

Story in the Watershed

The Role of Second Level Land Certification for SLM Practices Adoption and Sustainability: The Case of Gibe, Gumer and Geta Woredas, SNNP Region

1. Introduction

The Government of Ethiopia put land administration and use as a key component of the national policies, development strategies and legal framework. This was well addressed also through Ethiopian Strategic Investment Frame Work (ESIF, 2010) of SLM under component two which explains **insecure land** tenure is the barrier to the field level adoption of SLM technologies and practices.

Sustainable Land Management Program has been supporting the government's initiatives during SLMP-I and SLMP-II phases, and continued strengthening its support for land administration and use component during Resilient Landscapes and Livelihoods project (RLLP). RLLP support to secure tenure rights of land holders in watersheds through issuance of Second Level Land holding Certificates (SLLC) as an incentive to increase the adoption of SLM technologies and practices in project watersheds (according to PAD and ESIF). In three Woredas selected for the assessment, 40,024 (7,488 female headed) were received second level land certificates (SLLC). This study is intended to generate evidence as a

show case whether the land certification activities in SLM secures tenure right and help land holders to adopt SLM technologies and practices.

2. Method

This case study provides a spatially explicit assessment of the extent of second level land certification as an incentive to land holders to adopt sustainable land management technologies and make investment on their land. The survey conducted on 35 selected Households (20% female headed) who received second land certificates in three kebelas (Kawante, Homocho and Arreket sheleko) of Geta, Gibe and Gumer woreda respectively. Perception of farmers on benefit of land certification was assessed using structured questionnaire. This show case focuses on the benefits of land certification for: Tenure security, Land management and soil conservation, land disputes, access to credit; land transactions (inherent, gift), and female empowerment, decision-making.

The assessment was conducted in SNNP region in three selected kebeles of three Woredas (Gumer, Geta and Gibe).

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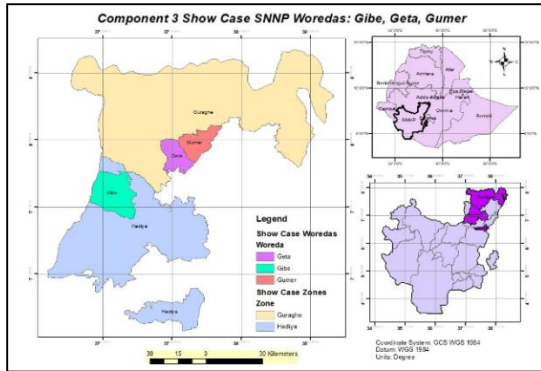


Figure 1 Map of woredas where assessment is conducted

3. Findings

Tenure security: A basic premise of stronger and more secure land tenure system makes clarification of land rights, demonstrate claims and enforce rights. The HHs perception assessment for the show case study showed that 100 percent of the respondents feel of high tenure security of their land. This is because, they indicated that they have been accessing and can access benefits of land certification related to land transactions (inheritance, gift, rent and access to credit).



Figure 2 Bekele Arido and his wife Mulunesh Deliso joint holding granted tenure security in Handisho kebele of Gibe woreda

Sustainable Land management practices:

The intervention of the project in land certification expected to increase tenure security which is an incentive to adopt technologies and practices of SLM to improve productivity and enhancing resilience. Several studies witness that land certification programs in Ethiopia induced better land management practices (e.g., tree planting, construction of terraces and soil fertility management) and ultimately improved land productivity. In this assessment, 100 percent of the surveyed HHs adopted SLM technologies and practices (terrace construction, tree planting, forage development on the bunds, high value crops production (coffee, avocado and enset) and soil fertility improvement. The same percent of the respondents also practiced annual based maintenance of physical structures (terrace) on their land.

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As a result, they observed productivity improvement of their land.



Figure 3. Solomon Argago, a land holder in gibe woreda (Homocho kebele) practices SLM practices (trace constructed with biological (Desho grass, high value crops (avocado and coffee))

land disputes: Although, the overall very low frequency of land disputes experienced by surveyed households due to the existence of conflict resolution mechanism through elders including land disputes, the respondents believed and highly agree that land certification can decrease land disputes. This is because of presence of aducation process during land certification and clear boundary on the parcel map.

Women empowerment and land-related decision-making: Tenure security is also thought to help landholders to defend their land from claims, which can be particularly important for women and other vulnerable groups whose rights may not be sufficiently protected under traditional practices (Joireman, 2008). The result of this

assessment indicates that 100 percent of the respondents of female headed (20 percent) and joint holding (wife with husband (80 percent) responded that they are empowered through land certification in decision making on their land holdings. Therefore, land certification robust the empowerment and involvement of women in land-related decision-making.



Figure 4. Jemal Ahimed and his wife Medina Abdella in Kawante kebele of Geta woreda joint holding certificate have equal decision making on their joint holding



Figure 5 Belayinesh Matiyou, Female headed from HOMOCHO kebele of Gibe woreda empowered on her land due to land certificate she got

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Land transaction and access to credit: 100 percent of the surveyed land holders perceived that land certification can help for land transaction like inheritance, gift and rent. It is also used to access credit. However, 97 percent of the respondents do not access credit using their land certificates due to the high interest rate of microfinance institutions. Only 3 percent of surveyed households (n = 35) had used their land certificates to access credit after the land certificates. These households invested this money on other business like sheep fattening and dairy production.

4. *Lesson Learnt*

- Tenure security vs. Land management: land certification secures tenure rights and motivates land holders to make long investments on their land. The theory of change is in practice.
- Land right vs. women empowerment: There is a direct relationship among land certification; women's land right, women empowerment and decision-making on their land. This assessment shows an overview how the gender sensitive project (SLM) addressing land rights of women.

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Contributors :-

- Bogale Gelana, Land Administration and Use Specialist NPCU, MoA,
- Meeraph Habtewold, Cadastral Surveying and Land Information System Specialist, NPCU MoA
- Firewhiwot Desta, Land Administration and Use Spécialist RPCU, SNNP