Institutional collaboration and up scaling of water harvesting as key adaptation measure in Tigray, Ethiopia.

The Experience of Relief Society of Tigray

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Content

1. The context

2. Piloting and Up-scaling water harvesting technologies in collaboration with Government Institutions.

3. Challenges and way forward.

The context

- Tigray is one of the most vulnerable region to climate change in Ethiopia with frequent incidence of drought- on avarage every 3 years.
- Agriculture production is Rain fed with little use of irrigation (less than 2.5% at national level)
- Thus, Agriculture productivity is highly susceptible to change in rainfall pattern.
  - Growing unpredictability in local climate impacting farmers' decision in planning seasonal activities and their confidence.
  - Farmers becoming reluctant to invest in yield enhancing technologies

The Context

- In 2002-2003 severe drought left over 13 million people in Ethiopia food insecure including 1.4 Million in Tigray.
- Previous response to drought used to focus on emergecy aid deliver.
- Since 2004- shift in approach with a major focus on water harvesting and strengthening livelihood security with a emphasize on water harvesting.

Up scaling water harvesting technologies

- Learning for good practices on water harvesting from different part of the world involving regional and district level policy makers.

- Local capacity building for government staffs Development Agents, Baitos (village councils) and community members. Monitoring by all groups.

- Piloting various water harvesting technologies (Trench bunds, ponds, underground tankers, HDW, river diversion, check dams) at community level in collaboration with regional, local governments and community institutions.

Up scaling water harvesting technologies

- Up-scaling focused on small scale, labor intensive water harvesting technologies.
- Organizing community on watershed basis and under take participatory planning
- Community mobilization for public work in collaboration with local Baito

Water harvesting using trenches on farm lands

Water harvesting using Percolation ponds for recharging underground water table.

er harvesting using check dams on gully sites, Tigray

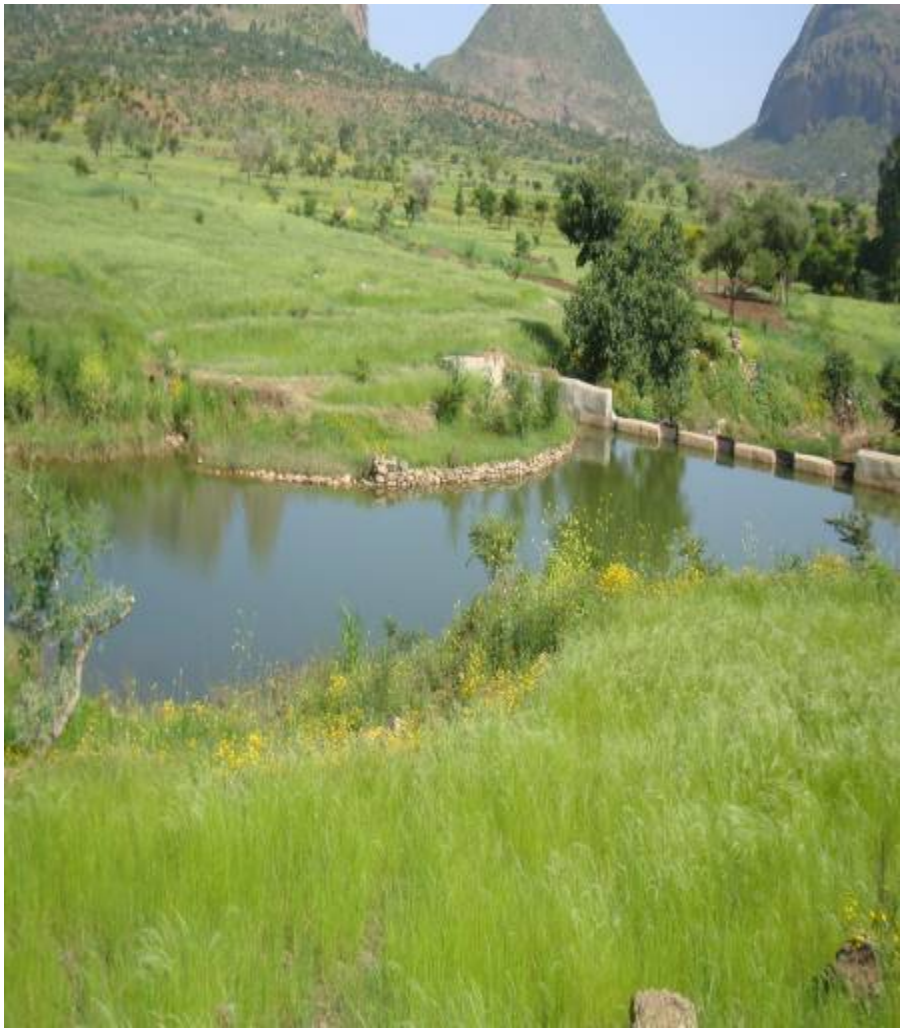
'ater harvesting using ponds and wells for irrigation

Promoting water saving technologies (drip irrigation), Tigray

Achievement thus far

- Nearly 1,4million ha (50%) of the regional land mass covered with SWC measures currently.
- Increased access to dry season irrigation from 4,000ha in 2005 to 50,000 hectare, with plans to expand to 300,000 hectares over next 2 years
- Irrigation now practiced at HH, group, community level

Harvested water used to supplement field crops at time of rain failure



Lessons learned

- Integrating good adaptation practices into existing development planning at community, regional and national level to achieve faster up-scaling.
- Up scaling is possible through collaboration with local institutions and the Government.
- Collaboration needs to start from planning stage to create ownership and follow.
- Facilitating knowledge, experience sharing and joint planning in building better adaptive capacities of all stakeholders – a continuous process.
- Addressing structural constraints to adaptation, such as policies for water user right, both at community and regional level (prevent conflict).

Thank You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threat
Charge Polluters
for Crime against
Humanity
Climate
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