session 1: Overview of Selected SLM Projects and Emerging Lessons (presentations of 15 minutes each) • Managing Environmental Resources to Enable Transition to more Sustainable Livelihood (MERET) • GTZ Sustainable Utilization of Natural Resources Program • USAID Land Administration and Certification project	 Mr. Volli Carucci Dr. Winfried Zarges Dr. Solomon Bekure	 WFP GTZ USAID/ARD	
11:00	**Coffee Break**			
11:30	Session 2: Critical Gaps in efforts to Address Land degradation in Ethiopia	Ato Daniel Denanew	MoARD	
12:30	**Lunch Break**			

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Time	Topic	Presenter	Affiliation	Chair person
1:30	Session 3: Towards a program-based approach: The proposed World Bank/GEF-supported operation on sustainable land management. • Overview of the project concept • Process of site selection • Approach to program design	Dr. Ernst Lutz Mr. Leul Kahsay Mr. Geoffrey King	WB Consultant Consultant	**Winfried Zarges**
3:00	**Coffee Break**			
3:30	• Continued discussion on potential mechanisms for coordinated support for the preparation and implementation of a sustainable land management program	Dr. Herbert Acquay		
5:00	Session 4: Panel on agreed actions and next steps	Ato Amare Worku Dr. Gunnar Köhlin Dr. Herbert Acquay	MoARD EEPFE/EDRI World Bank	

Participant list for May 4

Full Name	Organization	Region/Country
Abera Deressa	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
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Aleye Hussen	ORARI	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Amare Belay	TARI	Tigray, Ethiopia
Amare Getahun		
Amare Worku	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
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Assefa Tofu	World Vision International	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Assefa Admassie	Ethiopian Economic Policy Research Institute	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
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Beruck Alemayehu	Bureau of Water Resources Development	Bahir Dar/Ethiopia
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Daniel Kassahun	FSS	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
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Geoffrey King	World Bank	Addis Ababa
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Gete Zeleke	EEPFE	Addis Ababa
Girma Tadesse	ILRI	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Gunilla Björklund	GeWa Consulting	Sweden
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Leul Kahsay	World Bank	Addis Ababa
Matteo Marchisio	World Bank	Washington
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Tsige Genet	Bahir Dar University	Bahir Dar, Ethiopia
Volli Carucci	WFP	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Winfried Zarges	GTZ	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Yonas Alem	Environmental Economics Policy Forum for Ethiopia	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Yacob Wendemkhun		
Zenebe Abreha	Mekele University	Mekele, Ethiopia