

# Story in the Watershed

## Rehabilitated land for landless youth livelihood improvement: The Case of Gibe, Gumer and Geta Woredas, SNNP Region

### 1. Introduction

The federal and regional land laws state that every citizen from 18 years of age who wants to make a living from agriculture should be getting free access to land. However, its practicality is challenged due to scarcity of land for ever growing rural young population and limited employment options. Despite positive government policies and strategies to address the issue of youth unemployment and measures taken, the increase in youth landlessness and unemployment remains a challenge in rural Ethiopia. Without tenure security and access to land, it is difficult to secure sustainable rural livelihoods of the landless youths.

As an innovative approach, restoring degraded land and improving access to land use for economic wealth is being built among landless youth in SLMP watersheds. The activity increases livelihood opportunities, empowers youths who face challenges due to landlessness. This was further scale up in the implementation period of Resilient Landscapes and

Livelihood Project (RLLP). RLLP is improving access to land for landless youth through issuance of group landholding certificates or other legal documents based on the community decision in exchange for land restoration. In these three woredas, 578 landless youths (316 female) were organized in to 24 groups and accessed 166.7 ha rehabilitated land to engage in different economic activities.

Therefore, this assessment is to generate evidence on Landless youths who access to land through issuance of land certificates or any legal document to use rehabilitated communal lands in exchange of their valuable engagement in restoration activities. With purposive selection from 24 groups, four organized landless groups were assessed in four selected kebeles of Gumer, Geta and Gibe woredas.

### 2. Method

This case study provides a spatially explicit assessment of the intersection of access to land right, use and sustainable environment for the case of landless youth in RLLP

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watersheds. The survey conducted on four selected landless youth groups (Cheba, Mulu, selam and Getija) in four kebeles (Arekitsheleko, Badd, Kawante, Homocho) of Gumer Geta, and Gibe) woredas. The show case assessment focuses on the Number and members of landless youths groups organized, land transferred and operational activity engagement and benefits gained through sustainable land management.

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

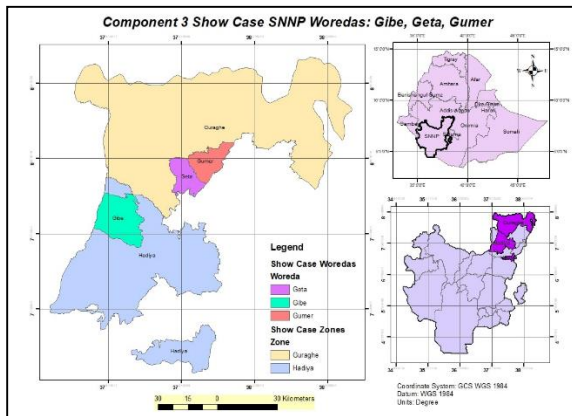


Figure 1. Map of woredas where assessment is conducted

## 3. Findings

### 3.1. Gumer woreda

**Case 1:** 59 landless youth (22 female) were organized by the name ‘Cheba’ and 12.5 ha rehabilitated communal land was transferred

to the group based on the consultation and decision of the community. The group members were participated on the rehabilitation of this communal land. The communal land was well traced and established with biological measures on the traces (Desho grass and other fodder trees). The group produces cereal crops (barley) on the traces and fodder plants between terraces mainly (Desho grass). They harvested barley with an average yield of 20 qt/ha and cut 10 metric ton of grass per ha in one season to feed their cattle and for market. In a year there are three seasons. Therefore, the group cut 30 metric ton of grass per year per ha. The landless youth group witnessed that they support their life through the access of this communal land through consultation of the community and coordination sustainable land management program.



Figure 2 well-constructed trace with established biological measures and barley crop on the traces

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*Figure 3 Landless youth engaged in forage production (Desho grass) Gumer woreda*

**Case 2:** 10 landless youth were organized by the name “Mulu farm” and 0.5 rehabilitated communal land was transferred to the group based on the consultation of the community. The communal land was well established with biological (Desho grass) and that is used for forage production. The group also engaged in integrated activities (dairy cow production, and beekeeping) as shown in the figure 3 below. The land less group borrows 100,000 birr from Omo micro finance to and procured 11 dairy cows for milk production. They used communal land for Desho grass production to feed their dairy cows. They got 15 lt of milk per cow per day and sale one Lt in 40 birr. But they have got market problem because of this the planned to process the milk in to butter and other products. On the other hand the landless group also engaged in beekeeping activities. They have 10 bee hives. They planted plants that used for bees to make

honey. They produced 12kg of honey per beehive and sold it for 250 birr per kg.



**Figure 4. Landless youth engaged in dairy production**



*Figure 5 land transferred to the youth group for forage production to feed dairy cows*



**Figure 6. Landless youth engaged in beekeeping production**

## 3.2. Geta woreda

**Case 3:** 21 landless youth (7 female) were organized by the name ‘Getija’ and 28 hectare rehabilitated communal land was transfer to the group based on the

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consultation of the community. The group member was participated on the rehabilitation of this communal land. The communal land was well traced. The group produces cereal crops (barley). They harvested 20 qts/ha on average.



*Figure 7. Landless groups organized in crop production*



*Figure 8 barley field cultivated by the above youth group*

## 3.3.Gibe Woreda

**Case 4:** 15 landless youth (8 female) were organized by the name “Selam beekeeping” and engaged in beekeeping activities in one of the woreda SLMP nursery site. They start to produce honey in 10 beehive and they hoped that they can get 10kg of honey per beehive

and sale one kilo per 200 birr so that it will improve their livelihood in addition to the income they gain. The group also permanently engaged in the nursery activities to support their livelihood..



*Figure 9 Landless youth engaged in beekeeping*

## 4. Lesson learnt

- Land Access to landless youth of rehabilitated communal land in SLM is an opportunity for economic use and sustainable environment. There is proper integration of activities.
- Considering Landlessness is beyond range of age so that in SLM watershed considering all landless individuals is important for sustainability. This will be a benchmark for management and use plan preparation for rehabilitated micro watersheds and guiding principles for watershed user cooperative to be established.

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- Nursery sites which have excess plots with necessary environment can use for beekeeping for those landless youth groups. This will be a good show case to strengthen the Project initiative on nursery business model under piloting.

## 5. Reference

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