Farm forestry practices and prospects in the Guraghe region, southern central Ethiopian Highlands

Hypotheses
- Contributions of on-farm trees to sustainable livelihood have been constrained by internal and external factors.
- Extension service is deficient in promoting on-farm planting of MPTS.

Problem
Farm households in the Guraghe region rely on eucalypt woodlots located at the extreme side of the farm to meet wood demands and to raise cash incomes. Agroforestry with Multi-Purpose Trees and Shrubs (MPTS) is not common. Due to poor soil conditions, crop production is limited to small plots that are fertilized either with commercial fertilizers or animal manure. There is high rate of soil erosion and loss of biodiversity. Size of landholding per household is sharply declining. Extension efforts focus on distribution of exotic timber species which farmers plant solely for aesthetic purposes.

Objectives
- to identify major goals and constraints of farm forestry practices
- to reveal future directions of farm forestry practices

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Research methods and tools
- Problem of the study
- Reconnaissance survey
- Guiding models; Hypotheses
- Questionnaire survey
- Synthesis of results and discussion

Results
Farmers’ decision-making to plant tree and/or shrub species

Roles of trees/shrubs in crop production in the Guraghe Highlands

Conclusions and recommendations
- Woodlots help meeting household wood demands and generating cash incomes.
- Eucalypt woodlots provide fuelwood, releasing cow dung for manuring the staple food crop, enset.
- Planting mixed eucalypts and leguminous species will improve biomass production and biodiversity conservation.
- The potential of agroforestry in sustainable farmland management is underutilized.
- Farmers are highly interested in planting MPTS, which should be provided by extension service.

Authors:
Holm Uibrig, Negussie Achalu and Rüdiger von der Weth

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