

Land rehabilitation as a means avoiding migration

Until few year back, farmers in Anzacha -1 micro watershed, Mierab Azernet woreda of Silite zone usually flee to Oromia region in search of jobs to support their family. As the Mierab Azernet woreda is hilly with high rain fall, whenever the rainy season comes the flood affects the farm land washes away the soil and crops on the farm fields which results low productivity and complete loss.

In addition the residential areas were affected with erosion and landslide. This had been a serious challenge for the community and there was limited measure put in place to mitigate the soil erosion, productivity issues and to save the residential houses from getting washed away.



Figure 1. Some parts of Anizecha -1 Micro watershed, Meirab Azernet woreda, SNNP

In addition the flees of house hold head and elder children to Oromia Region create further pressure

Of Women's left home on keeping and feeding the family and traveling long distance to fische water.

In 2006, when the SLM program launched nationally, Mierab azernet woreda was selected to be one of the areas where immediate soil and water conservation interventions are needed.

The woreda Agricultural office with the support of SLMP selected Anizacha _1 Micro watershed and discussed with women farmers left in the area and designed soil and water conservation technologies, provide training and implemented conservation measures and treating the soil.



Figure 2. Community members discussing about the change they got with support of SLMP, Anizach -1 Mirab azernet woreda, SNNP Region

When the community started to work on the rehabilitation activities under the SLMP,

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The cash incentive has become an opportunity to support families of those who were planning to flee and address their basic needs. After three years consecutive effort the community with SLMP, the soil erosion was reduced, the landslide stopped and gradually production get in progress. This change in production attracted the male farmers to come back home and enabled them to stay in their village and take part in the rehabilitation efforts which they believed would solve their problem in practice.

Mrs. Hayat Jamal explain the situation and says “we face great challenge we lack enough food to feed our family we work in the farm, go to market buy and sell vegetables and beyond that we afraid of the erosion during the rainy season and always making a call to our husbands to get many to cover all expenses, really it was treble. In addition, on the dry season we suffer to get clean water, we travel long distance to get it, but now thanks to SLMP we produce enough food and vegetables for consummation and market and most of our challenges were resolved”

After eight years of physical and biological interventions led by SLMP, Mierab Azernet is now a woreda where the farmlands are recovered and became productive as the community built the terraces, planted several trees and forages along the bunds and applied various productivity enhancement techniques recommended by the climate smart farming technique and the productivity was increased accordingly.

Mr. Sultan Syeid a leader and member of Anizacha Micro watershed says “living out of family was difficult we were worrying about the erosion attack the money we disserve for the family, the safety of land holding and others”

Vegetable, fruits & livestock production

No	Crops, vegetable and fruits grown	Average production per HH per year in quintals		
		Before SLMP ½ Ha	After SLMP ½ Ha	% of change
1	Barley and wheat	2-3 quintals	10	
2	vegetables	Negligible	1	
3.	Fruit	No	1	
	Livestock			
4	Milk production	1 litter	2 litters	
5	No. sheep and got	2	5-7	

“We have enough forage to feed our sheep and goats. As the forage trees grow fast and get ready to be used as a fodder we don’t get short in accessing feeds. This has helps us to feed cows and harvest more milk and fatten the sheep and goats, this is the other benefit we get from SLMP in intervention in our area, Thanks to the SLMP/RLLP, we have learnt how to prevent our landscapes from damage increase our income, the community is aware of unwise practices that cause land degradation and keeps all the improved agronomic practices.” Say Mr. Ibrahim Nasir with a great confidence.

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Finally, Mr. Sultan Syeid and his fellow farmers explained that almost all of the households in the village have saving account with at least 10,000 ETB deposit annually and the remaining agrees with it.



Figure 4 wheat production in bench terrace Anizach Micro Watershed, Mierab Azernet Woreda

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