

Consortium Members

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Impact activities and preliminary results

-Consortium workshop: in the workshop the project progresses, challenges, way forward, results of phase one, and donor requirements were presented and discussed

-Particle board test: sample *Acacia* timber from three project location collected and provided to the Michew Particleboard Factory to test the potential of *Acacia saligna* as input for particle board production

-Research by MSc students: research proposals presented, research sites identified (Atsbi) and research data collected on 1. *Acacia* plantation, diversity and regeneration potential of native woody species and grass biomass production 2. Soil macro fauna population and selected physico-chemical soil properties

-Feed test on egg layer chicken: research activity started with four treatments (0%, 5%, 10% and 15%) of *acacia* seed formulation

-Utilization of *Acacia*: farmers are using *Acacia* trees for fuel wood; leaves as feed for small ruminant at time of feed shortage, and for conservation and rehabilitation of degraded land within project location

-Knowledge sharing: field days organized for 90 FREG members to learn on provenance selection; utilization of *Acacia* as feed; conservation purpose; and co-learning. FRFGs are involved in all the research activities; farmer to farmer interaction/experience sharing, farmer to researcher or development expertise at grass root level to see the potential of *Acacia* as multipurpose trees.

Project description

Overall goal:

- Research results enhance landscape restoration and sustainable natural resource management, leading to better food security and economic growth

Objectives:

- To contribute directly to development as the project enables communities to recognize, enhance and sustainably utilize the existing natural resource base;
- To identify improved types of *Acacia saligna* suitable for multipurpose use (biomass, fodder, green manure, wood, and seed) and for poles/wood production in the Tigray Region.
- To quantify the farmer-perceived benefits and market risks/opportunities of *Acacia saligna* in four agroforestry systems.

Methods: the project approach is participatory action oriented research and development approach throughout the project phases such as planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation and reflection processes. The process will ensure the participation of farmers, communities and other partner institutions

Anticipated impacts:

- Increased sustainable agricultural production and income generation
- Fodder and feed available, addressing fodder shortage, for better animal health and productivity
- Wood production for sale, as fuel wood, poles, or for particle board or charcoal manufacture
- Improved/secured honey yields
- Environmental benefits: communal areas are sustainably managed (forest cover, ecology and biodiversity improved) and climate change and its effects mitigated
- Profitable *Acacia saligna* value-chains emerge, and private sector interest in *Acacia saligna* stimulated, providing livelihood opportunities

Opportunities and challenges

Opportunity: *Acacia* has multiple uses for the community and environment. Research involves farmers in the process of co-learning and this created opportunity for scaling up of the project to larger areas.

The project created good opportunities for learning especially students, researchers and farmers and produced quality results for the benefit of the community.

Challenge: budget shortage in year 2 because more budget was allocated to year 3 even though major activities were planned in year 2.

Data sharing between researchers and consortium members was a challenge.

Space for pictures or other visual formats



Acacia saligna Bambun Rd Prov



Enclosed restoration with *Acacia* and other species



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