



Erosion degraded landscape in one of the project sites

Context

- Soil degradation affects livelihoods in the Ethiopian Highlands where zones are characterized by steep slopes, high rates of erosion and small land holdings.
- Despite this, soil and water conservation structures (SWCSs) were poorly adopted.

Our innovative approach

- Inter aide introduced integration of soil and water conservation or anti-erosive structures combined with forage development.
- Impact assessment a decade later showed ~ 93% adoption of integrated SWCS but only in 3 woredas.
- We collaborated with InterAide to scale the technology to additional woredas.



Rehabilitated farmlands with improved forages on contours



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & BIODIVERSITY

Scaling integrated forage development with soil conservation in the Ethiopian Highlands

- 38.3 km of anti-erosive structures vegetated with improved pastures.
- 1,684 family nurseries and 3 community nurseries established.
- Household income from selling fodder and milk was ~\$300/yr.
- 35 Local social groups (*Iddirs and meshaps*) helped develop and enforce anti-open grazing by- laws.
- 90 peer educators capacitated

Technology scaling components include: Sensitization, stakeholders training, exchange visits of farmers and extension agents, supply of planting materials, community and backyard nursery establishment, use of peer educators and community social groups to facilitate uptake .

“The health of the soil is the wealth of the people”



RESEARCH PROGRAM ON Livestock

LLAFS

G. Feye, D. Getamesai, A. Adediran

G.Feye@cgiar.org, a.adediran@cgiar.org

ILRI Ethiopia

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Adediran ILRI, G Getamesai, Inter-Aide

Outcomes

- Degraded farmlands have been rehabilitated.
- Farmers’ livelihoods gained from increased income from feed and livestock.
- Local community groups took up the technologies.
- High retention rate of technology users.



Harvested forages taken on donkey cart to market

Future steps

- Support government soil rehabilitation schemes through knowledge exchange, scaling to new areas.
- Support enhanced feed value addition activities.
- Document stakeholders' roles for policy engagement.
- Support scaling assessment for improved uptake.

Partners



The CGIAR Research Program on Livestock thanks all donors & organizations which globally support its work through their contributions to the CGIAR Trust Fund. cgiar.org/funders



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