Integrated Landscape Management to Enhance Food Security and Ecosystem Resilience, Ethiopia

Diversified agricultural production is a vehicle to food systems resilience

Integrated Land scape Management to Enhance food Security and Ecosystem Resilience in Ethiopia project has been **implemented in 12 woredas of 7 regional states since end of 2017**. The major objective of the project is to **enhance long-term sustainability and resilience of food production systems** by addressing the environmental drivers of food insecurity.

In the Journey of achieving the intended project target, it was essential to establish multi stake holders' platforms and partnership mechanisms for developing ownership and ensuring accountability at all levels. Accordingly, **14 partnership mechanisms established from federal to local levels, including UNDP and other key stakeholders particularly at woreda level**.

238,074 household beneficiaries targeted

134,165 Men   **103,909** Women

99% of which been addressed by the project activities.

128,658ha of the landscape area in

61 community watersheds

have been addressed by Integrated Landscape Management (ILM) practices.

Under the development of resilience of food production systems aspect,

8 agricultural value chains selected and developed in 12 woredas where **17,373** producers have been benefited.

8,899 Men   **8,474** Women

60,333 jobs and livelihoods created through management of natural resources, ecosystem services including off-farm activities.

For ensuring sustainability of livelihoods, beneficiaries who engaged in different income generating activities have organized in

317 Self Help Groups (SHG) with members of

1,533 Men   **3,905** Women

out of which 176 SHG are linked to local financial institutions for further financial support and sustainable business developments.

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What approach did the team take to achieve the impact

The team has applied an **Integrated approach which encompasses the engagement of several stakeholders who come up with diversified ideas and technologies as well as approaches**. Integrated Landscape Management to enhance food security and ecosystem resilience project has applied Multistakeholder engagement approach to improve the income and enhance the livelihoods of the project target households and communities.

Multiple stakeholders come up with their institutional plan to apply in the same landscape, community and households. As the result, the different technologies contextually applied in the similar farmland. The approach is very curable medicine for small holder farmers in Ethiopia who have only less or equal to 1ha of land.

What impact did the effort have and on/for whom?

Farmers: Significant number of project beneficiary farmers improved their income and enhanced their livelihoods. For instance, Ferdahusa Muallim's annual income from Gursum district of **Somali** region has increased from **20,000-25,000ETB to 3 to 4 million ETB through production of vegetable production**. **Reshid** from the same district has also increased his income from **50,000ETB to 6 million through engagement of fruit and vegetable production**. Furthermore, Aliyi Mohammed's livelihood has also improved from labor selling to stable agricultural production and improved his livelihood.

Community members: Take lesson from the project models and are coping the same practices and are number of **community members are engaged in the same diversified agricultural practices**.

Local authorities: Local Authorities take lesson from the **project approach and merging the government plan to the project plan**. District authorities are voicing other project to copy the project approach and do the same results.

Government agencies and other institutions: Several experience **sharing visits have been carried out in the project sites and model farmers' homesteads**. Universities are also supporting the project sites through conducting action research and are **introducing new technologies as well as resources to the project sites and beneficiaries**.

Women: more than **44% of the project beneficiaries are women** and in most sites the project models are women especially engaged in off-farm income generation activities, poultry production, vegetable production, dairy production through organized user groups, fuel saving cooking stove production.

Youth: engaged in **off-farm income generation activities** including barbery through solar power energy in smaller rural villages, poultry, petty trade and improved their lives.
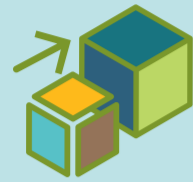
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What were the main ingredients that led to the impact?

The main ingredients that lead to these results are:

- One of the main reasons for project success was its relevance regarding priorities in Ethiopia regarding **linking environmental management of all factors that affect food security** (land management, water management, forestation, market access, gender differential impacts, value chains);

- **Identification, Analysis and Establishment of Multi-stakeholder plate form**;

- Preparation of **project activity description manual** and awareness made on the activity menu;

- **Context based capacity development interventions** that empowered decision making power of the district level steering committees and technical teams;

- **Gender teams and watershed committees** organized at district and community levels and regularly capacitated with M&E and follow ups;

- **Involvement of Universities** in some areas which improved the technical capacity of some districts. e.g. Haromaya University has done significant efforts in capacitating Doba woreda experts and establishment of modern fruit nursery;

- **Close monitoring and evaluation system**;

- **Regular update on the project achievements**;

- **Utilization of local media in promoting the project achievements**;

- **Involvement of EFCCC quarterly newsletter**. In the past three years, the quarterly newsletter the project best practices have been published at least twice in four publications in a year. The best practices published in the newsletter were compiled by the Material Preparation and Environment Diplomacy Coordination Directorate of the Environment Forest and Climate Change Commission(EFCCC).

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Where or under which circumstances could this effort be scaled?

Capacity building at all levels needs to be a strong explicit component for these sorts of projects, incorporating through demonstration the value added of whatever practices, methods and knowledge is being transferred to stakeholders. This not only generates and enhances capacity; it also creates ownership;

Projects with intricate components and multiple partners and stakeholders need to have internal coordination mechanisms with clear coordination among and between all types of stakeholders;

Project design should be clear and consistent, and contain proper indicators to capture effects and impacts, as well as have a clear strategy for overall implementation;

The association of **traditional knowledge and innovation needs** to be imbedded in a project in order to strengthen both approaches and have them be mutually supportive;

Gender mainstreaming requires to be clearly imbedded at all stages of a project and be based on a complete gender analysis, mainstreaming strategy and proper indicators to monitor.

Project design should encourage decentralized approach which improves capacity, empowerment and develop ownership.

What are the main lessons that were learned?

What would you advise others?

- **Multi-layered frameworks** for project guidance are key to integrate different stakeholders and to enhance a bottom-up approach;

- When working in different regions, ecosystems, and socio – economic contexts in different productive sectors, a "one size fits all" recipe is not proper. **Project processes need to be tailored to each particular locale's specificities;**

- **Identification of community priorities** in relation to Integrated Landscape Management, address several issues such as food security and resilience building, especially if they are based in context based/ area specific problems identified and lead to specific solutions/practices/technologies

- **Ownership development improved**, they try to control and properly manage project budget

- **Engagement of universities** improved the inclusion of new technologies and enabled the districts to improve the technical capacities;

- **Additional resources** were also mobilized;

- **Working groups** came as a new entity;

- **Creativeness** improved to come up with new ideas, development agendas;

- **Capacity developed** in project management;

- **Decision making power** improved at local level;

- **Gender mainstreaming** is becoming culture.