



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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- 013, 014 and 015 Kebele Administrators
- Development Agents of the kebeles

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We thank staff members of **Wollo University** for their involvement and support.

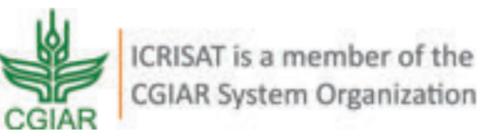
INSPIRATION FROM YEWOL FOR ALL OF US

Funder

This work was undertaken as part of



Partners



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WE WORKED TOGETHER

Our land is scattered. If we work individually, we cannot get there. Even the office of agriculture can't get there. Each of us contributed 60 days to build these structures on our farms and on those of our neighbors.

ALI AHMED | A FARMER
FROM WOREILLU DISTRICT

YOU CANNOT DO IT ALONE

I am from Ethiopia and want to see my country prosper. Watershed management is a very complex agenda. It requires multiple players and multiple skills. So I talked to as many people as possible, finding others who also had a vision and cared about the people and the environment."

DR TILAHUN AMEDE | ICRISAT

OTHERS ARE STILL WAITING

Almost every initiative that has come to the watershed has been beneficial. But not everyone has benefitted. There are also possibilities to scale this approach out to other sites.

DERIB HASSAN | DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR FOR WOREILLO

How communities joined hands to replenish the ecosystem that belongs to them

>> WHAT HAPPENED

Five years ago, communities in the dry highlands of the Yewol mountains found it difficult to grow even their staple crops. In the rainy season, rainwater gushed down the slopes eroding the soil. Free grazing of cattle and unreliable rain affected the productivity so much that crops began to dwindle along with their livestock. **Migration** was the only way out for some. **Food shortage** stalked the residents and it still is a reality for some.

>> WHAT WAS DONE

At a time when the people were struggling with the situation, a **watershed initiative** was started by concerned local researchers with the support of the government. The project brought in the needed change among communities to join hands and work together to replenish the dwindling resources of their homeland, Yewol, which in Amharic means 'for all of us'!

HOW IT WAS DONE

1

Saving the soil

Terracing and contour ditches prevented soil erosion and increased recharge of groundwater



7,500 hectares i.e. the entire watershed area was terraced by the community as part of the government's Safety Net Program with technical support from ICRISAT

2

Mobilizing the community

Scientifically tested solutions ensured effectiveness and sustainability. Local byelaws were framed to support solutions



60 days of work was contributed by each farmer for building terraces and other structures

3

Capturing rainwater

Dug wells and farm ponds upstream for harvesting rainwater. Increased river flow downstream

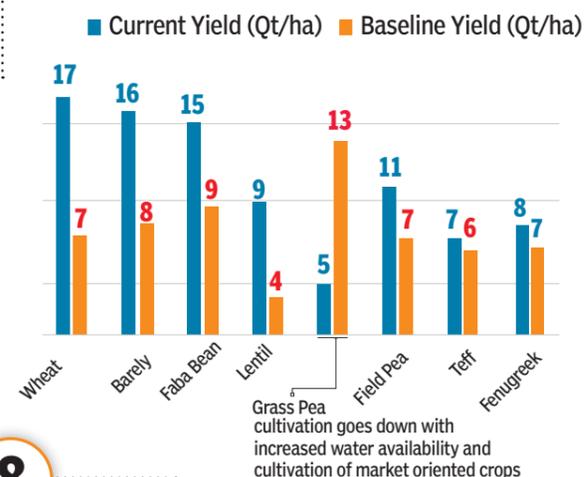


5 fold increase in irrigable land

4

Revitalizing the soil

Best agronomic practices and access to quality seed helped conserve the soil and get more yields



5

Growing new crops

Crop diversity increased by growing new and profitable crops



6,250 Birr* was the average income of young farmers in the potato cooperative.
*1 birr = 0.035 US\$

5140 Birr per annum earned from agroforestry products
17 new crop varieties were introduced including potatoes, garlic, carrots, apples, etc

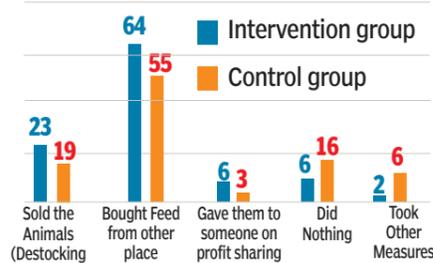
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Livestock innovations

The project distributed crossbred bulls and rams, and recruited artificial insemination experts



Mechanism to save livestock from the effect of drought (% of households)



7

Market access

Forming farmer cooperatives improved farmers' bargaining power



Shift towards market-oriented crops
Rising adoption of **high-value crops**: Apple, carrot, chickpea and spices.
Food security crops: Potatoes

8

Climate resilience and improved livelihoods



Better adaptive capacity results in better incomes

Change in 5 years

Intervention group: **82%** Improved food security
Control group: **51%**

53% Reliance on food aid
92%

9

Upscaling avenues

Influence on policy makers

Project success caught the attention of higher officials, decision makers and regional administrators including the president of Amhara regional state. Concrete actions taken by concerned institutions include:

- > Allocated additional budget for further scaling up/out
- > Started interventions of the same kind and showed interest to scale-up/out
- > Incorporated it into the Productivity Safety Net program (PSNP)

THE WAY THE PROJECT EMPOWERED FEMALE AND MALE FARMERS

