

Project for Sustainable Natural Resource Management through FFS in the Rift Valley Area of Oromia Region

Overview

In the Oromia Region, the largest region in Ethiopia in terms of both population and area, 20% of the land is semi-arid.

Due to the rapid conversion of forests to farmland in the plains and the growing grass / bare lands from forest logging in the scattered low mountains, soil erosion has been occurring in the surrounding flat land during rainy seasons. Furthermore, agricultural technology has not permeated sufficiently, and productivity levels are low.

Thus, since there is a need for a sustainable natural resource management that would improve agricultural productivity while enabling soil conservation, this project supports natural resource management through Farmer Field School (FFS) in the Rift Valley area of Oromia Region.

Purpose

Capacity of the relevant stakeholders of Liben Chukala, Bora and Adama district of East Shewa Zone in the semi-arid area of Oromia Region to promote sustainable natural resource management including agroforestry and soil conservation measures through FFS is strengthened, and their experiences are shared with other areas of Oromia Region.

Activities/Outputs

National Resource Management through FFS.

The project applies to Oromia Bureau of Agriculture and Natural Resource (OBANR) to introduction of natural resource management through FFS. Approximately 80 FFS in the target districts has been conducted between 2013 and 2017 for providing techniques and knowledge of agroforestry and soil conservation on farm lands. The participants adapted the techniques and the knowledge, started to cultivate vegetables and plant trees on their farm lands. In addition, human resources are trained for planning, implementing, monitoring natural resource management through FFS as well as for facilitating FFS.

Effects of FFS as an extension system.

For disseminating natural resource management. FFS is described as a “school without walls”, where a group of 20 to 30 farmers participate weekly as monitors in a small-scale project of agriculture, livestock, and forestry, and learn new technical skills experimentally and the way to implement their own projects, while developing their judging and decision-making ability. This approach of learning-by-doing practices allows farmers to develop their behaviors and attitudes. As a result, farmers have become more motivated to engage themselves in seedling production and reforestation activities in the project areas.



Project Site

East Shewa Zone, West Hararghe Zone / West Arsi Zone in Oromia Region

Implementing Organization

Oromia Bureau of Agriculture and Natural Resource

Duration

Jun. 2013—Mar. 2018

