Sustainable Land Management Programme- a solution to land degradation in Oromia: the case of Gimbi Woreda

by

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Oromia:

- Most populous (33 million, 34.3%), largest region (36.3 million ha, 34.3% of the National)
- Divided into 20 administrative zones, further subdivided into 287 woredas (sub-districts)
- Land degradation rampant in the region
- SLMP implemented in 68 woredas (23.7%) of the region on the basis of 1-community watershed per woreda
- Total project beneficiaries: 907,006
- Total project area: 599,116 ha

Gimbi Woreda:

- Population: 93,021
- Total woreda area: 118,365.87 ha
- Name of major watershed: Gefere
- Project beneficiaries: 19,736 (3,587 households)
- Number of community watersheds: 15
- Project area: 9,660 ha
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CWs_name</th>
<th>Area in ha</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gabe</td>
<td>465</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hora</td>
<td>390</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hote</td>
<td>517</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malke</td>
<td>204</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genja</td>
<td>441</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Busa Dabus</td>
<td>747</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tesiyo</td>
<td>825</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gafere</td>
<td>938</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Welde</td>
<td>937</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chirecha</td>
<td>649</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kombolcha</td>
<td>763</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luga</td>
<td>586</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sodu</td>
<td>716</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarity</td>
<td>688</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gasi</td>
<td>794</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total (GefereMW)</td>
<td>9660</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
By design:

- Objectively (designed to reduce land degradation, improve land productivity, improve livelihood and land tenure security)
- Formula/model wise (considers 3-interdependent phases/stages: initiation, land rehabilitation and economic development)
- Multidisciplinary and implemented by institutional arrangement of platforms
- Package of proven technologies and best practices
- Based on integrated watershed and landscape management principles
- Bottom-up planning approach based
- People centred
- Knowledge & skill based
- Gender sensitive
- Based on participatory planning & implementation arrangements/strategies
- Based on strong RBM&E system
Results achieved:

• Land degradation in treated lands tremendously reduced (2,520 ha of which communal land =1,567 ha and farmland 963 ha)

• Vegetal ground cover increased

• Direct runoff threat turned into groundwater recharge opportunity

• Initially non-existent or intermittent springs flow year round (also used for fisheries)

• Raised water table

• Treated gully lands converted to productive land pattern (9 ha)
Results achieved (Cont’d)

• Improved yield (increase of 14-18 Qt/ha) Gimbi Feb. 2014 for WB Mission - Copy - Copy - Copy (2) - Copy.ppt

• Abundant feed availability

• Amelioration of the environment & restored eco-system functions (Natural forest regeneration increased by 10-15%, grass/vegetal cover by 40-60%, water sources’ discharges by 20-40%)

• Improved micro-climate

• Improved potable water supply

• Improved community road accessibility

• Improved livelihood of beneficiary community

• Community convinced better about the importance of NRM

• Produced far reaching impact beyond its boundary
SLMP- a solution to land degradation

Lessons learned:

- Continuous awareness creation & skill development
- Committed leadership & functioning platform
- Utmost patience to win the minds and hearts of the community (community needs short cycle benefits but the programme requires some time to show tangible results)
- Community participation and empowerment are key to success
- Community always eager to see something on the ground than mere words
- Land certification improved farmers investment on their land, court case over boundary dispute with neighbours and work efficiency
- Better rely on local byelaws than introduced conventional ones
- Strong RBM&E system
Conclusion:

- SLMP – a well designed programme that considered the key aspects of sustainable land management
- Guided by a special strategy purposely formulated for the programme (ESIF)
- Holistic in its approach
- Land degradation in treated areas minimized
- Community benefitted a lot with equitable benefit sharing
- Strong impact with wider sphere of influence
- Achieved spectacular results (Photo gallery)
- SLMP has demonstrated to be a solution to land degradation
Communal lands treated and managed by target communities
Rehabilitated termite infested and degraded communal land
Rehabilitated degraded land
Rehabilitated degraded land
Technologies applied on Hillside

✓ Gully management & Area closure