

Land and Natural Resources Learning Initiative for Eastern and Southern Africa (TSLI-ESA)

Case Study Report: Strengthening women's access to land in Ethiopia



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Acronyms

ADLI	Agricultural Development Led Industrialization
ANRS	Amhara National Regional State
BoARD	Bureau of Agriculture and Rural Development
BOEPLAU	Bureau of Environmental Protection, Land Administration and Use
CBINReMP	Community-Based Integrated Natural Resources Management Project
DA	Development Agent
ELTAP	Ethiopian Land Tenure and Administration Program
EPLAUA	Environmental Protection, Land Administration and Use Authority
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GEF	Global Environmental Facility
GLTN	Global Land Tools Network
GoE	Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
GIZ	German Technical Cooperation
ha	Hectare
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
ILC	International Land Coalition
LAC	Land Use and Administration Committee
MFI	Microfinance Institution
PASDEP	Plan for Accelerated and Sustainable Development to End Poverty
PASIDP	Participatory Small-scale Irrigation Development Programme
PCDP	Pastoral Community Development Project
RUSACCO	Rural Savings and Credit Cooperative
RLAUD	Rural Land Administration and Use Directorate (RLAUD)
SIDA	Swedish International Development Cooperation
SLM	Sustainable Land Management
SNNPR	Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples' Region
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WB	World Bank
WFP	World Food Programme
WUA	Water User Association

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Introduction

This report captures the findings of the research work on “Strengthening Women’s Access to Land in IFAD funded projects: Experience from the land registration process in Ethiopia”. It presents the outcomes of the investigation on women’s land rights and its implications in the registration process carried out in Amhara region.

The research is part of a collaboration with PTA’s gender and land tenure desks, the Global Land Tools Network (GLTN¹) and the International Land Coalition (ILC) which is linked to ESA’s Tenure Security Learning Initiative. The purpose of the collaboration is to identify and share tools and approaches for improving women’s access to land. Experiences are being collected from a range of countries in ESA and elsewhere with more intensive research being done in selected countries.

The study aimed to: gather information, explore good experiences, identify concrete examples of results achieved and challenges met in the process of providing women’s access to land. Specific attention was given to tools and methodologies in place for improving women’s access to land drawing on lessons from selected IFAD projects in the region: the Community-based Integrated Natural Resources Management Project (CBINReMP) and the Participatory Small-scale Irrigation Development Programme (PASID). Under CBINReMP the study focused on the support for first and second level certification and implications for women’s access to land. The focus in PASIDP was on how the project has strengthened equitable access to project beneficiaries to irrigated land, Water Users Associations (WUAs) and implications for women. This experience shows that for women’s economic status to improve, they need secure access to land. Under customary law, women tend to have weaker rights and it was found that the introduction of certain key legal provisions for strengthening women’s rights that include the co-registration of spousal rights and the recognition of women’s inheritance rights over land have had a direct impact in their social and economic empowerment. This study will be also contributing to the 5-year joint programme “Accelerating Progress toward the Economic Empowerment of Rural Women” (RWEE) which is a global initiative that will be implemented in Ethiopia by IFAD,FAO, WFP and UN Women.²

Successful individual stories from married women and women headed household have been collected and are presented in this report. The study aims also to explore the challenges beyond the successful results and to formulate useful recommendations for the way forward. One of the main challenges is managing the transition from traditional land tenure system to a legalized land tenure system in a way that strengthens/defends the rights of the rural poor and women in areas where cultural practices may disadvantage specific categories such as: the second and third wives in polygamous society (and their children). Particular attention was also given to the issue of landless, especially the women and the youth. It was found that in Amhara, women, disabled and orphans are the priority target group for allocation of land according to the “land proclamation act”, however it was noticed that in a context of scarcity of available land and no land redistribution planned for the future, land-related activities should be integrated and

¹ GLTN is a knowledge management network representing mainly land professional bodies, research and training institutions, CSOs and IGOs focused on developing tools and approaches for securing land and natural resource rights. It is a member of the ILC.

² The overarching goal of this 5-year joint global programme is to secure rural women’s livelihoods and rights in the context of sustainable development and the post MDGs, based on four outcome areas: improved food and nutrition security; increased income to secure their livelihoods; enhanced leadership and participation in rural institutions and in shaping laws, policies and programmes; and gender responsive policy environments for the economic empowerment of rural women.

supported by training linked to Income Generating Activities (IGA) such as livestock, access to credit, cooperative management, so that women could become economically active and young couples, which represent the main landless group, could explore other income opportunities.

Background

Overview of the current status of land reform in Ethiopia

Over the past decade and a half, Ethiopia has embarked on an ambitious and exemplary land reform programme. Before 1975, land was concentrated in the hands of feudal, often absentee, landlords - tenure was highly insecure, arbitrary evictions posed a serious threat, and many lands were underutilized. The 1975 land reform by the Derg regime abolished tenant-landlord relationships and private ownership; prohibited the sale or mortgage of land; set upper limits to the land that could be used and introduced periodic land redistribution. Over time this led to increasing land fragmentation and wide-spread tenure insecurity. The Agricultural Development Led Industrialisation (ADLI), formulated in the early nineties under the new regime, recognized agriculture as the main engine for rapid economic growth with equity. Under the 1995 Constitution, the state retained ownership of land but use rights were recognized and responsibility for land administration was decentralized to regional government. Initially provision was still made for periodic land redistribution but subsequently concerns were raised that this led to a continued tenure insecurity which undermined investment in land by users and was a major contributory factor to land degradation and a decline in agricultural productivity. In the late 90s and early 2000s, the federal government and various regional governments formulated land administration and use policies and legislation with Tigray and Amhara leading the way.

The Agricultural Growth and Rural Development Strategy and Programme (2004), the Food Security Programme (2004) and the Plan for Accelerated and Sustainable Development to End Poverty (PASDEP) in 2006 all recognize the central role of land administration for management of natural resources, economic growth and poverty reduction. The Federal Rural Land Administration and Land Use Proclamation No. 456/2005 that replaced Proclamation 89/1997, reaffirms ownership of rural land to the State but it confers indefinite tenure rights; provides for the registration and certification of land use rights; provides for land succession and leasing; bans further land redistribution, except under special circumstances; and provides for the preparation and implementation of land use plans and the establishment of land administration and use information system. The four regional states of Amhara, Oromia, SNNPR and Tigray have also revised their rural land proclamations and regulations to conform to the Federal Proclamation. The Afar and Beneshangul-Gumuz regional states formulated and enacted their rural land proclamations in 2008 and the Somali regional state is in the process of formulating its land policy.

Land tenure and women's land rights

Women in Ethiopia are essentially protected by the country's law, not only in political, civil and economic terms, but also with regard to access to natural resources, including land. The four regional states of Amhara, Oromia, Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples' Region

(SNNPR) and Tigray have also revised their rural land proclamations and regulations to conform to the Federal Land Proclamation but also to the national Policy on Women (1993). The Women's Policy primarily aims to institutionalize the political, economical, and social rights of women by creating an appropriate structure in government offices and institutions so that the public policies and interventions are gender-sensitive and can ensure equitable development for all Ethiopian men and women. Consistent with the above policy, Article 35 of the Ethiopian Constitution (1995) reiterates principles of equality of access to economic opportunities, including the right to equality in employment and land ownership. Two examples can be provided: i) the Amhara National Regional State (ANRS) government has enacted Proclamation No. 133/2006 on Rural Land Administration and Use, which gives priority in land allocation to women, disabled and orphans³. It also provides for the establishment of kebele and sub-kebele⁴ Land Administration and Use Committee(s) whose membership should be balanced between men and women⁵; the Afar National Regional State Rural land Use and Administration Regulations No 4/2011 and the Land Proclamation Act (draft) that pay attention to the issue of gender equality and provide specific provisions for women pastoralist and access to communal land⁶. Other regional states that have significant pastoral areas, like the Somali Regional State, in the process of formulating its land policy, are in the process to embark upon a similar exercise. In addition to policies and regulations women's access to land has been mainly guaranteed by the registration and certification process that issued land certificates in the name of women, if head of household, and husband and wife for married couples, including their pictures in the book of holding.

When assessing the impact of the land reform it is important to take the traditional position of women in Ethiopia as a starting point. The husband is considered to be the head of the household and women become heads of households only if they have no husband, however men and women interviewed in Amhara described the equality of roles between men and women, especially in decision making at household level, and the key role of women in managing economic resources and incomes. Women in Ethiopia are less involved in farming activities than in many other African countries. By tradition they are not allowed to plough with oxen although they do planting, weeding and harvesting. The husband is in charge of the farming activities in most cases and it was found that the share cropping system is mostly used by women headed household. Furthermore there is a strong tradition for the oldest son or unmarried son to inherit the land

³ Article 6 of part two of the Proclamation (right to hold land) states that: "The working system that gives priority to women, disables and orphan children shall be executed during the time of land distribution". It is also reiterated under article 9 on procedures for land provision that: "where the land to be distributed is not available to all petitioners with equal magnitude of land holding problem it shall priority be caused to be given to orphan children, disables, women and youngsters who join the new life of independence, consecutively".

⁴ A kebele is the smallest administrative unit of Ethiopia. It is part of a woreda, or district, itself usually part of a Zone, which in turn are grouped into one of the Regions based on ethno-linguistic communities that comprise the federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.

⁵ Art. 26 on Responsibility of the Woreda Accountable Office of the Authority: "Establishes land Administration and use committees through public election in Kebeles and sub-kebeles pursuant to provision of sub-Article 4 of Article 8 of the proclamation No.47/2000 that establishes the Authority. It ensures the election of women to these committees membership be balanced to that of men".

⁶ Article 5 on access to and use of grazing land: "Women pastoralists have equal rights with men to access and use grazing lands" and Article 9 on access to rural lands and use right " Women who intend to be engaged in raising animals, crop farming; and natural resource development activities have the right to access to and use farm and grazing lands free of charge and (ii) Rural women whose husbands are away from the locality and are in other places to render government services; or to do other work shall not lose their right of use over the joint/communal holding".

from the parents, although we found cases where the daughter had the chance to get the land from the mother. Overall the customary rights and social norms follow the traditional patrilineal inheritance system and patrilocal system of residence (after marriage a woman moves to the home of her new husband). This traditional inheritance and marriage pattern frames how the land certification reform affects women and have had a positive impact on their status.



Women showing their certificates: on the left a women headed household's certificate (including only her picture); on the right the certificate bears the pictures of both husband and wife.

The registration process and the gender implications

The actual process of securing land tenure in Ethiopia is through land registration and certification. The Government of Ethiopia has made significant progress in land registration. At Federal level significant support for this has been provided through the land component of the national Sustainable Land Management Project (SLMP).

The land registration and certification process in Ethiopia has followed two steps:

- First-level certification which involves the identification, adjudication and registration of land holding rights at the local (Kebele) level without the surveying of land parcels, the issuing of certificates at Woreda level and the computerization of land registration records⁷;
- Second-level registration which involves the surveying of land parcels.

First level rural land holding certificates have been issued by the four regional states of Amhara, Oromia, SNNPR, and Tigray mainly with direct funding from the Federal government. It is estimated that more than 95% or 50 million parcels of about 13 million rural households⁸ in the

⁷ The computerization of land records is considered by some as part of second level registration.

⁸ It is estimated that each rural household in these regions hold on average 4 parcels each.

four regional states have been certified. It is estimated that less than 1 million holdings have been issued second level certificates in the four regions largely with the technical and financial assistance of SIDA and USAID on a pilot basis. Other development partners that have supported land administration reform include the WB, GIZ, Finnish Government, IFAD, Austrian Development Cooperation and FAO. The Amhara Region received significant support from SIDA and USAID and is considered one of the strongest in terms of its institutional capacity. It is estimated that about 3.5 million households have registered their holdings in Amhara and about 3.46 million (97%) have completed first level certification. About 52% of land holdings are registered in the name of both spouses, 27% are registered to women and 21% to men.



Temporary certificate given before the “book of holding” is issued



Women showing the certificate: “book of rural land possession”

The registration process gives women an opportunity to fix their own property rights within the family as family land is registered in the names of both spouses.

The First level certification appears to have contributed positively to tenure security, sustainable land management and investment in agriculture by smallholder farmers and in particular women. The major feature of the certification program is the decentralized implementation process through elected Land Use and Administration Committees (LACs) at the village level. The LACs are primarily involved in land registration and certification, having also tasks of preventing and managing conflicts and identifying constraints regarding land tenure with a view to finding solutions. Specifically for Amhara region, related to the development of decentralised land administration systems, in November 2012, it was reported that 14% of Zonal and Woreda land experts, 51% of Kebele land experts, 25% of Land Administration and Use Committee members and 38% of grassroots supportive bodies that were trained are women which suggests that women are more actively involved in local level formal government land administration institutions and grassroots organizations but less involved in higher level formal government land administration institutions and Kebele Land Administration and Use Committees.

IFAD experience with the Community-Based Integrated Natural Resources Management in the Lake Tana Watershed (CBINReMP)

The CBINReMP Project is co-financed by IFAD, the Global Environmental Facility (GEF), the Government of Ethiopia (GoE) and beneficiaries, running from 2010 to 2017. Among its main activities it aims to address issues of tenure security and access and to improve community-based watershed management plans and farmers' land tenure security. CBINReMP proposes to: support land certification in the project area; establish a geo-informatic database of existing land and natural resource use; assist communities to prepare watershed management plans including for communal grazing lands and participatory management of public / communal forests; and support the development of policies, legislation, strategies and action plans for various areas of sustainable land management. The land tenure security component is implemented by the Bureau of Environmental Protection, Land Administration and Use (BoEPLAU) and the aim is to complete the first level certification (whose completion is now at 95%) and start the second level registration. The Programme has already made substantive efforts to target women, primarily by providing them with land certificates thus enhancing their legal and economic empowerment. Up to date the progresses made under the programme are visible in the awareness at community level on women's legal rights and empowerment. Successful stories were shared on subsequent changes made after the landholders have received the land certificate and how this has impacted in the social and economic empowerment of rural women and increase of women in leadership positions. Women interviewed in the field have expressed their positive opinion on the achievements in conducting land certification: (i) increased access to assets and economic empowerment, (ii) increased ownership rights and reduction of land conflict and women's vulnerability (at household and community level), (iii) reduction of divorce at household level. and iv) strengthened their position in cases of divorce or death of their husbands.

It was recognized that the acquisition of land rights has brought an increase in women self-confidence hence in having more women as representatives in committees (higher participation and representation of women in public situations) and also in making decisions with men on the use of the land and the income generated by the activities at the household level. In most of the cases met married women do have control over what they produce and how to decide with the husband how to use the production and control the earning. In some other instances (not all the cases) women do also have access to credit and they are part of credit and saving groups, receiving loans from the regional microfinance institutions (MFI). Although it was found that, traditionally, at household level, decisions are taken by husband and wife, the introduction of a legal framework has empowered women to take decision together with the husband not only on how to use land in terms of production but, most importantly, on related land transactions. Transactions for renting out land have now to be registered by the land administration officer and the signature of both landowners should be there. Furthermore, legal registration of land transactions, in the form of sharecropping, which is the most common system in place, has reduced the vulnerability of women headed household and the risk of losing part of their crops.

Accessing land through share cropping arrangements

Several farmers we met, especially women household heads, mentioned that they were or had been involved in share cropping arrangements. This seems to be an important means of livelihoods for landless or near landless households but also for women, orphan and disabled headed households that have benefited from some form of land redistribution but may not have the adequate means (labour, inputs, finance) to farm the land. Most of the women household heads interviewed mentioned that before they acquired land they had farmed on other people's fields but now that they had land they were able to engage other people in share-cropping arrangements. They either did this because women are not able to plough the land and they had no other means to do so or, and this seemed to be the main reason, they felt that share-cropping arrangements reduced their investment costs and risks, for example, in the event of a poor crop. In some cases there were concerns expressed that verbal share-cropping arrangements could result in disputes over agreements on benefit sharing between the land owner and the share cropper and also sometimes disputes over ownership rights, especially between women household heads and male relatives that might be involved in the arrangement. It was reported that land certification has helped to reduce ownership disputes and in some cases the women household heads interviewed had started documenting their share-cropping agreements. This practice was being encouraged by BoEPLAU and other government agencies but in some cases it would seem that people still prefer the less formal verbal arrangements as it also allows them some flexibility in who they may enter into an arrangement with and the terms of this arrangement. From the discussions it would seem that share-cropping has an important role in diversifying livelihoods options, minimizing risks and equitable benefit sharing in communities.

In other cases it was found that although certification increased women tenure security, the conditions of soil erosion and other environmental threats reducing fertility of land and its productivity, pushed women to integrate their income with other activities, such as production and selling of traditional beer (*talla*). Part of CBINReMP is focusing on how to introduce and support other Income Generating Activities (IGA) for women and youth.

Improving access for landless, women and young married households

There have been various measures for making land available through redistribution which pre-date the more recent reforms of the 1990s. Several women household heads that we met reported that they had received land through the periodic redistribution of "private"⁹ land under the previous regime. These redistribution measures were stopped in the late 1990s because of concerns that they resulted in increasing land fragmentation and widespread tenure insecurity. Nonetheless, abandoned or unclaimed private land has still been identified by Kebele land committees as part of the Kebele "land bank" available for redistribution to landless households. It would seem that priority for this land is given by the land committees to women headed households, orphans, disabled people and other vulnerable groups. Several women household heads that we met reported that they either acquired land during the land redistribution under

⁹ Typically reference to private property in much of the literature has implied freehold titled land whereas most land in Africa is legally owned by the State (as is the case in Ethiopia) with customary use rights allocated to families or clans. These familial or clan use rights are widely regarded in more recent literature as private rights.

the Derg or more recently from the Kebele land committee or in some cases through inheritance from their mothers¹⁰.

However, it was reported that the main grouping of landless households are young, married couples who tend not to be prioritised in the allocation of land. The main reason given for this is that women, orphan and disabled headed households tend to be more dependent on land for their livelihoods and on community/government support for acquiring land whereas young married couples are more able to gain income from share-cropping or off-farm activities or some even able to inherit land at a later stage. Several project implementers interviewed stated that young people are generally prioritised for engagement in off farm activities. It was also reported that landless and near landless people are also prioritized in the granting of use rights to communal lands for various income generating activities such as bee-keeping and “cut and carry” fodder harvesting, especially under CBINReMP. Typically these activities are coupled with a commitment to undertake various soil and water conservation measures on the communal lands.

Land tenure ensures women access to irrigate land: the IFAD experience with the Participatory Small-scale Irrigation Development Programme (PASIDP)

In addition to tenure security, also fertility of soil, productivity of land and diversification of agricultural products are other key issues for improving women’s economic empowerment. Providing tenure security among users of land (owners or sharecroppers) have proved to increase its productivity. Such security improves the incentives to invest in land and increases farmers’ ability to get credit. The positive effects of land tenure security on land productivity have been considered the first step to build upon other interventions which are key for agriculture, such as irrigation. To explore the effects of tenure security for improving agriculture and the positive results on women’s economic empowerment when they can access irrigated land and water, we visited three irrigations schemes created under PASIDP intervention. For PASIDP land certification is a pre-requisite for the selection of an irrigation scheme area but the main focus is on improving land access through intensification of use.

The IFAD funded-Project PASIDP is a project co-financed by IFAD, the Government of Ethiopia and beneficiaries running from 2007 to 2015. The target group consists of about 62,000 poor rural households living in food- deficit, drought-prone areas. Their per capita income is less than US\$0.3 per day and their average landholding is less than 1 hectare. About 20 per cent of these households are headed by women. The programme includes specific activities for women-headed households, unemployed young people and the landless.

Equitable access to land under PASIDP

One of the main focuses of the programme is on improving land access through intensification of use but also prioritizing better access to land by women headed and near landless / landless households. To date 20 schemes have been or are in the process of being constructed¹¹ in

¹⁰ See stories from the field at the end of this report.

¹¹ The February mission did not establish how many have been completed and are operational. The 2012 MTR indicated that 9 were completed and 11 under construction but during the February 2013 mission it seemed that most were now completed.

Amhara, covering about 3,027 hectares and with about 6,833 beneficiaries and an average of 144 ha/scheme. Each beneficiary represents a household. It was reported that all land in the schemes has been certified.

About 20% of all beneficiaries are women headed household although there is a significant variation between schemes, with, for example: L/Tiken having only 7% of beneficiaries as women headed households whereas Kallo has 35% and Golina 30% of beneficiaries as women headed households. It was reported that the project target in Amhara is for 30% of beneficiaries to be women but it was not clear to us if this only means women-headed households or also includes married women¹².

Irrigation schemes have major implications for water and land rights. Regarding water rights, these schemes raise questions about farmers' security of access, fees, accountability for timely and effective water delivery, and the responsibilities of water users' associations. Regarding land rights and water it was considered how women's perspective was included in the creation of the schemes, the level of their participation in the Water Users Associations (WUAs) and how the tenure security of women farmers cultivating irrigated plots (covered by the scheme) have had effects in their participation in the Water Users Associations, ensured that their views were reflected in the decision making bodies and processes, how the intervention has had positive impact in the agricultural production and therefore in their economic empowerment.

It was found that women experienced a positive impact in many ways. The irrigation schemes were mostly designed to cover as priority land the farmers family land and the women headed household, as well as the married women, could benefitted directly and indirectly from the positive effects of the irrigation scheme: increased fertility of soil and production, introduction of diversified variety of agricultural products with higher market value, increased incomes at household level. The changes were reflected in the economic empowerment of women and their active participation in credits and savings groups receiving loans from the micro financial institutions. Women interviewed, mostly women headed household, expressed their positive experience on the scheme and their contribution to its maintenance, including payment of water fee and active participation in the programme activities and in the Water Users Associations. Since they are land owners they are allowed to be part of the association, as well as all the other water users.

12 The project's gender and training coordinator reported that it should be women-headed households but it might be that 30% is more than the actual percentage of women headed households in a particular area.



“ We participate as well as men in the decisions making of the WUA since we are members. We inform the other women during the monthly meeting organized by the Bureau of women’s affairs, or informally during the coffee ceremony”.

The number of members in the WUAs visited is, in fact, increasing and the aim is to have all water users as members of the WUAs. Women reported that before the diversion scheme was introduced, most of them, whose land was not fertile and not producing enough, worked as labours in other people lands and not getting any benefit out of their own land. Now that their land is “evergreen” as one of them said, women could rent it out, get a good share from the crops and also recommended to introduce a new variety of agricultural products. Women and men interviewed were looking forward to shift from the self-consumption agriculture to cultivate products with higher market value for selling and improving their incomes.



Women headed household benefiting from PASIDP
 intervention: *“before the irrigation scheme was introduced my land was not fertile, now is evergreen and I don’t have to work in other people’s land and I can get benefits out of my own land”*

Married women are not head of the household, since it is the husband the formal head of the household participating in the public sphere of decisions and representation. However the men

interviewed reported that they involve women in all decision related to the land as well as to the management of the household economy. Most of them recognized in fact the capacities of women and their key role to manage economic resources at household level. It was also found that irrigation schemes helped women in accessing water for domestic purposes, such as cleaning and for construction (mixing sand and water). In one of the scheme, in fact, it was found that although women have to go to the river for fetching drinkable water, the canals constructed helped them to fetch water for the above mentioned purposes and the positive changes were reflected in the reduction of their workload and in saving time.



Women fetching drinking water by the river: *“we can use the water of the canal for cleaning and for construction”*

Conclusions and recommendations

Several conclusions can be drawn with regards the women's access to land in the project intervention zone: (i) the current land legislation gives clear opportunities for women to own land; (ii) there is valuable knowledge and awareness at district level on women's land rights and their situation at village level; (iii) awareness raising and sensitization activities at district and village levels on land legislation and women's land rights are effective and it is of paramount importance to involve men; (iv) village and district organs allow women's participation in decision making processes; and, (v) the intervention has shown a clear link between women access to land rights and increase of social and economic empowerment. More specifically the following issues were identified as relevant and recommendations for further research formulated and proposed.

Regional differences in tenure security and access

In the Amhara Region, the land certificate is issued in the name of the husband and wife, and contains a list of all plots measured and names of family members. Although the law provisions

protect women's rights, they cover mainly monogamous married couples and their legitimate children. It is recommended that specific attention and support is given to continue addressing the issue of polygamy and to adjust the certification process for ensuring equal rights of second and third wives to the husband land or property.

Tenure systems in pastoral areas

The Rural Land Administration and Use Directorate (RLAUD) in the Federal Ministry of Agriculture has noted that the current land administration and land use laws were crafted with mainly sedentary, mainly highland farming areas in mind, found mostly in Amhara, Oromia, SNNP and Tigray. Hence RLAUD have suggested that the current land administration processes may have less applicability in pastoral areas that are predominantly characterized by communal land tenure systems. Regarding the IFAD funded intervention PASIDIP, the Mission did not establish the extent to which the programme operates in areas with a greater prevalence of communal land tenure systems. However the PASIDP national coordinator reported that irrigation schemes in the drier lowland areas such as in Somali and Afar regions are more likely to be done on communal lands and suggested that these schemes should also consider how they can contribute positively to pastoralist systems where decision making is often group or clan based. It might be useful to further explore the extent to which differences in social and tenure systems across agro-ecological zones may have impacted the targeting landless / near landless households, women and youth in irrigation schemes being supported under PASIDP and in other IFAD supported projects and programmes in Ethiopia, such as the Pastoral Community Development Programme (PCDP) targeting pastoral communities in low land areas.

Attention to landless youth

National institutions are supporting gender equality and women's empowerment in many ways, also by considering women landless as a priority target group. Some of the women we met were women landless, who have benefited from a plot given by the "land bank" that allocate land according to the land proclamation act: giving priority to women, disabled and children. Nowadays the issue of landless rather than being a gender issue affecting specifically women is more concerning the youth. It is recommended that additional efforts is made to find and improve alternative income generating activities (IGA) for young people who won't be benefiting directly from land but may be involved in other agricultural related activities.

Regarding the IFAD funded interventions it might be beneficial for both CBINReMP and PASIDP to analyse the number of young people who have received land certificates and the number of landless households benefiting from off-farm activities or access to communal lands through both initiatives. It was reported that data on landless households exist at Woreda level which could be compiled and analyzed by BoEPLAU, for example. This could possibly be triangulated with data on the total number of households in a Woreda, less the number of households with land certificates which should also give an estimate on the number of landless household

Intensification of agriculture and creation of new income generating activities

The certification process and the right for women to own land is fundamental for any other initiative in the rural areas. However, although it is very important it may not be sufficient: agricultural related programmes (including construction of irrigation schemes, soils and water conservation activities) are successful when the land certification process has been undertaken, and secured men and women's ownership on land. However, given the scarcity of land in many regions (i.e. Amhara) the issue of soil fertility, soil erosion, and other environmental threats, it is important that other measures are considered. Intensification of agriculture, introduction of new variety of crops with higher market value, create strong link to the markets and provide training on other income generating (IGA) activities should be explored and introduced.

It is recommended that land-related activities should be integrated and supported by training linked to IGA such as livestock, access to credit, cooperative management, so that women could become economically active and young couples (boys and girls) could explore other income opportunities.

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Additional Reading: stories from the field

The mission visited Matchna Kebele which is covered by CBINReMP intervention and where the total number of household that received the land certificate is 1105, out of which: 67 women headed household, 294 male headed household and 744 co-owners (husband and wife). The Land Use Committee is composed of 14 members, out of which 4 are women.

It was found out that over 100 households are landless and it was possible to dig more in the issue. Women interviewed mentioned that young couples are the ones without land, however, according to the proclamation, women, orphans and disables are prioritized when the “land bank” allocates the plots. Young people may be involved in farming the land of women through the sharecropping agreement and they will be inheriting the land of the parents.

The stories refer to women headed household that got their land through different ways: in two cases they inherited the land from the mother, and thanks to the certification process they could secure the tenure rights against, for example, the brother’s claim over the land (one case). In other cases the certification ensured security of plots of land distributed to the women during the Derg regime, in two other cases, women got the land from the “land bank” since they were landless.

All the women interviewed rent out the land through the share cropping agreement, some of them to relatives (brother/son) or to other tenants. The agreement is not registered by the office but following the “traditional system” based on “verbal agreement”.

The issue of the fertility and the size of the land helped to understand for example that women that are better off (holding 1 hectare of fertile land) are also part of credit and savings groups created by the women’s affairs office, while the others with less than one hectare and those whose land is not fertile, have to complement their income by other activities such as production of local beer.

Kassanesh Wubeneh



Kassanesh is a women headed household and she received one hectare of land from the mother when she died 20 years ago. She got her land registered and the certificate seven years ago. She rent out the land to the brother, as used to do also before, through the share cropping system. She feels more protected now:

"Before when my land was not registered, although my mother left it to me and not to my brother, that already got a plot of land from the redistribution that took place under the Derg regime (around 25 years ago) he claimed rights over that land. With the certification process now I can feel confident and I know that the land belongs to me".

In the areas they use the crop rotation system and she explained that the type of crop depend on the fertility of the land. Most of the crops are for self-consumption and not for market.

Amarech Teshome



Amarech was a landless women. She acquired a plot of land from the land bank of the *woreda*. She explained that the land bank collect land that belong to anybody and redistribute it to landless according to the following categories: women, disabled, orphans. The land bank advertises the available land and the community and the kebele office decide to whom the land should be given. The landless now include mainly young couples and single women, however the young couples are not the priority group for the land allocation:

"They can go outside and farm in another area and they can also have the chance to get lands from the parents one day"

She has ½ hectare but is not so fertile so she rents out for share cropping but integrate her incomes with preparation and selling of traditional beer (*talla*).

Dasashe Asmare



Dasashe acquired $\frac{3}{4}$ of hectare under the Derg regime and she rents out the land to the son though the sharecropping agreement. She explained that:

"To hire a person for plowing the land is expensive and if the crop is not good we should pay the amount for the labour anyways. Sharecropping is a secure system".

As well as the other cases, she uses the crop for self-consumption.

Abeb German



Abeb got the land in two different ways: from the land bank and from the mother:

"I lived with my mother and I was landless so the land bank gave me $\frac{1}{2}$ hectares six years ago. When my mother died I inherited her plot of land, which is one hectare"

Together with Kassanesh Wubeneh and Amarech Teshome, Abeb is part of a saving and credit group receiving loans from the regional micro financial institution.

Tsehayes yeshanew



Tsehayes acquired the land during the Derg regime. Before she used to give it to relatives for sharecropping but now she gives it to other tenants. The size of her land is $\frac{1}{2}$ hectare and she explained that:

“During the Derg the land redistributed plot were not big. I got half hectare because I had 4 children otherwise it could be $\frac{1}{4}$ of hectare”.

She mentioned that the land was fertile but she realizes that the land is losing the fertility. Soil erosion is one of the problems she faces regarding land and its productivity.