

**IMPROVING ENVIRONMENTAL REHABILITATION AND AGRICULTURAL
EXTENSION: THE CASE OF BOLOSO SORE WOREDA CHALLENGES AND
PROSPECTS OF COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN**

**A thesis submitted to the College of Development Studies, Addis Ababa University, in
partial fulfillment of the requirements for the award of a Masters Degree in Regional and
Local Development Studies**

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ADDIS ABABA UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF DEVELOPMENT STUDIES
CENTER FOR REGIONAL AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

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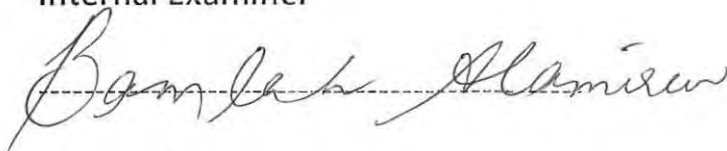


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Acronym

AE	Agricultural Extension
AEP	Agricultural Extension Practice
AIDS	Accrued Immune Deficiency Syndrome
CBAs	Community Based Associations
CBOs	Community Based Organizations
CDC	Community Development Cooperation
CSA	Central Statistics Agents
DAs	Development Agents
DAP	Di ammonium Phosphate
EAP	Environmental Actions Planning
ERAE	Environmental Rehabilitation and Agricultural Extension
ERAEs	Environmental Rehabilitation and Agricultural Extensions
ER	Environmental Rehabilitation
ERP	Environmental Rehabilitation Practices
GC	Gregorian Calendar
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
ISF	Improved Seeds and Fertilizers
LLPPA	Local Level Participatory Planning Approach
LEAs	Local Enterprise Agencies
LED	Local Economic Development
NGO	Non Government Organization
PSE	Protection of Soil from Erosion
SNNPR	Southern Nations Nationalities and Peoples Regional
SWCP	Soil and Water Conservation Praactices
PSNP	Productive Safety Net Program
UN	United Nation
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
USAID	United State Agency for International Development
VCT	Voluntary Counseling and Testing
WADNROs	Woreda Agricultural and Natural Resources Offices
WFEDO	<i>Woreda</i> Finance and Economic Development Office

Abstract

This study has assessed the bottlenecks and prospects of community participation in improving ERAE by the participatory community based and driven development processes and practices in Boloso Sore Woreda. The study has employed descriptive case study i.e., both quantitative and qualitative methods. The data collection instruments were personal interviews, questionnaire, focus group discussions, and observation in addition to using available documents. The target population of the study comprised 1340 households in the Boloso Sore Woreda. The household's respondents were selected using stratified random sampling on the basis of gender. The study revealed that problems and prospects of the community participation in improving the agricultural extension and environmental rehabilitation activities such as improved seeds and fertilizers utilization, protecting the environment from manmade distraction and increasing the replantation in the degraded lands. The study identified both challenges and opportunities for strengthening community-environmental rehabilitation and agricultural extension practices. It also examined the structure and mechanisms through which the community involves in the agricultural extension and environmental rehabilitation. Based on the study's success of agricultural extension and environmental rehabilitation activities implementation at local level is also highly determined by the level of ^{the} community participation in each and every agriculture and environmental problems, that also deserve an active intervention of the local government have been identified in the study area. While overcoming the associated barriers are some of the major potential measures suggested so as to re-orient the existing structure and different perception in the study area towards the local community participation in agricultural extension and environmental rehabilitation concerns.

CHAPTER ONE

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Environmental rehabilitation and agricultural extension activities are the participatory development processes that encourage partnership arrangement among the main private and public stakeholders in a locality (World Bank, 2005). Participation is a highly fashionable term in current development practice. Until the 1990's, development discourse emphasized the role of the state and of international agencies in delivering development to people. This blueprint approach was progressively challenged because of its failure to effectively address the underlying causes of poverty. In this context, community participation emerged as a new paradigm of the development process. The rationale behind participation is multifold: increased participation is supposed to promote greater efficiency, more accountability and transparency, enhanced ownership and empowerment. Ultimately, participation is supposed to be the key to genuine and sustainable poverty alleviation by shifting power to those who are "local and poor" (Chambers, 2003 in Nelson and Wright, 2005).

Although a very laudable re-orientation of development practice, participation has shown its limitations, especially in terms of its ability to avoid the shortcomings of local development. Many participatory development activities ended up replicating the same errors as top-down practices. In particular, the basic problem of not being able to arouse popular participation plagues most community initiatives. Understanding participation and its different mechanisms is essential to analyze the pitfalls of participatory development activities, and to improve their design. Behind the buzzword of participation lies a wide range of processes and mechanisms, all

of which are context-specific and have a different impact on the overall performance of participation. These mechanisms and inherent participatory process remains in the areas of development literature. Participation attempts to make a contribution to fill this gap by examining the exclusionary processes in participatory development activities (Haan *et al.*, 2005).

The fact that participation depends on many variables at the community level and that its practice is intimately linked with exclusion and power confirms the need for an analysis "...on whether and how the structures of participatory development activities include... the interests of poor people" (Cleaver, 2000 in Cooke and Kothari, 2001). In fact, a comprehensive analysis of participation acknowledges and investigates the dynamics of conflict, consensus building and decision-making that create patterns of inclusion and exclusion within communities. Different authors and organizations have defined the term participation differently. For instance, Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) defines it as "...a process of communication among local people and development agencies during which local people take the leading role to analyze the current situation and to plan, implement and evaluate development activities" (FAO, 2005).

Local development is part of broader development processes. It is enabled and constrained by regional, national, and global social, environmental, and economic factors (World Bank, 2005). Local actors may respond to broader social and ideological movements and forces, including the influences of globalization, as significantly as they respond to incentives and interests defined by their immediate economic and political environments. While the local society and economy are influenced by local power relations, resource endowments, incentive structures, information

flows, and value systems. The communities are also subject to constraints and opportunities structured by national constitutions and legislation (Warren *et al.*, 2005).

Aspects of regional and local development in Ethiopia are multidimensional. They arise from different sources, such as the nature of the economy, the history of the country, the on-going policy, the level of underdevelopment etc could all give rise to different features of regional and local development. Regional disparities, levels of integration and linkages, financial strength, institutional deficiency are some of these features (Tegegne, 2009).

Community participation is seen as the crucial element in the agricultural policy and environmental protection programs that have direct impact on the development of the local economy. Involvement of the local people in different environmental rehabilitation and agricultural extension activity's plan or design, implementation, maintenance and decision making empowers the local participants. Thus, community participation is highly encouraged in the programs like natural resource conservation, utilization of improved seeds and fertilizers in order to ensure the sustainable local economic development (World Bank cited in Addis, 2005).

1.2 Statement of problems

Community participation in improving ERAE is one of the basic issues in today's world, as it enhances the community's practical skills and knowledge as well as boosts up their organizational skills to solve different problems. Despite Africa's unsatisfactory track record in a community participation and institutional integration in the ERAE over the decades, due to a number of major problems to enhance community participation in ERAE activities, it has been improving.

A well-designed and effectively implemented local government-community integration process can be used to address various prevailing problems at both local and national levels. Ethiopia also began community participation in CBAs and public sectors as stakeholders in ERAE programs and practices. However, there are some problems in order to achieve effective, participatory and accountable structure through which the local communities involve in ERAE (Desalegn, 2003).

Local government should be accountable upward and there should be local discretion over resource allocation (Eyasu, 2004). Nevertheless, in most instances, insufficient coordination of the local government, lack of accountability of the local government in the resource allocation, deficiency of democracy, lack of clear structure and mechanisms, disintegration between communities at local level, low participation of community in: planning, implementation, decision making and budget allocation activities are common problems in the study area (Samuel, 2005).

In this respect, there is limited systematic research that could inform policy makers and empirical understanding in the study area. Therefore, the research mainly necessitated to fill the gap by assessing challenges and prospects of community participation in ERAE service delivery by using participatory community-based development approach in the study area.

1.3 Objectives

1.3.1 General objective: - this study assesses the bottlenecks and prospects of community participation in improving ERAE by the participatory community based and driven development processes and practices in Boloso Sore *Woreda*¹.

1.3.2 Specific objectives of the study are to:-

- Examine the structure and mechanisms of community involvement in planning, implementation, decision making, and control of resources in the ERAE activities in the study area;
- Analyze the current status of community involvement in environmental rehabilitation and agricultural extension (ERAE) service delivery in the study area;
- Identify key problems of the community participation in planning, implementation, decision making and resource distribution that can hinder the ERAE activities in the study area; and
- Assess prospects of community involvement in ERAE service delivery in the study area.

*Woreda*¹: - is an administrative division of Ethiopia (managed by a local government), equivalent to a district. Woredas are composed of a number of Kebele, or neighborhood associations, which are the smallest unit of local government in Ethiopia. Woredas are typically collected together into zones, which form a kilil (Regional administration); some woredas are not part of a zone, and are called Special Woredas, which function as autonomous entities.

1.4 RESEARCH QUESTIONS

The study inquires status of community involvement in improving ERAE in the study area. The specific research questions are:

- What kind of structure and mechanisms of community involvement use for planning, implementation, resource distribution and decision making in developing ERAE in the study area?
- What does the present status of community participation in improving ERAE in Boloso Sore *Woreda* look like?
- What are the core problems of the community participation in planning, implementation, decision making and resource distribution in the study areas?
- What prospects of community involvement in the development processes of ERAE would be expected in the study area?

1.5 Significance of the study

Community participation in the ERAE has decisive role to bring sustainable economic development in the study area. Therefore, this study has contribution to add knowledge for the policy makers and practitioners in the area of community participation particularly in the environmental rehabilitation and agricultural extension activities. The local level economic development planners, development practitioners and researchers find the results of the study useful for their further research as well as development intervention. The study would also help local government and other stakeholders in formulating and revising better structure and mechanisms through which the community participate in ERAE.

1.6 Scope of the Study

The scope of the study was limited to community living in Boloso Sore administrative. Moreover, the local community and Community Based Organizations (CBAs), such as Women's association, Youth's and cooperatives associations, *Kebele* administrators, *Idir*, *Ikub*, elders and religious leaders among others from the selected *Kebeles* were included in the study. The conceptual and empirical scope of the study was delimited to the major community participation in ERAE.

1.7 Limitation of the Study

Some of the limitations of the study, since the heterogeneity of Boloso Sore Woreda population in terms of religion, ethnicity and agro-ecological climate, the communities selected in this study are not as such representative of all the people in the area. Lack of comparison between *Woreda* to *Woreda* or *Zone* to *Zone* for better analysis of the challenges and prospects of the study under investigation is also considered as limitation of the study. However, the research does not claim to provide conclusive findings on the challenges and prospects of community participation in ERAE in the study area. Because the research finding could be used to raise awareness among different stakeholders and also serve as background information for others who seek to do further related research.

1.8 Organization of the study

The thesis is composed of four chapters. The first chapter deals with background of the study, problem statement, research objectives and questions, significance of the study, methodology, scope of the study and limitation of the study. Chapter Two is all about review of related literature. Chapter Three presents description of the study area that describes analysis of the socio-economic and demographic profile of the sample respondents, and the brief explanations

on the results and discussions which addresses the structure and mechanisms of community-ERA in the study area. The major challenges and opportunities of community participation in ERA were also discussed in this chapter. The last chapter concludes the major findings of the study while recommending some potential measures that should be undertaken by the different stakeholders in the study area in the future.

CHAPTER TWO

2. Literature Review

2.1 Understanding the Concept of Community Participation

Different scholars and institution explained the meaning of community participation in different ways. World Bank defines community participation as “the process through which stakeholders influence and share the control over their own development initiative, decisions and resources which affects them. USIAD also define community participation as the active involvement of stakeholders and beneficiaries in sharing ideas, contributing resources, making decisions and implementation towards the intended objectives of development (Daneil, 2011).

Participation is broadly understood and used in various ways i.e., political participation, economic participation and different local people social participation Oakley (1991) and Burkey (1993), noted in Penderis (1996), maintain that participation is primarily an umbrella term for any form of development intervention that the local people involve in different local economic development activities: agricultural extension, environmental rehabilitation, water and sanitation, health and education.

And also it refers essentially to a self-transformation process and proactive ‘learning by doing’. Roodt (2001) views genuine participation in development as people having the power to influence the decisions that affect their lives. This view maintains that poor and marginalized people have the power to influence the decisions that affect their lives (Williams, 1995). Sanderson and Kindom (2004) clarify that community participation creates a specific type of knowledge within a participatory ERAE discourse.

Community Participation in agricultural extension is the process of communication among men and women during which the farmers take the leading role to analyze their situation, to plan, implement, evaluate and make decision in their development activities. Community participation also is a way helping the disadvantaged poor and women to gain access to and control over resources or services such as training, local peoples' tour, inputs(fertilizers and improved seeds), information about structure needed to sustain and improve their livelihood. Therefore, it is considered as a compulsory to get community support for agricultural development activities and environmental rehabilitation practice in particular and LED in general (Cole, 2007).

Community participation is widely recognized in government structure because it becomes a way through which different mechanisms are providing inputs to support the development activities (Smith, 2005). These structures and mechanisms encourage the stronger forms of participation, involving control over decisions, priorities, plans and implementation of collective goals (UN, 2003).

Furthermore, there are CBAs with in the communities which are considered as an organizations formed by the initiative of its members rather than being imposed by outside force (Morufu, 2003). CBAs are non-governmental because all members contribute economically towards the fulfillment of their responsibility in order to implement the organizational plan and objectives without the interventions of the government. CBAs are also concerned with the development problems in different development program and projects in their various areas. They also respond to community needs rather than market demand or pressure (Claudia, 2003).

According to Kolawole (1982), CBAs involve the local and indigenous people in the identification of their needs and conception formulation and implementation of any ERAE activities so as to develop the necessary self-reliance and self- confidence. He believed that the word 'local' as simply refers the non-governmental individuals, voluntary organizations, indigenous social group and collective members bound together by social and /or traditional ties within specific region. CBAs therefore, serve as wheels for the vehicle of grass-root participation in indigenous programs and practices in ERAE to satisfy local community needs and goals.

2.2 Community Participation and ERAE

The past several decades of development funding by the World Bank in Africa has demonstrated the failures of top-down approaches to the agricultural extension and environmental protection. Not only does the provision of public goods and services remain low in developing nations, but also the agricultural extension and environmental protection activities suffer from a lack of sustainability.

A Possible reason for this failure is attributed to the lack of local people participation. Since the 1980s the new development slogan has been "participatory or community-led development" and there has been a rush to jump on the participatory bandwagon¹. (Mansuri and Rao 2003). The participatory ERAE improvements were used widely with different approaches in the agricultural and rural development strategies. A participatory agricultural and environmental rehabilitation is the idea of building long-term sustainable local action plan and implementation, and institutional capacity.

¹In fact the first "wave" of participatory development happened as early as the 1950s through USAID development programs but died out by the early 1960s. See Mansuri and Rao (2003) for an excellent and comprehensive review of the history of participatory development in agricultural programs and the recent literature on it

It employs a wide range of approaches and methods to enable community participation in different methods of improving agricultural products, means of expanding the technologies and mechanisms of sustaining good experiences. Therefore, local people are able to express, enhance, share, and analyze their knowledge of life and livelihood conditions as well as to plan, implement and promote local ownership in their ERAE improvement activities (Chambers, 1995).

Besides to this fact, the community based approach which was used as a development strategy invited the poor and powerless, to take part in the investigation and analysis of environmental protections and AE strategies (Ozler, 1994). Although participatory development issues primarily focused on rural agricultural development only, its impact on development strategies spilled over to other factors of environmental rehabilitation as well (Niguse, 2008).

The bottom-up ERAE improvement approach is used to shift responsibility for dealing with unemployment, poverty reduction and economic growth policies to local people and authority. Therefore, environment rehabilitation program and practices like agricultural extension activities become the process in which partnership between local government and community-based organizations and, the communities at large engage to manage local and external resources to stimulate the economy of a well defined territory (Meyer, 2003).

The objective of community participation is in order to stimulate improvement in the livelihood conditions of the local people that will promote sustained high growth in a local economy. ERAE directs to the development strategies that are territorially based, locally owned and managed primarily at increasing employment and economic growth (USAID, 2006)

Therefore, community participation plays a major role in people's management of their own affairs. Ownership and control of resources have a profound impact on participation in improving the activities of ERAE (Mathbor, 1990). Ferrer (2005) emphasized four areas to be worked further toward in a participatory agricultural productivities and environment resource management program: greater economic and social equality, better access to services for all, greater participation in planning, implementation and decision making and; deeper involvement in organization process resulting from the empowerment of people (both female and male).

Finally, successful intervention of community depends on genuine participation, strong and effective governance as well as skilled and committed local people. Therefore, the importance of community participation in planning, implementation, decision-making, and sense of developing ownership is crucial in ERAE (Robinson, 1994:34).

2.2.1 The structure of Community Participation in ERAE

The structure of community participation in agriculture and environmental rehabilitation focus on the capacity building of the local government especially in organizing local finance, rural community services supply, and implementing participatory planning and decision making activities. The structure breaks down into three technical assistances on: fiscal decentralization policy, administration decentralization policy, and planning and development decentralization policy that focus on the participatory medium term development planning. Within the structure of good governance and decentralization processes, the local government practices more democratic, transparent, and initiates the community to participate more in ERAE (2000, USAID).

A participatory structure for planning, implementation, decision making, involves some stakeholders in their process: the local government as the technical team that consists of the related institutional representative and as the supervisor team that consists of the leaders of those institutions, the Non-government stakeholders, the representative of community groups and professional agencies in the local area, the Community groups in village level, and the facilitators who come from consultant, CBOs, and local partners. The main objectives of this structure are to improve community participation so as to enhance the agricultural development and environmental rehabilitation by consuming the soil and water productivity in planning, implementations and decision making activities (Harry, 2000).

2.2.1.1 Community participation and democracy

Participatory democratic structures help the community to have right not only to elect their representatives, but also actively participate in government decision-making on a continuous basis including designing and implementations of the whole agricultural and environment protection issues. Democratization is a struggle in the local sphere of State especially in developing countries, where agriculture is the backbone of the economy (Julia, 2002).

The legal framework of participatory democracy from a South African perspective presents official documents which include the Constitution and legislation which are carried out for the purpose of community participation in agricultural policy that boosts the country's agricultural productivity. Sections 152 and 153 of the Constitution of South Africa Act (No. 108, of 1996) states the objective of local government among others are, "to provide democratic and accountable government for local community and to encourage the involvement of community and community organizations in the matters of agricultural extension development" (Widjono, 2003).

2.2.1.2 Decentralization and Participation

The term of “governance” encompasses not only just on government, but also private sectors and community (individuals and groups), systems, procedures, and processes in which planning, implementation, management, and decision-making activities of LED: are practiced. Good governance has been recognized as the crucial prerequisite for effective ERAE. Therefore, the concern of good governance especially at local level has been increased since the wave of decentralization has been taking step in to many developing countries, where majority of their populations depends on the agricultural products (Rossi, 2003).

The idea behind decentralization implies better public decisions that also reflect local priorities in order to achieve improved extensions and environmental protections activities, by moving closer to people, so that the public policies have been transferred authorities or power and resources from central government to the autonomous local units in local governance. Good governance and community participation relation shows how decisions are made, who is involved in decision-making process, and framework for the decision-making in ERAE. Good governance is associated with a more inclusive, open, transparent and accountable system for decision-making activities in any developmental issues (Davidson, 1999).

2.2.2 The Mechanisms of Community Participation in ERAE

World Bank Justified that the inclusion of indigenous knowledge in any developmental endeavor. For instance, as evidenced in many parts of the world, “...development efforts that ignore local circumstances, local technologies, and local systems of knowledge have wasted enormous amount of time and resources”. Maximizing participation of the local people in agricultural and environmental activities needs some mechanisms. According to World Bank,

there are different mechanisms, which promote participation of local community basically in the improvement of the environment protection and enhancing the agricultural productivities. Among the mechanisms to ensure active involvement of the community in the ERAE (World Bank, 2001:16)

1. Information sharing: involves the translation into local languages and dissemination of written materials using various Medias. It also involves information seminars, presentation and public meetings. Moreover, this type of mechanism represents a one-way relationship: government produces and delivers information for use to the citizens. Accordingly, 'With passive information', local people are given access to information upon demand. 'Active information' refers to measures government explicitly takes to inform to the local people.
2. Consultation Mechanisms: involves consultative meetings, field visit, and interview (at various stages of work). It goes one step further: a two-way relationship is established between local people and local government. During consultation the local people view are
3. Sought on specific issues defined by the local government, then the local people provide feedback to the local government and formulate their own interests.
4. In a co-operative mechanism, these interests are not only heard but also taken into account by decision-makers.
5. Joint Assessment Mechanisms: these mechanisms include participatory assessment and evaluation, and community plan and implement the agricultural extension duties without affecting the environment together with.
6. Shared decision making: involves workshop and returns to discuss and determines positions, priorities, roles, meeting to help resolve conflict, seek agreement, and engender ownerships.

7. Collaborative Mechanisms are: formation of joint committee with stakeholders and representative ; formation of joint working group and task forces ; joint work with user group ; intermediary organization and other stakeholders' groups ; stakeholder group, are given responsibility for implementation.
8. Empowering Mechanisms: includes capacity building through continuous training for the community and strengthening financial and legal status of community's and stakeholders' organizations in general.

Moreover, as the precondition, consultation and co-operation mechanisms requires the provision of information to all citizens, If and only if the citizens are given only limited information, special interest group can capture policies by mobilizing their own information campaigns and thus influence public opinion and agenda setting (Kyrgyzstan, 2006).

2.2.3 Challenges of Community Participation in ERAEs

Government and policy makers recognized the important role that community can play in agricultural extension and environmental rehabilitation policies and strategies in the ERAE process. However, despite these efforts, there are still many barriers and challenges that can stand in the way of community involvement. Understanding and anticipating these challenges is essential element, when a community is getting organized for or involved in policy activity. Further, it is important for community to understand that government also faces so many challenges that can hinder its progress in responding to and recognizing the priorities of rural peoples (Nelson, 2000).

Some of the most common barriers and challenges as perceived by rural community and governments are mainly includes: financial, human and physical resources constraints in order to practice the community based agricultural economic development. Therefore, these resources

constraints become the main causes for the lesser commitments of both local government and local community in the ERAE activities participation (Samuel, 2007).

Besides to these, lesser commitments of both local government and basically the local community in the participation of LED activities mainly agricultural extension and environment rehabilitation program would result: lack of rural infrastructure, problems of accountability, lack of transparency and inadequacies in support services, lack of understanding of the policy process, reliance on volunteers, lack of access to information, absence of rural representation and certain community groups in the decision-making process, weak relationship between government and rural community, perceived resistance of community as a partner in policy development, , untruthful attitude of government toward rural communities, structural barriers within government and the community, lack of problem solving experience and skill, a psychology of dependency and, finally a correlated sense of inefficiency are fundamental problems of economically defined area's LED (Ijaz, 2004).

For rural community to play an active role in the ER promotion and AE process, it is necessary for their members to have access to resources. These resources include adequate funding, government training programs, education, leaders, and volunteers to support rural causes and initiatives. Many rural communities tend to lack one or more of these resources, a situation which interferes with their ability to effectively impact the ERAE process. Not only inadequate but also mismanaged resources have negative impact on a rural community's ability to effectively influence and develop the agricultural extension program and practices.

Accordingly, lack of clarity of and the adherence to the responsibilities and accountabilities by different actors including local government to the community also considered as the basic problems. Such responsibilities and accountabilities may relate to various aspects of development like planning, implementation, decision making and other equity in resources distribution within the communities (Nelson, 2000).

As noted above, rural community often feel frustrated when trying to have their LED concerns heard by government. This frustration may be due in part to a structure that seems to limit opportunities for community members to communicate with government and to involve more in the ERAE policy and strategy. Changing this structure requires the development of mechanisms that provides both community with a voice and government with a means to hear community concerns. One way community can speak with a louder voice is through the use of Community Based Associations (CBAs). CBAs have as its mandate to provide a forum to encourage dialogue, share information, and create strategies and action plans that promote the development of rural communities as whole (Dargasso, 2005).

2.2.4 Opportunity of Community Participation in ERAEs

Community participation is considered as the best opportunity of achieving sets of objectives or goals in the rural setting. In other words it is a way of using the economic and social resources of rural people to achieve predetermined targets in their locality. The results of participation in the shape of the predetermined targets are more important than the act of participation. Those results may indeed lead to a welcome improvement in the agricultural productivity and may well

coincide with local needs as perceived by the local people. Government, community and development agencies are responsible for providing services and with the power to control resources so as to take in to consideration that the community participation as a means of improving the efficiency of their service delivery systems (Oakley 1989).

The mobilization of people in the form of participation is to get things done based on a fixed quantifiable development goal (Moser 1989) which can be state-directed or externally-directed activities, the 'top-bottom' (or directive) approach to community development. In such phenomena participation turns into passive and static events which can then be induced or even coerced participation (UN, 1981) or a compulsory participation (Oakley 1989), or manipulative participation (Midgley 1986) by the government or other external bodies. Therefore, the best way to avoid the above approach and increase the community participation is making need identification and goal determination in decision making and implementation activities of that local people help ERAE officials to identify (1) needs, (2) strategies to meet those needs, and (3) the necessary resources required to implement the various strategies (Yadama, 1995).

In addition to these, information dissemination as a one-way flow of information that always increases transparency between community and local government which often fosters trust and understanding between them can enhance the means of community involvement in various strategies. Consultations also widen opportunities for the community and CBAs to express their views on the practical strategies of agriculture and environment rehabilitation activities.

Accordingly, developing sense of accountability makes the community and CBAs aware of their roles in the LED. Repeated interaction suggests that the community will have the ongoing communication thoroughly during their planning period. Finally, sharing benefits is also best mechanism in order to enable poorer community members to get a fairer share of society's resources and to participate fully in the ERAE process in turn it increases the opportunities for the local community to involve more in LED in general (UNEP, 2006).

Moreover, the participatory budgeting has come to carry quite a broad range of meanings but the essence of participatory budgeting rests on an opportunity for citizens to engage in the processes of public spending decision making which is focused on their neighborhood, locality or a particular public agency. The amount of the public budget involved varies but the bite in participatory budgeting is that, it is not a simple consultation device but an exercise in deliberative participatory democracy that empowers citizens to make a significant contribution in their development activities public spending decisions. Participatory budgeting is about deliberative mechanisms set-up to delegate power or influence over public budgets and investment priorities to citizens (Cabannes 2004).

Here, emphasis is laid on participation as a process in which confidence and solidarity among rural people is built up. Participation as a process is a dynamic, unquantifiable and essentially unpredictable element. It is created and molded by the participants. It is an active form of participation, responding to local needs and changing circumstance. More generally, participation as an end in itself presupposes the building-up of influence or involvement from the bottom up wards in developmental agricultural and environmental policies. (Oakley 1989).

Asnarulkhadi (1996) has mentioned that participation as an end in itself focuses on the ERAE local people participation as a process in which people are directly involved in shaping, deciding, and taking part in the development process from the bottom-up perspective. Here, the development goal is of secondary importance, but the process whose outcome is an increasingly meaningful participation in the development process from people emerges where their confidence and competence are built up. In this situation, participation becomes a process of achieving greater individual fulfillment, personal development, self-awareness and some immediate satisfaction in the policy (Moser 1989).

2.3 Community participation and ERAE in Ethiopia

The current ERAE approach in Ethiopia, referred to as Participatory Demonstration and Extension Approach (PADEA) focuses on farmers' demonstration plots and rehabilitating the degraded lands. ERAE is based on the provision of input credit under local government collateral arrangements, structural linkages with local committees, institutional arrangements in protecting soil and water from erosion, rehabilitating the previously damaged land by replantation, and systematic inclusion of women and the young in all the activities. Food crops that are included in the agricultural extension packages are varieties of maize, wheat, teff, barley, sorghum and millet while high value/commercial crops include coffee, peanuts, onions, tomatoes, cabbages, carrots and sweet potatoes (Simon, 2004)

Through functional and interactive community participation, artificial fertilizers and improved seeds that have been gradually adopted by Ethiopian peasants to utilize and improve their productivities. In spite of the removal of all input subsidies since 1997/8, consumption of fertilizer increased from 3,527 tons in 1995 to 216,876 tons in 1999. The quantity of improved seeds utilized during the same period increased from 1,104 to 17,778 tons. A dramatic change

was also observed in the number of local people participating in the extension system, as it increased from 31,256 in 1995 to 3,731,217 in 1999 (FDRE, 2004).

However, in spite of the increase in the utilization of fertilizer and improved seeds, the rate of utilization is very low. For example, fertilizer consumption per hectare of land used for cereal production for Ethiopia in 2002 was 20 kg. compared with 80 kg. for Kenya Expansion and improvement in environmental rehabilitation practice is another important component of the government's attempts to bring about local economic development. In a recent survey it was found that about 20 percent of the sample of Ethiopian farmers who took fertilizer credit did not repay in full. Because lack of consultation between DAs and the communities at large about the use and its benefit through participatory approach (FAO, 2007).

Ethiopia is one of the countries that have stated the environmental issues in the constitution. The Constitution is the supreme law of the country, whose provisions all other policies, regulations and institutional frameworks must comply with. The Constitution of the FDRE (Proclamation No. 1/1995 as amended) is the foundation for human rights, and natural resources and environmental management. The Constitution states that:

- Government and all Ethiopian citizens shall have the duty to protect the country's environment and natural resources,
- Design and implementation of programs and projects of development shall not damage or destroy the environment,
- The People have the right to full consultation and expression of views in the planning and implementation of environment policies and projects that affect them directly.

Accordingly, focal institutions such as the Institute of Biodiversity Conservation and Research and, Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) has been set up to coordinate and implement the convention from Federal level to the *Woreda* level (FDRE, 1995)

The establishment of these institutions in the mobilizations of communities in environmental rehabilitation was very limited in the past. There was also very limited access for the local communities to involve in the construction of contours and terraces, protection of gullies, bulking of seed/planting materials required for agro-forest, establishment of woodlot, and enforcement of catchment management by-laws and creation of awareness in soil and water resources conservation (MOFED, 2002).

However, new “manual” and procedures were prepared and set up in 2005 to encourage the community’s involvement in ERAE. So the manual and procedures confirmed the knowledge of local communities how traditionally manage their lands. Then many of the communities’ plantations have been established by communities and protected by communities with the supportive action of the local governments at the national level (Getahun, 2006)

Furthermore, awareness creation in the local communities at nation level changed how active involvement of the local people can improve their livelihood condition and poverty reduction. Therefore, as time goes demand to participate in agricultural extension and environmental protection activities have been enormously increasing throughout the country. Tree planting in the degraded hillsides and hilltops, construction of different soil and water conservation methods have been carried out by the communities’ throughout the country (Unifruit, 2011)

The CBOs including the local community within a given watershed is not only preferable but also absolutely essential to overcome the environment related problems. Because trees have long gestation periods, the decision to plant trees is greatly influenced by community’s perception of

risks. The Government's policy initiatives concerning land tenure and other related matters therefore need to be considerably strengthened by taking these facts into consideration (Medhin, 2000).

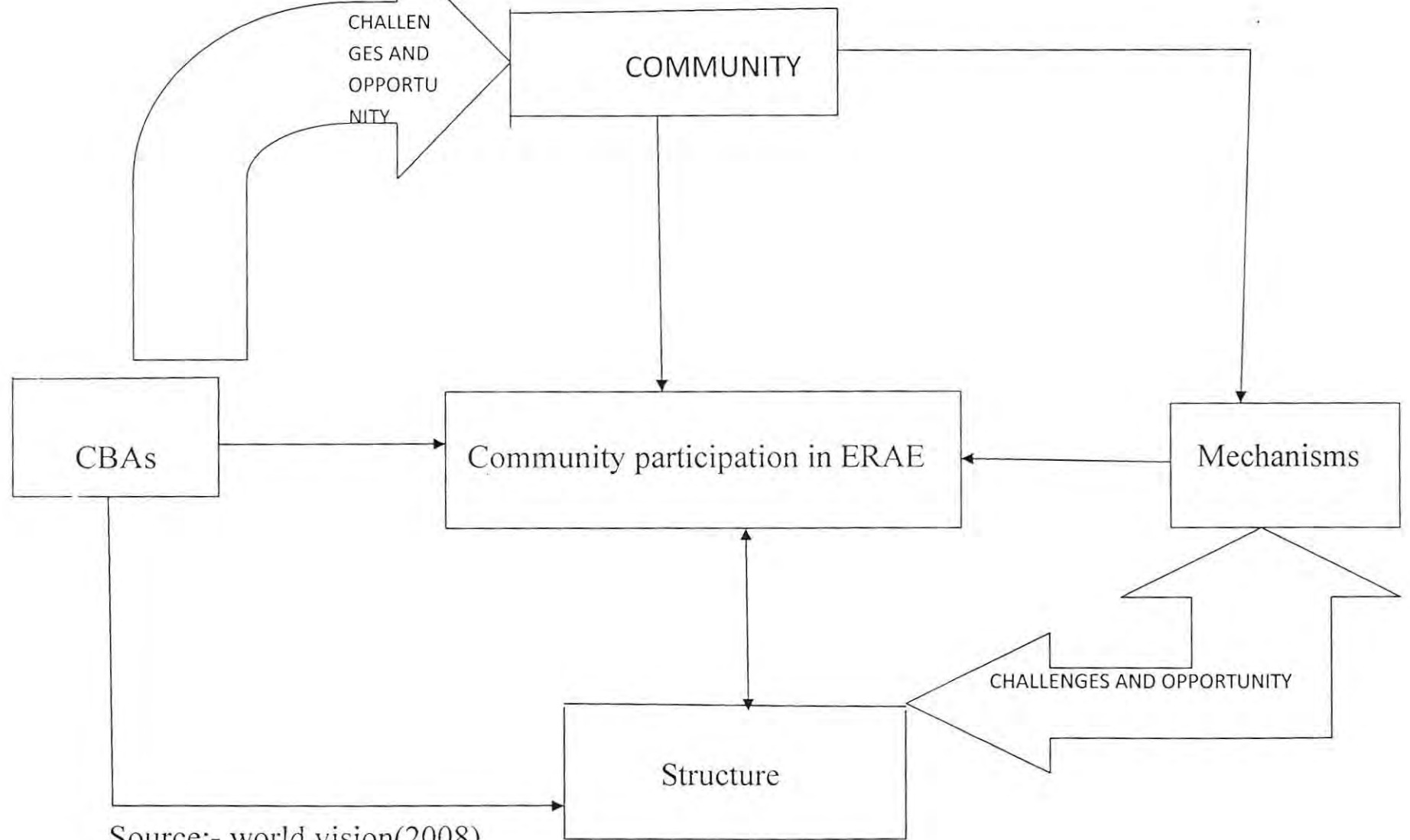
2.4 Gender Inclusive community participation mechanisms in ERAE

From the very start of the ERAE process, when consensus is being built around agricultural and environmental rehabilitation policy and strategy, the first activities were being planned and special care was taken to ensure that women and men are given equal opportunities to be directly involved in the core group of local stakeholders that will lead the LED process, and have opportunities to express their needs and opinions concerning the development of their locality (Kasahun, 2000).

Any group including both men and women should prioritize the issues that can realistically be addressed within the community based development approach. Side-by-side with the stakeholders' organization, both men and women should be made aware of women's and youth's potential contribution to the ERAE activities and of the discriminatory attitudes that prevent them from participating and influencing the process. Role-play is an effective means of putting oneself in the place of the other (Debbie, 2000).

In addition to these, through creating equal opportunities for both men and women in order to build gender awareness of the local authorities, capacity-building workshops held with elected representatives and staff should include gender sensitization as well as enable them to use practical tools of gender analysis and gender budgeting in the activities of planning, implementation and resources control. Therefore, the representatives of women's groups convey the concerns and recommendation of their members to the participants of the workshops (Nikkhah, 2009).

The conceptual framework the study



CHAPTER THREE

3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY AND DESCRIPTION OF THE STUDY AREA

3.1 Description of the Study Area

Boloso Sore *Woreda* is one of the twelve *Woredas* in Wolayita zone found in Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Region (SNNPR). The *Woreda* is bordered on the south by Sodo Zuria Town, on the west by the Omo Sheleko River near to Loma Bosa village which separates it from Dawro, on the north, northwest & northeast by Kembata Tembaro like Kacha Bira, Badawacho villages, on the east by the Hadiya, and on the south east by Kindo koyesha (see location maps of the Zone and the study area). The highest point in the study area is Mount Damota (2738 meters). The administrative center of Boloso Sore is Areka town.

Based on the 2007 Census conducted by the Central Statistical Agency of Ethiopia (CSA), the *Woreda* has a total population of 108,870 of whom 53,058 are men and 55,812 women. The total area of Boloso Sore is 210.72 square kilometers. A total of 12,145 households were counted in this *Woreda*, which resulted in an average of 8.96 persons to a household (CSA, 2007). Boloso Sore lies approximately 300 km south of Addis Ababa along the main highway that leads to Arba-Minch via Hossana.

The study area is one of economically significant areas of the Zone. Since the administrative center of Boloso Sore (Areka) is serving as a junction point of two major roads networking with Wolayita Sodo to Arba-Minch and Wolayita Sodo to Addis Ababa so that it is one of the centre of business in the Zone.

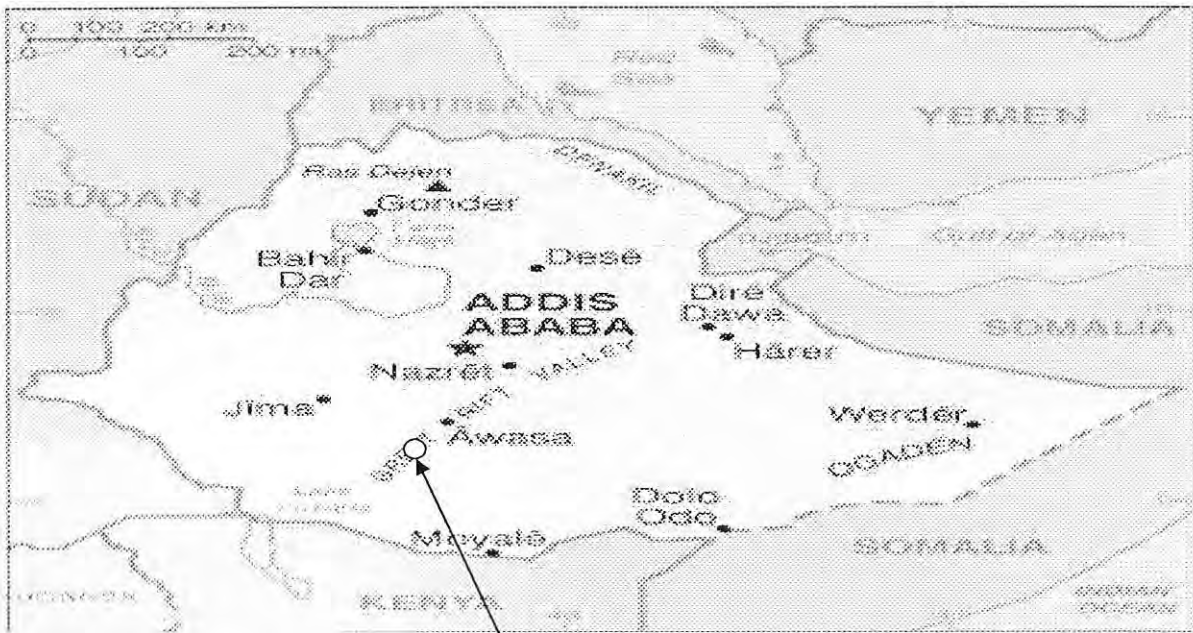


Figure 1 . Map of the Ethiopia

The study area

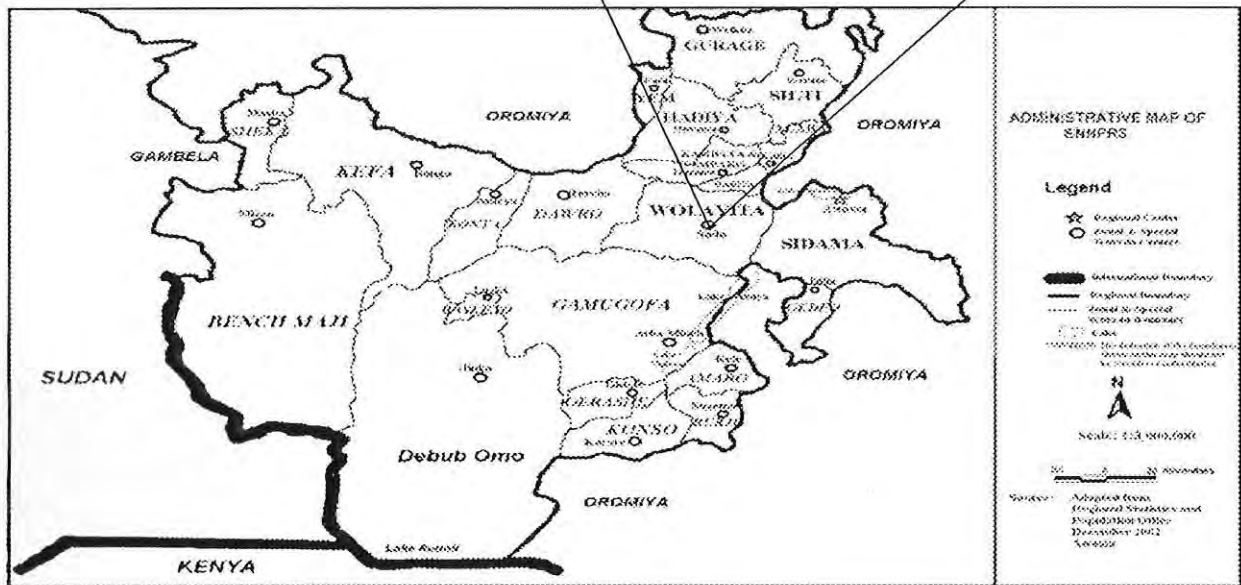


Figure 2. Map of the study area

Source: <http://www.ocha-eth.org/Archive/DownloadableReports/resettlementSNNPR0603.pdf>

3.2 Basic Information of the Sample Respondents

3.2.1 Socio-economic and Demographic Characteristics of Sample Households

The socio-economic and demographic variables/attributes that were identified in this study included sex, marital status, age, educational status, family size, type of occupation, size of the land holding, net monthly income, and livelihood assets of the sample households. The rationale behind the identification of these variables/attributes was the likely effects (which can be either positive or negative) of most of these factors in determining an individual's, a household's and an entire community's participation in the ERAE

Table 1. Respondents Sex, Marital Status and Age

S.N	Variables/attributes	Alternatives	Responses	
			Frequency	%
1	Sex	Female	21	14.29
		Male	126	85.71
		Sub total	147	100
2	Marital Status	Married	101	68.71
		Not married	31	21.09
		Divorced	15	10.20
		Other	-	-
		Sub total	147	100
3	Age	15-49	97	65.99
		50-59	42	28.57
		≥60	8	5.44
		Sub total	147	100

Source: Field survey, March-April, 2012

Based on the data in Table 1, 126(85.71%) of the sample respondents are males while 21(14.29%) are females. This data, among others, enabled both men-headed and women-headed households in the study area to have equal representation in the study based on their total population size. As indicated in the same table, out of 147 sample respondents, 101(68.71%)

were married, whereas 31(21.09%) and 15(10.20%) were unmarried and divorced respectively. This might imply that the diversified communities in rural areas in terms of their marital status were represented to share their views on their locality and interface to the community participation in ERAE activities. Those old aged respondents relatively lower figure among the study population enabled the researcher to determine an actual change in the community participation across the different times in the past.

Table 2. Respondents Education, Family size and Occupation

S.N	Variables/attributes	Alternatives	Responses	
			Frequency	%
1	Education	Illiterate	11	7.48
		Read & write only	20	13.61
		Grade 1-4	17	11.56
		Grade 5-8	38	25.85
		Grade 9-10	29	19.73
		Grade 11-12	25	17.01
		Others	7	4.76
		Sub total	147	100
2	Family size	1-5	102	69.39
		6-10	29	19.73
		≥11	16	10.88
		Sub total	147	100
3	Occupation	Farming	90	61.22
		Petty trade	36	24.49
		Handcraft	6	4.09
		Civil servant	-	-
		Retired	4	2.72
		Others	11	7.48
		Sub-total	147	100

Source: Field survey, March-April, 2012

As long as various studies suggest, educational status determines an individual's or group's awareness in the community-ERAE: knowledge, attitude and skill. Moreover, it also indicates the potential environment for exchange of information between communities.

Based on this data, a substantial majority of households in the study area do have large family size with its own implications on the agricultural productivity and environmental protection. Occupationally, about 61.22% of the sample households were dependent on the sedentary agriculture.

Table 3. Respondents land holding and Net monthly income

S.N	Variables/attributes	Alternatives	Responses	
			Frequency	%
1	Land holding size	Landless	15	10.20
		≤0.5ha	51	34.69
		0.06-0.75ha	41	27.89
		0.76-1.0ha	15	10.20
		1.1-2.0ha	19	12.93
		≥2.1	6	4.09
		Sub-total	147	100
2	Net monthly income	≤100 Birr	51	34.69
		101-350 Birr	33	22.45
		351-650 Birr	24	16.33
		651-1000 Birr	26	17.69
		≥1001 Birr	13	8.84
		Sub-total	147	100

Source: Field survey, March-April, 2012

Among other things, this figure shows how closely the livelihood conditions of the households in the study area are reliant upon the land and other natural resources. On the other hand, out of 147 sample households, 122 (82.99%) have less than one hectare of land. Depending on the data, it is possible to say that households' small land holding along with the large family size and agriculture-based household economy in the study area bring about its own adverse impact on the wellbeing of the locality. The big family size compounded with very small land holding and

very low monthly income indicates the weak agricultural extension practice and challenges of sustainable natural resource management that call for effective community participation. Similarly, the livestock ownership-which is multifunctional to the household economy like food, market, plough, manure source, and economic diversity, is highly variable among the households.

In general, it is obvious that the quantity and quality of households' domesticated animals are some of the determinants of households' vulnerability to and capability of coping with the prevailing unsatisfactory community participation in environmental rehabilitation and agricultural extension program and practice in the study area. However, a significant number of households in the study area did not own enough number of domestic animals. According to some households, they keep only a small number of domestic animals per household because of different challenges in their agricultural extension knowledge, skill and practical cooperation within the community.

3.3 Methodology

The study was descriptive case study that employed both quantitative and qualitative methods to analyze the current status of community participation. These methods were also used to identify the problems of community participation within which structure and mechanisms used to improve the ERAE service delivery in the study area. The reasons behind using a combination of both methods were to reduce the limitations of each method by taking detail data from different sources.

The two major sources of data were primary and secondary sources. From the former source, some relevant data were obtained by making use of open & closed-ended questionnaire,

observation, checklists prepared for FGD and interview; while from the later source, it was collected through reviewing and analyzing the existing documents (both published and unpublished) on the theoretical and empirical aspects of the issue under the study. The major reasons for relying upon primary and secondary types of data were to make easy the broad nature of the concept of community participation in ERAE. Secondary data were also used to supplement primary data

3.3.1 Sampling Procedure, Sample size and Data collection processes

The study employed different sampling procedures. As it has already been indicated above (see section 1.6) data collection instruments used in the study area. Based on these instruments the respondents explained their agreement on different items of community involvement in planning, implementation, decision making and resource distribution in the study area.

The Community Based Associations (CBAs) representatives as well as *Woreda* experts were involved as a key informant for interview purpose. There are 76 experts and 28 CBAs found in the study area (WFED, 2003). Thirty experts and sixteen CBA representatives of different associations were involved as a key informant in the study area purposively. Each CBA holds 20-30 households as the member of association in all *Kebeles*¹.

*Kebele*¹: -A kebele (Amharic "neighborhood") is the smallest administrative unit of Ethiopia similar to ward a neighborhood or a localized and delimited group of people. 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 (or *kililoch*) that comprise the FDRE. Each kebele consists of at least five hundred families, or the equivalent of 3,500 to 4,000 persons. There is at least one in every town with more than 2,000 populations.

The above technique was used intentionally in order to get detail data from the key informants on the problems and prospects of community participation in ERAE. Since CBAs representatives and experts have direct relation with the ERAE development planning, implementation, decision making and control of resource distribution in the study area. Three out of twenty nine *Kebeles* were selected by using purposive sampling technique in the study area.

The two main reasons for selecting three *Kebeles* namely (Wormumma, Xaddisa and Dolla) out of twenty nine were as follow: First, the total populations within each sampled *Kebeles* were nearly more than two folds of the other *Kebeles*. Second, the numbers of CBAs in sampled *Kebeles* were also greater than CBAs in the other *Kebeles*. Therefore, among the twenty nine *Kebeles* containing 12, 145 households, three *Kebeles* with 1340 total households were selected by the technique mentioned above.

There are about 1340 (1151 men-headed & 189 women-headed) households in the three sampled *Kebeles* (WFEDO, 2001). As suggested by Gay regarding the sample size, for descriptive study, 10 to 20 % of the accessible population is enough (Gay 1983, cited in Kumar, 1999). Therefore, 10.97% of the total households i.e., 147 households were selected by using stratified sampling method. The stratification was based on gender i.e. male and female headed households to identify the present status, problems, structure and mechanisms of community involvement in the ERAE service delivery.

Both random and non random sampling techniques were used to enable the researcher thoroughly understand the challenges of community involvement under investigation in the study

area. To determine the proportion of each stratum i.e., (male and female headed households) in the study population, the following formula suggested by Kumar (1999) was applied.

$$S_x = \frac{E_x}{P} \quad \text{Where } S_x = \text{the proportion of stratum } x \text{ in the population (p)}$$

E_x = The number of elements in stratum x

P = Total population size in the sampled locality

Accordingly, the proportion of women-headed households in the sample population of the household computed as:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Women-headed households } S_x &= \frac{189}{1340} \\ &= 0.1410 \text{ (i.e., 14.10\%)} \end{aligned}$$

The proportion of male-headed households has been computed in the similar fashion. Finally, in order to supplement data obtained through questionnaires and key informant interviews, FGDs were held in different groups purposively. Two FGDs in each of the 3 sampled *Kebeles*, totally six FGDs were conducted in the study area.

Each FGDs contained 8 households from *Idir*¹, *Ikub*², youth association, women association, cooperative association, elder's groups, religious leaders and DA purposively from the study area. The main reasons for relying on FGDs were to minimize the biasness within and between the target population groups on the study issues. Therefore, all the available data instruments used in the study collectively ensured the validity and reliability of the data.

*Iddir*¹: - the funeral associations in Ethiopia are known as the iddir (e'dir) - associations that ensure a payout in cash and in kind at the time of a funeral for a deceased member of the family of a member of the group (Dercon et al., 2004:11). *Ikub*²: - is a local organization which performs all the saving and credit activities of money only for the members of the organization.

3.3.2 Data Analysis Methods

The data analysis was both quantitatively and qualitatively with the purpose of describing different numerical evidences in the study. It was also examined based on the evidence that the structure and mechanisms through which community participate in ERAE. The data analysis process was also made by making use of frequency distribution tables, percentage and pie charts. The raw data that were collected from both primary and secondary sources through the aforementioned data collection tools were subsequently be edited and tallied manually and entered in to computer software program of MS-excel. Finally, these basic ideas were brought together for interpretation.

CHAPTER FOUR

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

4.1 The Structure of community participation in ERAE

As the qualitative data indicated that, community participation is viewed differently in the study area. The level of participation of local people varies depending on the nature that ERAE activities vary. The success of ERAE activities implementation at local level is also highly determined by the level of community participation in the study area. This in turn means the community participation increases, as the nature of the structure with in the community become more democratic, transparency and fair in the area. The democratic local government structure empowered the community to take active part in all ERAE activities in the study area. In light of this reality , the issues of institutional arrangement in relation to planning , implementation, decision making and controlling the resources assessed in a way whether it encouraged the community participation or not .

With regard to actual involvement of the local people, the role of local community in planning, implementation, decision making and control of resources processes of the ERAE activities were highly reflected on the effectiveness of the structure in the area. This structure that the local communities have been forwarding their ideas, needs, goals and understand one another in different ERAE issues in the study area.

The structure in the study area, of course, used not only to forward the ERAE activities opinion but also any political agreement and disagreement of the communities in the area. As the report and implementation manual of the local or *Woreda* government indicated that, the ERAE activities has institutional framework and the flow of its own institutional arrangement started

from *Woreda* up to *Kebele* level institutions. Each of the hierarchical structure has its own duties and responsibilities (see Table 4 & Figure 3).

As articulated by interviewees, *Woreda* officials who are living at the *Kebele* level, are well trained and accompanied with their own duties and responsibilities for their community in the study area. On the basis of structure between the local government and the community, experts are assigned for each *Kebeles* to support all the ERAE activities and political situations in the study area.

Accordingly, within the given structure *Woreda* officials have access to government resources to pursue government policies in the *Kebeles* for which they are assigned and responsible currently. DAs are upwardly accountable with many of their activities governed by the *Woreda* and *Kebele* administrative. *Kebele* administrations, since they are the lowest tier of government with paid DAs, accountable to and reporting to *Woreda* level government in the study area.

Moreover, in fact there are government-formed structures at the community level that are used for social, political and economic development of the area that are: service cooperative, committee of local development which they call it '*Dichcha Yarra*¹'; land tax; resettlement program; food for work in PSNP (Productive safety net program); water committee; women's participation; road construction committee; and AIDS committee. These all committees have their own duties and responsibilities on the basis of their visions, missions, goals and objectives in their locality.

In addition to these, the administration of each *Kebeles* is headed by the chairperson with 11 cabinet members chosen from 100 people who themselves were chosen by the people in their *Kebeles*. Under the elected chairperson, there are 11 cabinet members including vice *Kebele* chairperson. In the study area, *Kebele* administration is accountable to the *Woreda*

administration, the DAs are members of the *Kebele* cabinet and also the communities have their own *Kebele* social courts elected from the communities themselves.

The court has five members, two of whom are women. It meets twice a week and is responsible for major disputes such as conflicts over land, cattle entering farmland, group fighting, minor theft, serious conflicts between husband and wife and serious quarrelling between individuals. It has a right to decide a penalty up to 500 *birr* but no right to decide on imprisonment. More serious crimes are reported to the police, and the cases are seen to the *Wereda* court. The recent structure called as '*Limatawi budin*¹' or '*Dichcha Yarra*' used for mobilizing and controlling local people at a grassroots level have been playing great role in ERAEs in the area. Which are units of about 30-50 households and within these '*hiwas*' or *cells* with the inclusion of 5-10 households in the area.

Any participatory activities like labor, money and materials contributions were organized through these structures and the absence of any household during the working period would result in punishment according to the law set by the community themselves. In addition to these the other characteristics of *Limatawi budin* in the area mentioned includes community workshops held to identify needs and establish priority. The committee members are made of 3 women, 3 men and 3 youth steer for the process and any external organizations like NGOs coming to the *Woreda* uses them in order to facilitate their activity in the study area.

¹*Limatawi budin (Dichcha Yarra)*: - is the type of structure used for mobilizing and controlling local people at a grassroots level that can play great role in any of the local development activities mainly ERAE.

DAs are intermediaries between the government and the community. They disseminate and implement government directives, policies and information and are responsible for mobilizing community members for group work in ERAE activities: improved fallows, use of cover crops, use of farm implements for soil and water conservation, practices to control soil erosion and use of green manure, expanding different modern technologies (scientific way of fertilizers and improved seeds) utilization in the study area as the whole. One way in which *Kebele* and *Woreda* officials relate to local people within this structure is through meetings. Top-down social order is maintained through instructions coming from the Region to *Woreda*, and, to the *Kebele* administration, often explained at meetings at which directives, campaigns and quotas of the activities are laid out.

Most frequently through this structure community most frequently taken-up services were agricultural advisory and inputs utilization (improved seed and fertilizers utilization) and ER (soil and water conservation) in the study area. Because of this structure the levels of satisfaction in the government services delivery to the households within five consecutive years are progressive in the area. The qualitative data shows that the veterinary service through this structure was a major cause of dissatisfaction for farmers in the remote *Kebeles* in the study area.

Furthermore, the presence of different CBAs in the study area has positive impact on the community structure: the presence of sports and interest group association, Idir, Ikub and farmer's cooperatives. The existence of different mechanism for reaching the vulnerable, the presence of an empowered organization of women, the presence of a community development committee which they call it '*Dichcha Yarra*', the presence of good relationship with the political representatives, reduction of political tribalism, political openness and freedom of movement within the community also contributed the major positive value for the given structure

in comparison with the previous system of communication between the local government and community in the study area as the whole.

Table 4. Structure of Local Community Level Planning, Implementation and Decision Making Institutions

S.N	Institution	Characteristics/ Duties and responsibilities
	Limatawi buden (Dichcha Yarra)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Represents 30-50 households • Community workshops held to identify needs and establish priority • Development committee comprising 3 women, 3 men and 3 youth steer the process • NGOs active in facilitation of planning at this level
	Sub-kebele (Goxxiya)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Represents 50-100 households • Government teams are responsible for, identification of needs and goals, planning and implementation of ERAE in the area. • Government team usually consists of 5 people representative of the grassroots and includes household heads, teachers and farmers • Government team receives assistance in its activities from development agents
	Kebele (Gabbare mabararaa)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Represents ≥ 250 households • <i>Kebeles</i> originally set up by the Derg to control the local population • Replicate structure of the <i>Woreda</i> • Elected officials • Responsible for consolidating the prioritized needs of grassroots level across all service delivery sectors • Consolidation usually done by rural development in collaboration with DAs • 2-3 people represent the <i>Kebele</i> on the <i>Woreda</i> council
	Woreda (Worrada)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Represents 29 <i>Kebeles</i> • Responsible for consolidating priorities and reconciling them with available budgets • <i>Woreda</i> council elected and responsible for final approval of plans • <i>Woreda</i> administrator elected by council and head up <i>Woreda</i> executive • <i>Woreda</i> executive consists of heads of all the offices and the <i>Woreda</i> administrator

Sources: Field survey March-April 2012

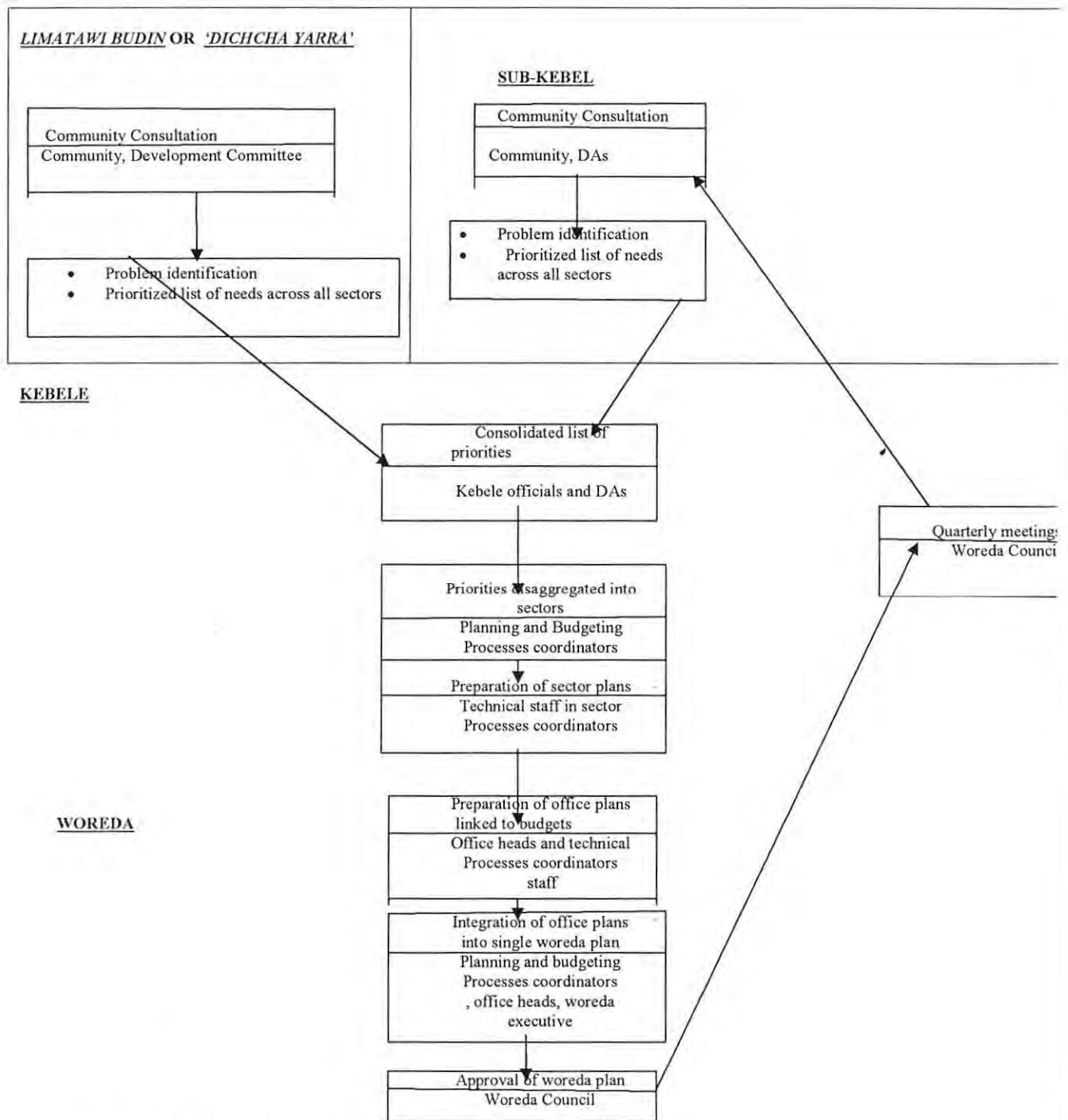


Figure 3. The structure of community in planning process.
Sources: WADNROs, 2012

In general, the qualitative field data indicated that, in the study area, *Woreda* is the basic coordinating unit at the local level for planning, implementation, and making decision on ERAE activities. Institutions both at *Woreda* and *Kebele* levels are responsible for collecting information, identifying and prioritizing needs, and feeding this information up to the *Woreda* for inclusion in ERAE plans of the area. The structure of the *Woreda* is designed to reflect the institutional arrangements of regional government in terms of sector based competitions and, to facilitate integration and coordination between the communities in the area.

4.2 Mechanisms of Community participation in ERAE

As the focus group discussants and interviewees indicated that many local communities have indigenous knowledge of mobilizing the community by using different mechanisms in order to plan, implement and utilize their ER in the study area. Indigenous knowledge about ERAE is a form of knowledge accumulated over many years originated, practiced and utilized from their locality in the study area.

As compared to many modern techniques, traditional ways of implementing ERAEs are more effective, inexpensive, and locally available and culturally appropriate, and in many cases they become based upon preserving and building on the patterns and processes of nature. There are many justifications for the inclusion of indigenous knowledge in any developmental endeavor. For instance, as evidenced in many parts of the world, “...*development efforts that ignore local circumstances, local technologies, and local systems of knowledge have wasted enormous amount of time and resources*” (World Bank, 2001; 159).

As articulated by interviewees, in the study area the indigenous knowledge system of the local people has increasingly becoming vulnerable to challenges brought by an inevitable modernization processes in the area. Accordingly, pressures related to modernization such as growth of educational systems, environmental degradation, population growth and increased local people connectivity with various communities both within and abroad are now eroding the indigenous knowledge system of the countries.

However, local people in the study area have developed and adopted several traditional mechanisms of community participation in their ERAE activities like improved fallows, use of cover crops, use of farm implements for soil and water conservation, practices to control soil erosion and use of green manure by forming active development collaborative groups locally named as '*Dagguwa*¹'. This kind of group participates only in the ERAE like conserving land and water resources, road construction, sustaining their agricultural livelihood; enhancing their productivity and integrating their indigenous technologies with the modern ones.

The other is '*Shankka*²', which is another important group that local people used traditionally only for hunting and means of evaluating an individual's level of strength and good hunter. Finally, '*Bitta Chimma*³' this type of group used for internal conflict resolution made within the local people and secure peace and stability which could be made because of the communities themselves.

¹ is a group of local people who are arranged only to participate in their ERAE activities in the form of joint working unit.

² is kind of group that local people used traditionally only for hunting and means of evaluating an individual's level of strength and good hunter.

³ is a kind of group used for internal conflict resolution occurred within the local people.

Moreover, as Kyrgyzstan, 2006 stated that the precondition, consultation and co-operation mechanisms require the provision of information to all citizens. If citizens are given only limited information, special interest group can capture policies by mobilizing their own information campaigns and can thus influence public opinion and agenda setting. Therefore, the best way to increase community participation is making need identification and goal determination in decision making and implementation activities that local people help ERAE officials to identify (1) needs, (2) strategies to meet those needs, and (3) the necessary resources required to implement the various strategies (Yadama, 1995).

The qualitative data indicated that, in addition to the traditional one, the other best way that the local government in cooperation with the *Kebele* councils including, CBAs representatives have been directing different modern mechanisms of community participation to bring improvement in the ERAE program and practices. Among those, information dissemination by the local people within the communities is decisive. Because the local community has the behavior of immediately accepting information about technologies of new agricultural practice and environment protection system from their neighbor and CBAs than, the other *Woreda* and *Kebele* officials.

Currently, information sharing through consultation, co-operation and jointly working for one objective of increasing productivity and environmental rehabilitations is increasing at increasing rate in the study area. Most of the respondent in the study area recognized that their community information sharing has become one of the most important decisive factors that determine the level of ERAEs activities at the best position.

Therefore, with full information about the ongoing activities of ERAE especially using the new technologies in the area, the local communities have developed visible sense of ownership in their area gradually. As the sense of ownership increased in the area, the communities become confident and interested more to plan, implement and make decision in different ERAE activities in their area. One of the respondents directed that, short term training that are prepared and given by DAs for community and CBAs, mainly about different agricultural extension technologies become the best means to create ownership within the local people mentally.

Accordingly, the communities were asked to indicate impacts of community participating mechanisms effectiveness in improving the agricultural products and the physical environments of the area and, their livelihood. Of the sample, 81% of respondents indicated that not only information sharing and sharing benefit through two way communication with different bodies (DAs, Woreda experts and cabinet) but also co-operation with each other has great impact for their better livelihood and further development of their area.

However, 17% of the respondents said that has little impact which can be positively or negatively affects community's livelihood and the reason forwarded by one of the CBAs representative to question presented by the researcher supports this situation.

"I am not involved in any new technologies and even our Kebele DAs are not as such interested to come and see my garden in order to comment what is well done and not, I think this is because of misunderstanding of our Kebele councils, considering me as the member of opposing party and some other reasons which in turn implies there is less good governance in Kebele".

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Finally, 2% considered the mechanisms has no impact (both positively and negatively) to their livelihood because as long as the respondent's life is not based on the agriculture and other activities that are carried out in the area in large proportion, i.e. they are traders.

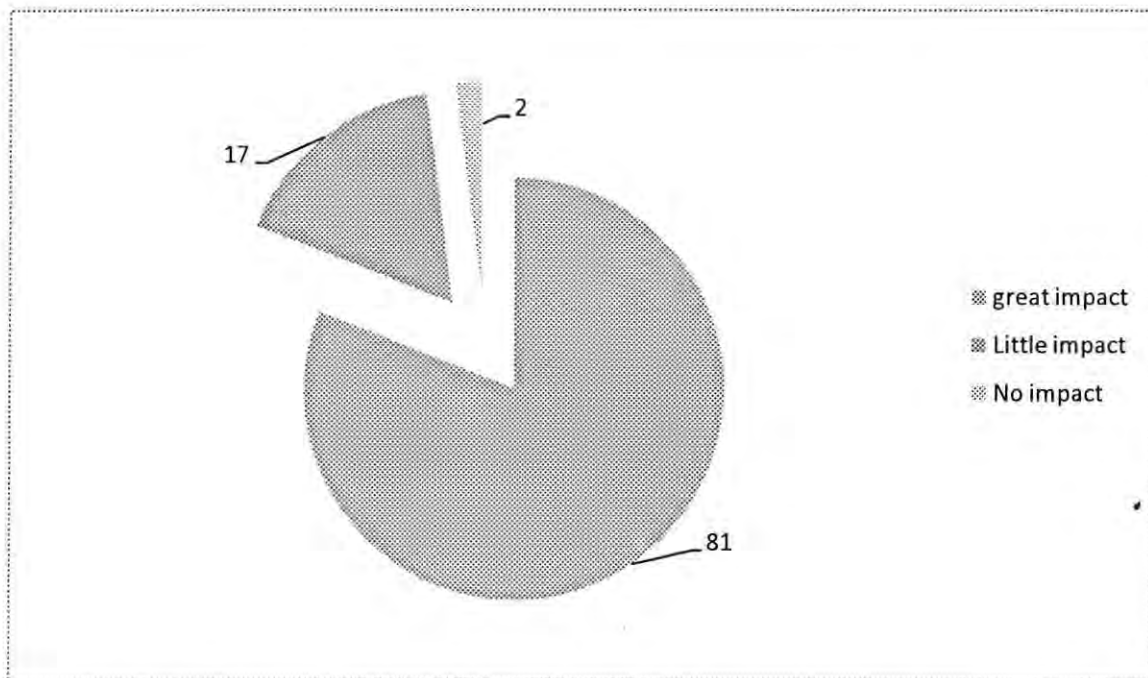


Figure 4. Both Positive and negative Impacts of Community Participation mechanisms in the livelihoods of the local people

4.3 Community Perceptions in Planning Implementations and Decision -Making of ERAE

4.3.1 Community Perceptions in Planning and Implementations of ERAE

According to the focus group discussants and interviewees, the local community had not been involved in any initial discussions of ERAEs to be planned and implemented. In many cases, a very common perception to bypass the local communities at the initial stages was the under assumptions of the *Woreda* government, experts and the communities themselves, think as it was the only stage for the higher government officials and professionals.

However, as time goes, this type of thinking has given up and the local communities become the main stakeholders who play the greatest role in their agricultural productivities and environmental rehabilitations practice for many reasons in the study area. It is to create belongingness of the development in their area, to ensure the community can take part in the decision making processes of any activities, to confirm that the local community do have right to elect their representative and bring to the power, plan, implement and control all their resources. In general, it ensured the representation of a wide range of interest and thus helped them to reduce the bad perceptions in the study area.

Accordingly, as the majority of respondents mentioned that, the local communities in cooperation with DAs, CBAs and some *Woreda* experts have been planning and implementing their ERAE activities in their area. Therefore, the participation of the local people significantly increased the quality and quantity of their local environmental rehabilitation practices, agricultural extension work. These also created the capacity to the local people in order to criticize what is not good for their area and made the local government more responsive to the local people need and more effective in service delivery.

Nevertheless, the report obtained from the *Woreda* Chairman Office showed that the community based planning is being considered as the strategy for overcoming the problems faced by the local people with their active participation, the key problems faced by the communities include: unequal resources allocation, inefficient resources utilization, inadequate institutional capacity at *Woreda* and *Kebele* level, lack of good governance and information gap in different ERAE activities in the study area.

Besides to these facts mentioned above, community based planning and implementation strategy has been seen to ensure sustainability of the ERAE of the communities at large in the study area. Particularly such kind perception has been started after 2000 GC in the study area through identification the local people need and goals, information sharing, consultation and joint working mechanisms with the local community in detail about ERAE activities, changed the previous perception of the communities in the study area.

Therefore, the community participation in the study area was setup to play vital role in improving the livelihood of the community through their efficient and effective involvement in all the ERAEs activities like improved fallows, use of cover crops, use of farm implements for soil and water conservation, practices to control soil erosion, use of green manure, utilization of improved seeds and finally, fertilizer utilizations in the study area.

Furthermore, the *Woreda* Chairperson put forward that, planning and implementation through community participation created not only effective packages of technological and management practices within the community but also awareness and capacity building of the local people to be competent in keeping the environment safe and livelihood enhancing measures in the study area.

Table 5. People's perception in planning and Implementation Structures of ERAE in the study area

S. N	Items	WG		KACs		DAs		CBAs & communities at large	
		Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%
1	Responsibility for planning and implementation of the whole ERAE of the area failed on?	46	31.29	39	26.53	36	24.49	26	17.69
2	The major role in the participation of decision making especially on the amount and unit of ERAE plan, and the needed resources in the area depends on?	70	47.62	25	17.01	31	21.09	21	14.18
3	More responsibility mandate to control the resources utilization pattern during the implementation of the ERAE in the study area failed on?	54	36.74	41	27.89	37	25.17	15	10.20
4	Owner of the whole ERAE activities under gone in their area including the allocation of fiscal budget of the area is done by?	75	51.02	53	36.05	-	-	19	12.93

Where; WG=*Woreda* government, KACs= *Kebele* Administrative councils, DAs = development agents, CBAs, community based associations

As Table 5 above shows, household's perception have indicated that 46(31.29 %) and 36(24.49%) of the level of responsibility in the participation of planning and implementation of the whole ERAE activities in the study area were done by the *Woreda* government and the development agents of the *Kebele*. This indicates that the level of awareness and sense of ownership within the local people for their agricultural extension and environment rehabilitating activities is unsatisfactory in the study area.

Accordingly, about 39(24.49%) and 26(17.69 %) of the local people perception shifted the responsibility of planning and implementation authorities, for the *Kebele* administrative councils and CBAs and the communities at large. Accordingly, 70(47.62%) and 25(17.01 %) of the respondent thought that the major role in the participation of decision making especially on the amount and unit of any ERAE plan, and the needed resources in the area depends on, the *Woreda* government and *Kebele* administrative councils.

These helps to understand the local communities were not invited to engage in the decision making activities of resources distribution on the planned activities, as the researcher's observation and understanding from the respondents, the communities are not being expected to involve in the situation where both the physical and financial resources distribution took place. Comparing to the above issue, the community's assumptions of the major role in the participation of decision making on the specification of the amount of resources for the planned activities were 31(21.09 %) for the DAs, 21(14.18 %) for CBAs.

Moreover, the resources control and, general monitoring and evaluation activities on each ERAE activities depends on the *Woreda* government, *Kebele* administrative councils, DAs and, CBAs and the local people at large accordingly. Based on this data, not only the actual participation of local people basically in the resources allocation and distribution processes is poor, but also the way through which the *Woreda* government being active, is not as such capable of solving the local community's environmental and agricultural concerns or problems.

Therefore, the local government has to be transparent for all the activities carried out by the people to the people, because to create more and more ownership and sense of belongingness for the activities going on and so as to bring the communities to control their resources day and night with greatest interest and commitment in the study area.

As the qualitative data indicated that agricultural and environmental development planning is a planning which addresses social, economic and political needs of the local people in the study area. It is also a process that involves decisions, or choices, about alternative ways of using available resources in the area with the aim of achieving particular goals at some time in the future in the study area. Considering the above data, a quantitative field survey was conducted to assess the community's participation level in ERAE in terms of planning and implementation. Of the sample, 72% of respondents indicated that they participated in the stage of planning and implementation of the activities; while 28% of the respondents noted that they were not involved in the activities planning and implementations.

With regard to the community's involvement in planning and implementation, information obtained from the study area FGD indicated that there was less participation in the planning stage before ten years ago. However, the level of involvement increased in planning and implementation stage recently. In terms of the level of participation of the communities were asked to indicate their involvement situations in ERAE activities in their area.

As Figure 5 illustrates, 67% of the sample respondents replied that they participated in the planning and implementation phase based on the given structure (see figure 6), whereas 19% indicated that they were only involved in working activities means only in implementation stage. A total of 14% responded that their participation was limited to only attending meetings that were called by their *Kebele* committees and agreed on what they designed in the study area.

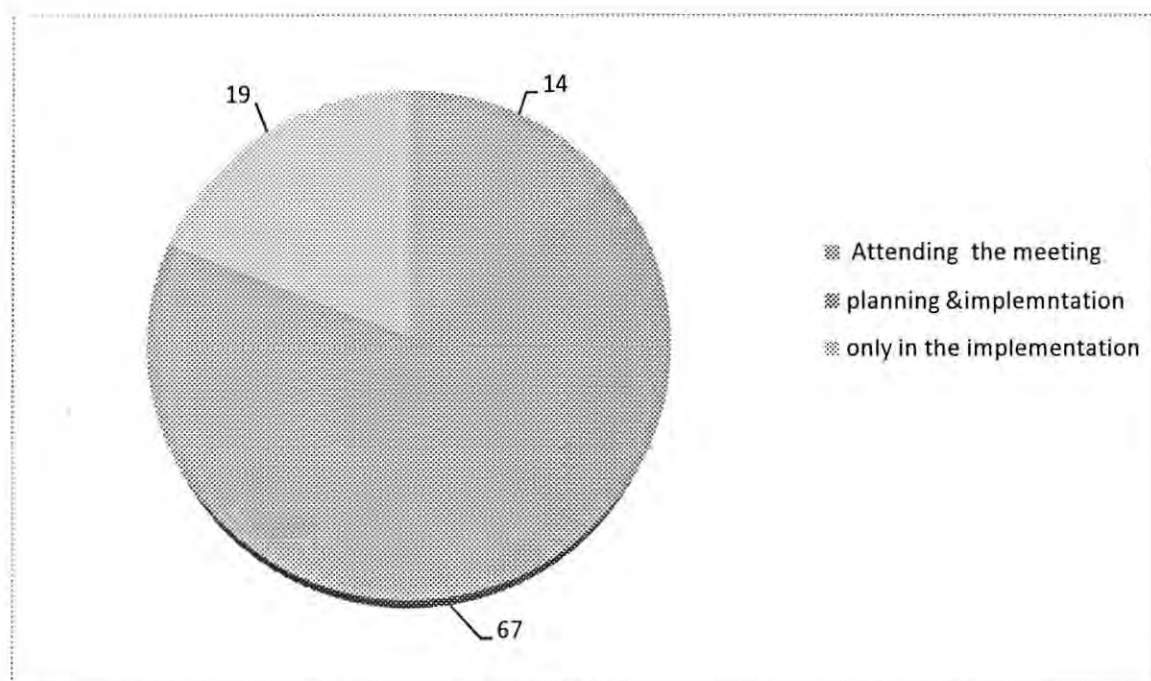


Figure 5 Level of participation

In terms of the involvement of communities in planning and implementation, the information obtained from all FGDs indicated that in some of their locality, there appear to have been little involvement. Furthermore, participants felt that it was very important to be involved in planning and implementation in the ERAE activities in the study area.

4.3.2 Community perception in Decision-Making of ERAE

According to Oakley (1991), decision-making is a transfer of power, which leads to a more equitable sharing, as well as control of the decision-making and planning process, both individually and collectively, by people at grassroots level. During the field survey, an attempt was made to collect quantitative data to assess the level of decision-making at the community level. Accordingly, the respondents were asked to indicate who makes most of the decisions in the community for each and every ERAE activities mentioned above. Of the sample, 55% indicated that the *Woreda* and *Kebeles* councils make most of the decisions. A total of 29% of the respondents said that it is the DAs who make the decisions, while the remaining 16% responded that they did not know who make decisions in the ERAE activities in their area.

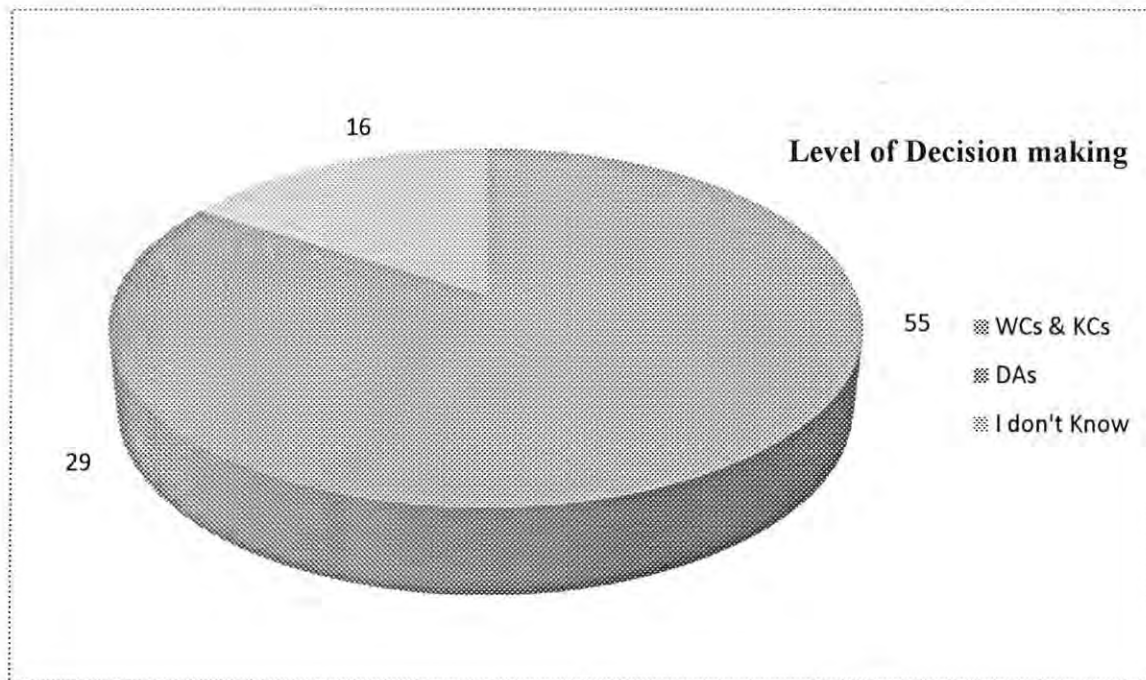


Figure 6: Decision making at the community level

On the other hand, qualitative field data provided more insight into understanding about the perceptions of the communities. All focus group discussants agreed that the Chairperson of the *Kebele* makes major decisions. However, some of the informants noted that they were involved in some of the occasional decision-making, in terms of community related decisions like the amount of credit facilitated for the agricultural inorganic fertilizers supply for the farmers of the *Woreda* as the whole, the *Woreda* coordinating team consulted with the *Kebele* councils first and the *Kebele* councils in co-operation with the communities decided at the end about the down payment percent level of fertilizes (DAP and Urea) for the agricultural productivities.

However, the CBAs representatives indicated its dissatisfaction with regard to community participation level in decision-making in their area. The informants argued that in some cases the *Woreda* government still uses a top down approach in control of resources and decision making activities especially in physical and financial resources in their area. The local community argued that there are certain conditions that have been practiced without the knowledge of the community and the activities of planning and implementation was done on the behalf of the local people. Finally, the document is prepared and presented for the community after its approval by the *Woreda* and *Kebele* councils in the study area.

With regard to community participation and decision-making, Midgley (1986) refers to two types of participation, namely authentic and pseudo participation. Authentic participation involves the community decision-making, in setting goals, formulating policies, planning and implementation. Pseudo participation, however, limits the community involvement or requires the beneficiaries to only be involved in the approval of decisions that has already been taken by external bodies.

Accordingly, the involvement of local community in the planning and implementation stages could hardly be considered to be community participation in some degree of sharing decision making in the resources distribution with the local community in the study area. In addition to these, most of the decisions at the community level are still being made by community elites as opposed to the ordinary disadvantaged and marginalized groups in the study area.

4.4 The Present Improvement of Community Participation in ERAE

One of the *Woreda* government officials put forward that, before a decade the local community participation level in every ERAE activities was very insignificant in the study area. The main reasons were; the power structure within the local government and the communities, lack of awareness as the community can play the greatest role in their ERAEs, and the greatest attention given for the political issues rather than economic development in the study area.

However, after improving government and community key relationship that were not only resulted in better services and higher levels of public satisfaction, but also helped to build stronger communities to play the greatest role in ERAE activities in the study area. That is why the level of community's involvement in different ERAEs is better as time goes.

Of course, the first invitation of the government to the local community on various issues ERAE improvement was created nothing on the area, but as time goes, the local government understood that whether the communities participation were beneficial or not. As a result, there have been no thought that expecting other external bodies except the community, to solve their agricultural and environmental practical problems, to plan for their developments, to implement what they planned earlier and to be decision makers in their area.

In addition to these fact, recently the local government of the study area has acknowledged that many of the community's most intractable problems such as lack of commitment for common goals, needs of dependency especially on PSNP, and rural to urban migration, were only dealt with CBAs and the community at large to tackle them at community level in the study area. Therefore, the local people have been supporting *Kebele* councils, CBAs and DAs in the study area. All have been working together on issues of ERAE so as to improve the service delivery and its productivity of each activity mentioned above.

The local government and communities have been working in planning together for the need and goals of communities, to implement what the communities planned and to influence the services providers well in their area. Currently, the local people become very much influential in planning and implementation more than in decision making and control of resources relatively. In addition to this fact, the local councils and CBAs are represented by their democratically elected councils. Therefore, the people want to strengthen the ability of local councils to speak up for their communities and demand an answer when things go wrong.

Moreover, significant progress has been made in improving local services delivery through the increasing trend of community participation in the ERAE, but for rising public expectations and challenging financial requirement at *Kebele* level, *Woreda* and *Kebele* councils continue to drive forward the transformation of local services to improve its efficiency. In order to deliver the transformed services and value that communities want, councils have been challenging the traditional methods of delivery, root out waste, keep all council activity under review and work

with other public bodies to share assets, systems, data, skills and knowledge more effectively in the future in Boloso Sore *Woreda*.

Table 6. The households' level of agreement on the present feature of community involvement in ERAE

S. N	Items	Response	Degree of Agreement					Total
			SD	D	UD	A	SA	
1	Strong structure and community involvement are highly practiced to minimize the leadership challenges so as to enhance the ERAE recently in your area.	Frequency	16	23	8	81	19	147
		%	10.88	15.65	5.44	55.10	12.93	100
2	Currently, acts of responsibility, good governance, equity and justice in resources distribution through the given structure is intentionally carried out for the benefit of the community in your area.	Frequency	22	37	17	45	26	147
		%	14.97	25.17	11.56	30.61	17.69	100
3	Planning and implementation activities of ERAE by using the local community are being undertaken on a regular basis in your area	Frequency	7	15	11	51	63	147
		%	4.76	10.20	7.48	34.69	42.86	100
4	Transparency and accountability in decision making, budgeting and control of resources are highly carried out in your area.	Frequency	41	53	7	25	21	147
		%	27.89	36.05	4.76	17.01	14.29	100
5	Different CBAs have played huge parts in tackling inequalities and promoting the ERAE in your area	Frequency	11	18	-	44	74	147
		%	7.48	12.24	-	29.93	50.34	100
6	Strong interest of involving community especially, young people in ERAE is highly encouraged in your area.	Frequency	7	14	-	70	56	147
		%	4.76	9.52	-	47.62	38.09	100
7	Based on the highly improving characteristics of the community participation in ERAE, the future BS will be better.	Frequency	11	7	5	53	71	147
		%	7.48	4.76	3.40	36.05	48.30	100

SD=strongly disagree, D=disagree, UD=undecided, A=agree

SA=strongly agree

Source: Field survey, March-April, 2012

As data in the Table 6 above show, households have indicated the level of their agreement or disagreement on various issues that suggest the level of integration of community in the ERAE practice and program as well as the current structure and mechanisms of the ERAE processes in the study area. Accordingly, about 100(68.03%) households replied that Strong structure and community involvement were highly practiced in their area to minimize the leadership challenges and to enhance the agricultural productivities and environmental rehabilitation activities in the study area.

As the qualitative data indicated that, the responsibility, good governance, equity and justice in resources distribution through the local government on the given structure can be one of the indicators as to whether the current situation of community within their locality is good or not. Accordingly, all sample households in the above table indicated their level of agreement or disagreement on the strongest and effective relation of the local government and community in their area.

Accordingly, about 45(30.61%) sample respondents agreed and 26(17.69%) strongly agreed on the responsibility, good governance, equity and justice in resources distribution through the local government on the given structure in their area respectively. Whereas, about 22(14.97%), 17 (11.56%) and 37(25.17%) of them have strongly disagreed, undecided, and disagreed on the same issue respectively. Based on this data, even though the number of respondents who agreed and disagreed on the same issue is more or less similar, given the presence of some undecided respondents it is not fair to say the structure of local government within the community that serve as the system through which the local people participate in every ERAEs activities is very strong.

On the other hand, 85.82% of the sample households agreed upon the fact that planning and implementation activities of ERAE through the involvement of communities are being undertaken on a regular basis in their area. Similarly, more than three-fourth (80.27%) of the responses show an agreement on the activities of different CBAs that have been played huge parts in tackling inequalities and promoting use of farm implements for soil and water conservation, practices to control soil erosion and fertilizers utilization in their area. Nevertheless, the various associated challenges may tend to impede the full realization of the CBAs potential in the study area.

As indicated in Table 6 a substantial proportion 84(63.94%) of respondents disagreed on the item pertaining to the transparency and accountability in decision making, budgeting and control of resources practice in the activities of agriculture and environment in their area. Because, the actual participation of the local community on their ERAE can be affected by several challenges related to the local government and community itself (see Section 3.4.2) In this regard, there are certain indicators to determine in which area that the local government is more open to the community and not, in the study area.

Accordingly, about 70(47.62%) and 56(38.09%) of the respondents agreed and strongly agreed respectively on the statement that says, strong interest of involving community especially, young people in ERAE program and practices is highly encouraged in their area (see Table 7). Similarly, about 53(36.05%) and 71(48.30%) sample respondents agreed and strongly agreed respectively on the idea that says, 'based on the highly improving characteristics of the community participation in ERAE activities in the future will change Boloso Sore *Woreda* to the best place'.

Based on this data, not only the actual participation of local people in the ERAE affairs is good, but also the mechanisms by which the local government being run, are capable of solving the local community's agricultural environmental concerns. Therefore, these in turn has indications on the local community-government's current participation level and its achievement on the mentioned activities in the study area. In addition to the above clarification of table given the highest frequency of agreed and strongly agreed opinion of the respondent failed on the planning and implementation activities of ERAE by using the local community were being undertaken on a regular basis in the study area.

4.5 Community participation in ERAE: Opportunity and challenges

4.5.1 Challenges of Community Participation in ERAE

As articulated by focus group discussants and interviewees, the problems of community participation are; basically participatory activities in budgeting and other type of resources distribution activities and, sometimes decision making activities that do not take into account local power structures and local people into consideration in the study area.

As a result, there is inconvenience, not only between the local government and community but also within communities themselves. These in turn, indicated that the insufficient coordination level of the *Woreda* government and lack of transparency within the administrative bodies working procedure in the resource allocation processes. Lack of unity between the communities at local level is also taken as another big problem in the area because it affected the interests as well as the commitment level of local people to participate in different activities of ERAE. The preparation of terraces, protection of gullies, use of improved fallows, use of cover crops, practices to control soil erosion and use of green manure in the study area.

Accordingly, the unsatisfactory level of community involvement basically in implementation, decision making and budget allocation activities, are the main problems that aggravate other challenging factors which hinder the development speed of the study area. As it has already been described earlier, there are different problems of community to involve in ERAE programs and practices in the study area with multi-faceted socio-economic effects.

Here, the given structure within the study area operates not only the agricultural extension and environmental rehabilitation activities but also become very important tool to mobilize any political issues and other unrelated field works thrown from the *Woreda* councils to the DAs in their area. That is why because any of the other government structure available at the *Woreda* level has no agent at the *Kebele* grassroots level except that of education and health Offices. This has also negative impact in the improvement processes of service delivery agricultural and natural resources offices experts and agents performance in the study area.

One of the respondents said that, the other service delivery governmental organization has no contact with them and the reason forwarded by that individual to question presented by the researcher supports this situation.

“As long as we are farmers, I think the Woreda government did not consider to discuss any issues except agricultural activities with us, leave alone planning and implementation activities with us, there is no agents for the other service delivery sectors in our Kebele so that the local government's thought is , we farmers are capable only for agricultural and environmental issues and the others will be left for the government itself.”

Accordingly, majority of the respondents confirmed that, the co-ordination level, resources controlling, critical identification of the communities need and goals to plan, two way communication between the government and community, site selection to implement through high degree of community involvement and trends of continuous follow up of the local government down to *Kebele* level for the ongoing activities especially, in the practices of improved fallows, use of cover crops, practices to control soil erosion and use of green manure, are not as such successful.

“The seriousness of any planned activities proceeds forward in the area is implemented until, the other hot issues thrown from the Region to Zone and Zone to *Woreda*, and then the former one would be forgotten forever”. Therefore, such kind problematic situation makes the community’s commitment level insignificant and ERAEs become not sustainable in the study area.

Moreover, there are several reasons as to why some of the community members in the study area often fail to take part in the participation of budget and resources distribution. The following figure shows the relative magnitude of different determinants of households’ actual involvement in ERAEs in the study area. The decline in participation and trust, in part around the issues of ERAEs, individual performance as well as the accountability of decision makers and individuals for outcomes and actions would critically affect the development of the area and the livelihoods of the community at large.

Table 7. Households' response to the community participation in ERAE activities

S N	Items	Alternatives	Respondent		Total
			Yes	No	
1	You involved in the fiscal budget distribution process in your area.	Frequency	14	133	147
		%	9.52	90.48	100
2	You participated in the decision making process of different ERAE activities	Frequency	85	62	147
		%	57.82	42.18	100
3	The plans of ERAEs activities are being carried out by you on a regular basis?	Frequency	95	52	147
		%	64.63	35.37	100
4	Mobilizations of the community for any ERAE awareness have been done by you.	Frequency	109	38	147
		%	74.15	25.85	100
5	You have fully interest to implement the ERAEs in your villages.	Frequency	97	50	147
		%	65.99	34.01	100
6	The community structure is well made in order to control the resources and perform the ERAE.	Frequency	107	40	147
		%	72.79	27.21	100
Grant Total					

Source: Field survey, March-April, 2012

As it can be seen from Table 7, an overwhelming majority (90.48%) of the sample households replied that they were not involved in the fiscal budget allocation process in the study area. This indicates how the local government is not clear and transparent in resources distribution especially, in yearly fiscal budget allocation in the area.

This has been evidenced by failure of participation of the local community in decision making and other resources distribution activities on a regular basis in the mentioned activities in the study area. Accordingly, for instance, about 40(27.21%) sample households put forward that the power structure in the study area is not well made in order to control the resources and actively participate in all ERAEs activities mentioned above in the study area (see Table 7).

On the other hand, there is no doubt to well come on the community participation in planning and implementation of different ERAEs such as environmental rehabilitation and agricultural

extension in Boloso Sore Woreda. This has been evidenced by the households' high level of interest to participate in the planning as well as their willingness to implement what is planned in collaboration with the local government and CBAs. For instance, as indicated in the same table above, about 64.63% and 65.99% of the sample households have been participating in planning and implementation activities respectively.

Therefore, the key ingredient of establishing a successful community involvement process in any community planning is flexibility, but most often the inflexibility nature of activities on the basis of the desire of the community in the area, is also considered as the challenge made by the *Woreda* officials. Public service delivery organizations with its unique blend of strengths/weaknesses, and decision-making roles/responsibilities have been planning and implementing all the ERAEs activities in the area.

4.5.2 Opportunity of Community Participation in ERAE

As the qualitative data indicated that, the people working in local governments and CBAs often serve the same local community, address the same community problems, and have the potential to widen opportunities of solving community's problems with each other. Mainly, *Woreda* government officials have been playing progressive roles for dealing with public problems related to the budget allocations and directing funds and chances to the particular community goals and needs. Of course, these are practical by being accountable and transparent in any resources distribution to enhance the local people involvement opportunities in the planning and implementation of their local agricultural extension activities and, protecting and rehabilitating their environment from any damage in their area.

In addition to these, different community based organizations like, *Idir Ikub* and religious leaders frequently mobilize the volunteers and private households more effectively in the protection of the environment from damage and re-plantation of what was previously affected. Also, communities can often act with greater speed and flexibility than local government can in responding to new technologies for ER such as both physical and biological method of soil and water conservation, water harvesting technology, and preparation of compost, i.e. organic fertilizers in the study area.

Moreover, the structures in the area from the *Woreda* government up to the *Kebele* committee which they call it *Dichcha yarra* and one to five local people arrangement within which the community participation mechanisms all available in the area, more or less do have their own positive contribution in creating good opportunity for community participation of the study area.

As articulated by focus group discussants and interviewees, comparing the present and past regime structure and mechanisms through which the governing system for both development and political activities are completely various. The present one is considered as more and more participatory in its nature, nevertheless there are some limitation in the study area.

Therefore, it provided more and more opportunity for the local communities to involve in different programs like Local Level Participatory Planning Approach (LLPPA) and Environmental Actions Planning (EAP) in their locality. Moreover, creating the opportunities for the community in order to participate in different environmental rehabilitation and agricultural extension activities by planning, implementing, making decision and controlling the resources were, considered as the only means, through which the local people can use their economic and social resources of the area to fulfill their needs and goals so as to improve their livelihood.

However, the community participation is being focused basically on the process how budget goes, and dealt with the problem of limited resources and the process needs to stretch beyond the Zonal level to link to the higher level decisions rather than it could be done by the local government and the community themselves. One of the government officials put forward that, the community participation in budgeting ERAE takes part to ensure the local needs as people take more “ownership” in their own neighborhood/community of public spending and investment decisions, but not yet carried out in large in the study area.

Currently, the local government understood the community participation as the key empowerment benefits for local people by: building the capacity of individuals in the public budget setting and political skills more generally, enhancing impacts and opportunities on local decision making, reducing the so-called ‘democratic deficit’ visible in the study area, improving relations between the communities and both *Woreda* and *Kebele* councils are being improved to enhance the opportunity for the local people to involve highly in all the ERAEs in the study area.

Furthermore, dynamic and progressive nature of the communities involvement opportunities in different ERAE activities recently, provided a better focus on the following issues; equity in resources distribution, social exclusion and neighborhood renewal, bringing clear benefits especially to the marginalized and poor local people in the study area gradually. The *Woreda* government approved and promised to their community to meet the public participation in budget allocation in full and they classified their area as example where the participatory budgeting practice is developing.

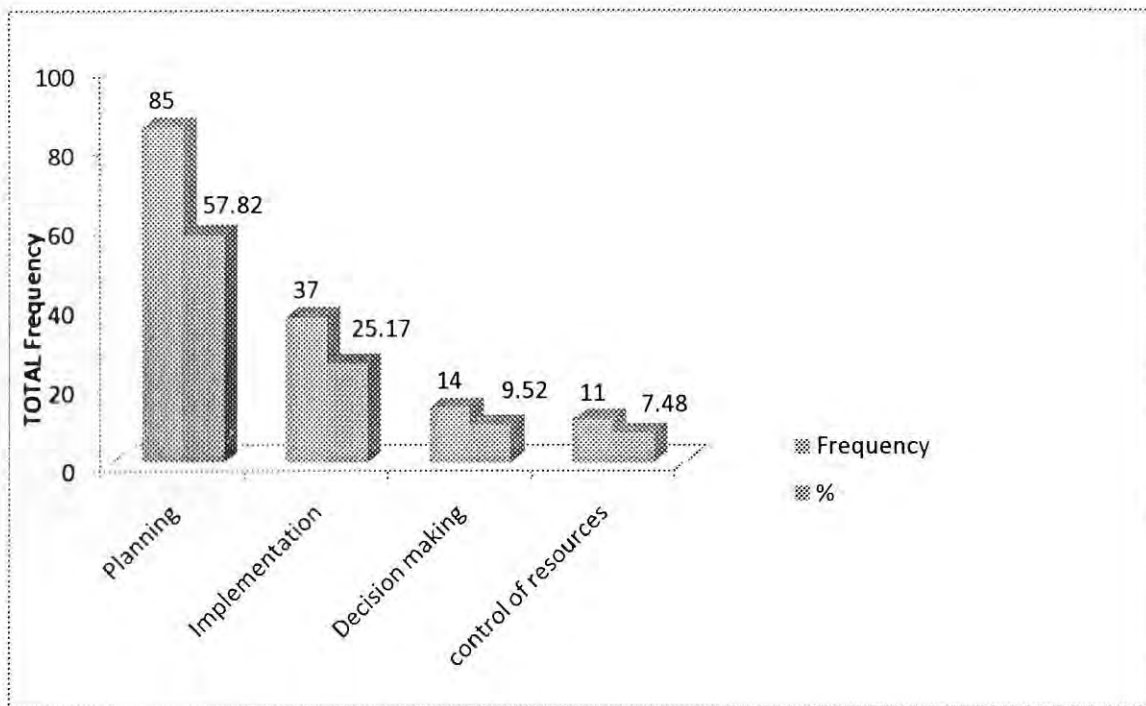


Figure 7 the opportunity available to participate in the ERAE activities

This figure 4 confirmed that the level of participation in planning is nearly two folds compared to the implementation of what was planned earlier. But the level of both decision making and control of resources are far reaching to the planning activities in the study area.

4.6 Ways of Overcoming the Challenges of Community Participation in ERAE

According to World Bank 2001, there are different mechanisms, which promote participation of local community in their local economic development activities i.e. information sharing that involves the translation into local languages and dissemination of written materials using various medias, information seminars, presentation and, public meetings. Consultation as a two-way relationship is established between local people and local government and collaborative mechanisms formation of joint working group and task forces have the main role in the agricultural extension practice.

Similarly, survey results obtained from sample respondents through different data collection tools confirm more or less the same findings. The following table verifies it well.

Table 8. Sources of information and agents for community- ERAE

Items	Alternatives	Responses		Remark
		Frequency	%	
1. Channels of information on the importance of Community participation on ERAE activities.	<i>Woreda</i> council	16	11.35	Only 141 hhs w/c replied "yes" for Q.No 2 considered Here
	DAs	45	31.91	
	School	25	17.73	
	<i>Kebele's</i> administrative council	31	21.98	
	CBAs	14	9.93	
	NGO	-	-	
	Churches/mosques	4	2.84	
	Mass media	6	4.26	
	Sub total	141	100	
2. The great role playing agents in community-ERAЕ activities in your area	<i>Woreda</i> council	37	25.17	
	DAs	26	17.69	
	School	14	9.52	
	<i>Kebele's</i> administrative council	32	21.77	
	CBAs	13	8.84	
	NGO	-	-	
	Local people at large	25	17.01	
	Sub total	147	100	
Grant total			100	

Source: Field survey, March-April, 2012

As indicated in Table 8, about 45(31.91%), 25(17.73%) and 31(21.98%) of the sample household respondents have got better information about the decisiveness of the community participation upon the ERAE from DAs, schools and *Kebele's* administrative council respectively. Accordingly, these three groups of agents served as the major sources of community- ERAE information in the study area. Based on the data, one can determine the relative importance of creating awareness about community- ERAE in both non-formal (through DAs), formal (through school systems), and the informal (through different kinds of media and Churches/mosques).

As compared to *Woreda* and *Kebele*'s administrative councils, the role played by Schools and CBAs in promoting the community- ERAE in the study area is very insignificant (see Table 6). This is perhaps partially being attributed to the less educational attainment of the rural households in the study area. Moreover, as the households' responses in the same table show, the role of local community participation on the ERAE is much lesser than the role of other local government (public institutions).

In this regard, for instance, about 69(46.94%) of the sample respondents said that *Woreda* and *kebele* councils have been playing an active role in planning, implementing, deciding and managing development activities in the study area. As obtained by 26(17.69%), 14(9.52%), 13(8.84%), and 25(17.01%) of the sample households respectively DAs, School, CBAs and local people at large have been playing their own role for the same goal in the study area.

Based on the above discussion, the role of DAs, School, and CBAs in the study area in terms of providing the community members with the relevant information about community involvement in ERAE and actually taking part in the agricultural productivity and protecting their environment is minimum as compared to other agents in the study area.

One of the reasons for this situation as articulated by heads of *Woreda* Agricultural Extension Development Office being interviewed was the "... *lesser commitment of DAs and Kebele administrative bodies* ..." in the study area. However, as indicated by the interviewee, the local government had already promised to improve the means of increasing the community involvement in ERAE activities in the study area.

As articulated by focus group discussants and interviewees, “the local community in the study area has been making participation in different ERAEs program and practices by providing both in cash and in kinds; in several soil and water conservation processes (ER), adapting and sharing the best experience on (AE) activities and, collecting money in order to build farmers training centers by the effective coordination of local government and its agents in their area.

In order to sustain their agricultural extension service and increase its productivity, the local community and CBAs in cooperation with DAs and *Woreda* local government have been planning and practicing several traditional techniques like intercropping, multiple cropping, harvesting drought resistant crops (e.g. *enset*¹), preparing an organic fertilizer (compost) from the household generated wastes of biodegradable type and also from crop residues; and applying the same on the farm land to improve the level of agricultural productivities so as to guarantee the community’s food security in the study area.

Moreover, some of the mentioned techniques of community and CBAs participation in ER and agricultural practices have been integrated with some other modern technologies through *Woreda* government and DAs in the study area and have proved how the local people involvement is decisive in the local economic development. In turn, it enabled the subsistence farmers with large family size in the study area to continue to supply their households’ food and other needs in a sustainable way.

¹Commonly known as “false banana” for its close resemblance to the domesticated banana plant. It is Ethiopia's most important root crop, a traditional staple crop in the densely populated south and southwestern parts of Ethiopia.

4.6.1 Capacity-Building to overcome the challenges of community

As articulated by focus group discussants and interviewees, Community participation is definitely perceived as the secret of the success of their ERAE activities especially at the grassroots level in their area. The type of participation was both in kind and in cash in the study area. There was usually confusion from the community to participate in environmental program and practices like LLPPA randomly, since the adoption of ER is reached through consensus of both community and the local government, which must meet the aspirations of all classes of the local community in the study area. A response forwarded by one of the CBAs' representative to question presented by the researcher supports this situation, saying:

“I was not involved in the contribution of something's for the ER issues in my village for the last two years that is why because there was some selected poor individuals who work and paid by the Woreda government, so I didn't consider ER as my concern last time”.

However, the local people's participation in both ER and AE took as the cornerstone of the development process in the study area recently. Community based ER practice played great role in the reduction of inequalities and alleviation of poverty in the rural areas where the majority of the study area's poor and marginalized group reside.

Among the various strategic plan of ERAE, the study area people's participation at the grass-root level has been reducing both poverty and inequality by increasing the agricultural products and empowering their community as the whole. The *Woreda* guiding manual of development also emphasize that participation by the local people in the institutions and systems which govern their lives is a basic human right and also essential for realignment of political power in favor of the disadvantaged groups of social and economic development.

Due to the biasness with previous agricultural extensions and environment rehabilitation strategies, participation by communities became dilemmatic to contribute the economic growth of the area through popular support and local collective action.

Accordingly, the Chairman indicated that, the main thrust behind the concern for community participation grew out of biasness from previous approach to participatory ERAE practices in the study area, to show the community participation can be means for ensuring that the ERAEs activities in the area would be reached in the most efficient and cost-effective way of achieving food security and safe environment for their locality.

Furthermore, community participation created consequently the expectation of even the poorest to share in the cost as well as the benefits of community in their environment changes, so as for the increase in agricultural productivities. That is why in the study area, the elements of local action are related to local participation efforts by community members planned at building the community and improving the welfare and standard of living of the people.

One of the *Woreda* experts from Agricultural Development Office put forward that, the local people involvement by being more than a few individuals in a situation or action to improve their welfare or to achieve their ERAE planned activities, the process of capacity building like continuous training in the fields of the area, highly attracts the local people at the grass-roots level in collective actions and creative activities of ERAE in the study area.

Finally, since CBAs involves empowering community members: to manage their own resources, in their soil and water conservation processes, practicing the improved fallow and, using improved seeds and recommended amounts of fertilizers to enhance their agricultural productivity, empowers the local community and realized the degree of success for the local government.

Because the study area has the trend of discussion between expert and community especially the communities on the scale of one to five structure mentioned, concerning the degree of community member empowerment or capacity building to manage their resources, to discuss about their locality development strength and weakness, to discuss about the failure and success in its relation to the community participation, to ensure the effectiveness of the existing structure of the local government and communities, to approve the mechanisms through which the community involve in their ERAE activities.

This discussion consisted of one of *Woreda* government representative, expert from Agricultural Development and Natural Resources Development Offices, DAs, *Kebele* councils, and CBAs representatives and the one to five model farmers structure selected from each 29 *Kebeles*, on the basis of their activities of taking and practicing different technologies as well as involved in their different community based ERAE activities in their area.

Based on the qualitative data, shared understanding and agreement on the process and direction of the community mobilization basically on problem identification and goals capacity-building process is considered as the only condition for a successful collaborative and participatory process in the study area. In the last 10 years the community-government collaboration's main problems included: lack of consultation and work with the community in ERAEs and the distrust in the budget allocation between community and government which in turn made the negotiation of agreements more difficult in the study area.

In capacity-building processes initiated by the local governments, a first stage of consultation and working with the community constitutes a fundamental building block for a future collaboration processes in each and every ERAE activities in the area. Capacity building is a

necessary means to enhance collaboration and effective communication between government and communities for common needs to be understood as a long-term goal and as a process that first focuses on degraded land and food insecurity problems definition and goals, allocating resources and power-sharing and supporting community capacity to control the problem mentioned so as to arrive at improved agricultural and environment protection practices in the area.

The present structure of community-government relationship that was established by the needs of both the local government and the community, become a critical element in building the capacity of the local people in the study area. The strategies in the community structure is used for the ERAE problem identification, to confirm the provision of links and resources to facilitate the implementation of community plans, and the provision of mandate to control all the resources need to improve the ERAE activities in the study area.

Accordingly, the data indicated that, the flexibility in plan-setting, respect for process of the ERAE activities, willingness to take risks and a tolerance for ambiguity made by the local government, local community's ensured transparency of the process and community-based accountable team within the local people in the study area.

In addition to these fact, the community mobilization and community capacity building was needed to be adapted and re-created to respond to the specific contextual and situational factors of the community in the study area. The important element was in order to have a clearly identified set of principles (e.g., accountability, transparency of community participation process in the ERAE) to guide the adaptation while maintaining flexibility in ERAE's implementation in the study area.

4.6.2 Encouraging Accountability and Decision-Making in ERAE

As the qualitative data indicated that, allocation for government resources of the communities combined with the commitment of the community has been increasing the democratic processes of participation and provided the basis for the collaboration across community groups with the *Woreda* and *Kebele* councils. The role of the local government in fostering community participation was linked to the target of resources for creating those appropriate structural conditions that facilitate collaboration and democratic participation of the local people enhances the accountability and decision making of the community in their agricultural and environmental issues in the study area.

In general, each community mobilization in the ERAE processes needed the community vision that allowed different community based organizations to sustain their own efforts in order to work together in their area. The release of controlling process of the resources by governments to communities required to increase the commitment level of the community to be accountable in the matters of decision-making, sense of ownership and administration of the activities mentioned above in the study area. As one of the respondents directed that, the absence of clarity in the aspects of accountability and responsibility in the resources utilization of ERAE activities, negatively impacted on the improvements of the ERAE in the study area.

4.7 Consideration of Cross-Cutting Issues in Community- ERAE

Based on the data obtained from different respondents, empowerment of the community considered as the expansion of freedom of the local people's choice and action to shape their livelihood in the study area. Similarly, the expansion of assets and capabilities of the people to participate in, negotiate with, influence, control and create accountability in their area also facilitates access for: information, participation, accountability and local CBAs capacity

building. According to the focus group discussants information, increasing the power/capacity of the disadvantaged, marginalized women, men and children requires mainly, the removal of *Woreda* and to some extent *Kebele* level institutional barriers that prevent them from taking action to improve their wellbeing individually and collectively (see section 4.5.1).

4.7.1 Gender

In relation to gender aspect community participation in ERAE includes participation of women in planning and implementation; decision making and control of resources were assessed through household survey and FGDs. According to the result 85.07% of the respondents said that women and men participants in environmental rehabilitation and agricultural extension program and practices involve equally in the study area. This indicates that there is high women empowerment activities are practiced in Boloso Sore *Woreda* (see figure 8).

While 8.7% of the respondent said that, women are selective for some specific area of participation. These means, there are areas and conditions where women do not involve in different ERAE activities like keeping their local area security and in the case where there is a male headed household, the mother cannot participate in planning, implementation and decision making activities, represent her house unless the husband is died or disappeared in any case from the area.

Besides this fact, lack of time due to work load at home, socio-cultural factors such as the tradition or culture that do not encourage equal participation of women and men, do not allow women to take equal part in decision –making in social and economic setting in general. FGDs with women also confirmed that women participate in labor activities in agricultural extension and environmental rehabilitation, through mass mobilization, preparing food and coffee for the

males who are working in the field. However, women do not involve in planning and decision making activities most often in the study area.

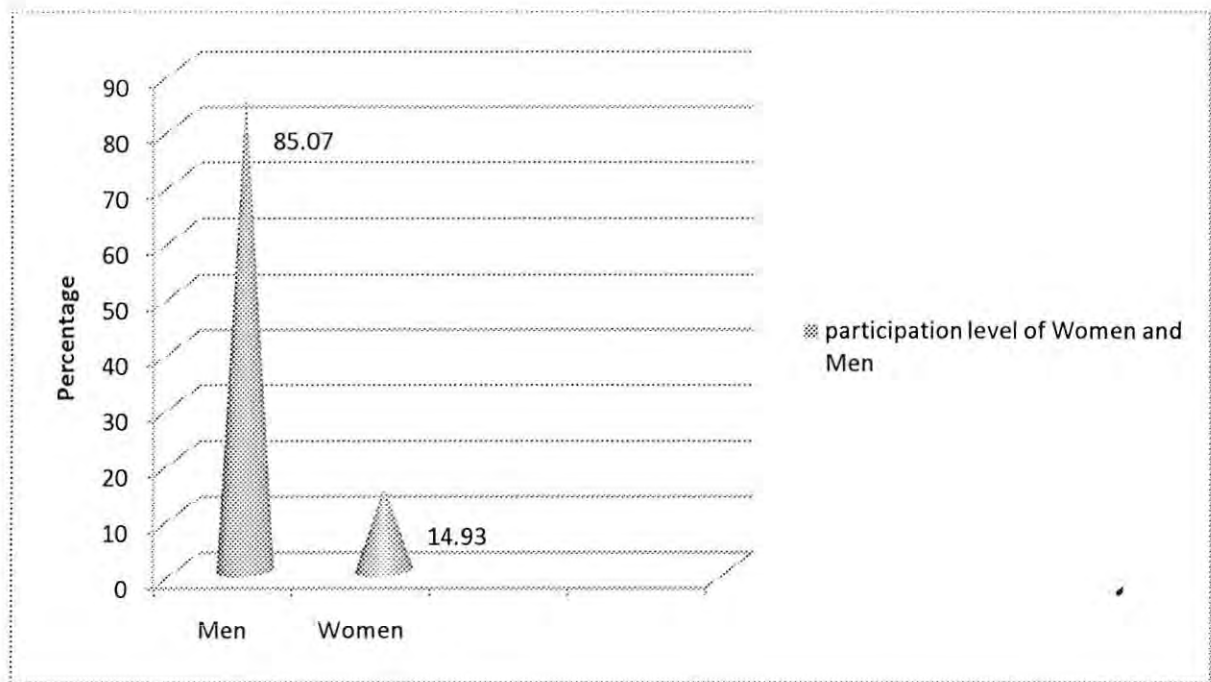


Figure 8. Participation levels of women and men

N=147

CHAPTER FIVE

5. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Conclusions

Based on the analyses and the discussions that have been made by the study, the following major Conclusions are made possible.

- Unsatisfactory level of community participation basically in resources distribution and decision making activities through the local power structure and available mechanisms in agricultural extension and environmental rehabilitation practices has been found to be one of the major contributing factors for the unsatisfactory agricultural productivity and degradation of the environment in the study area. However, the role of the local government in facilitating the structure to the local community with relevant agricultural and environmental issues awareness creations and capacity building is being improved.
- The given structure within the study area operates not only the agricultural extension and environmental rehabilitation activities but also become very important tool to mobilize any political issues and other unrelated field works thrown from the *Woreda* councils to the DAs in the study area. Therefore, the co-ordination level, resources controlling, critical identification of the communities need and goals to plan, two way communication between the government and community, site selection to implement through high degree of community involvement and trends of continuous follow up of the local government down to *Kebele* level for the ongoing activities especially, in the practices of improved fallows, use of cover crops, practices to control soil erosion and use of green manure, are not as such successful.

- The success of ERAE activities implementation at local level is also highly determined by the level of community participation in each and every agriculture and environmental problems, such as loss of soil fertility, water pollution and scarcity, land degradation due to soil erosion, deforestation and overgrazing, drought, poor waste management system that deserve an active intervention of the local government have been identified in the study area.
- Local people in the study area, have developed and adopted several traditional mechanisms of community participation in the activities ERAE by forming active development collaborative groups locally named as '*Dagguwa*' this kind of group participates only in the LED like conserving land and water resources, road construction, sustaining their agricultural livelihood; enhancing their productivity and integrating their indigenous technologies with the modern ones. The other is '*Shankka*', which is another important group that local people used traditionally only for hunting and means of evaluating an individual's level of strength and good hunter. Finally, '*Bitta Chimma*' this type of group used for internal Conflict resolution made within the local people and secure peace and stability within the communities themselves. These all have been taken into considered due to the local people's behavior of accepting information immediately from their neighbor and CBAs than, the other *Woreda* and *Kebele* officials in the study area.

➤ In the face of such a gap in planning, implementation, decision making and resources distribution between the local community's ERAE needs and the local government's response, community-government collaboration has been suggested as a working intervention strategy in all the activities in the study area. However, the strategy faces certain challenges associated with the local community (e.g., psychology of dependency, lack of understanding of the policy process, lack of access to information, absence of rural representation in the previous time, lack of certain community groups in the decision-making process, lack of commitment, lack of unity, among the community), and the local government (e.g., reliance on volunteers, problems of accountability, inadequacies in support services, untruthful attitude of government toward rural communities, insufficient coordination, lack of transparency within the administrative bodies working procedure and lack of experienced and committed staff in the *Woreda*). Contrarily, there are windows of opportunities for furthering such a partnership from the community's (e.g., the presence of indigenous knowledge), CBAs', local governments' and other stakeholders' perspectives.

5.2 Recommendations

Based on the major findings of the study, the followings are recommended.

- Attitudinal and behavioral changes among the local community should be created through the provision of continuous training and action-oriented agricultural extension and environmental rehabilitation education at both formal, informal and the non formal settings.
- The local government should facilitate all important conditions for the community in order to participate in the planning, implementations, decision making and controls of the resources of their area for efficient and effective improvements of the both agricultural and environmental issues in the area.
- The government and other concerned stakeholders should find the root causes of local community's lesser commitment and interest level in the participation of the planning and implementation activities of ERAE in their area.
- The Committee (*Dichcha Yarra*) including both the local community and the CBAs representatives should be established only to improve the agricultural productivity and environmental rehabilitations of the area, by mobilizing community engagement in the ERAE program and practices more effectively in the area.
- Community and local government collaboration with respect to environmental protection and agricultural productivity should further be consolidated. To this end, its associated challenges should clearly be detected and remedial measures should be undertaken against the same.

- Indigenous knowledge resource of the local community should properly be harnessed, documented, and integrated with the scientific methods of resource conservation. In this regard, the local government with other stakeholders can play a great role.
- The local government and community structure should be strengthen, coordinated and employed to ensure active participation of the community in ERAE activities. The CBAs, marginalized group and women must be considered in the membership of the work force task.
- Gender dimension of community participation ERAE activities must be reconsidered participation of women in decision making and planning of ERAE activities must be ensured by the women.
- Finally, in line with this study, further research works with greater sample size and scope should be carried out for better understand the multi-dimensional issues like a community engaged outcome and research being shallowly addressed in this study.

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SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE FOR HOUSEHOLDS

Introduction

The researcher, Merihun Fikru is one of the postgraduate students of Regional and Local Development Study Department at Addis Ababa University. He is currently conducting a study as a partial fulfillment for the requirement of his Masters degree. His study is entitled as, "Challenges and Prospects of Community Participation in Improving the Local Socio-Economic Development: *A case studies of Boloso Sore Woreda*". The main purpose of this survey questionnaire is to collect relevant data on the study's topic. The response that you are going to give for all the questions will anonymously be included in the analysis of the study; and the findings of the study will be used only for academic purposes. Hence, feel free while responding to the questions as your genuine response will subsequently determine the overall quality and reliability of the study. Finally, this questionnaire paper has two major parts. The first part includes questions on the socioeconomic and demographic characteristics of the sample households while the second part includes the main questions of the study.

Instructions:

- Respondents are not required to write their name on any part of the paper
- Put a tick (✓) in the provided answer boxes or choose and encircle the letter with an appropriate answer (NB: You can circle, choose and tick if you have more than one answer or alternative).
- State a clear, precise and direct answer for the open-ended questions on the spaces provided under the questions.

PART ONE: Basic Information of the Sample Households

1. Sex of the household's head: Female _____ Male
2. Marital status: Married not married Divorced Widowed
3. Age: 15-49 50-59 ≥60
4. Educational status: Illiterate Read and write Grade 1-4 Grade 5-8
Grade 9-10 Grades 11-12 others (specify) -----
5. Family size: Female..... Male..... Total.....
6. Type of job: Farming Petty trade Handcraft Retired Others (specify)

7. Land holding size (in hectare): Landless $\leq 1-0.5$ ha $0.06 - 0.75$ ha
 $0.76-1.0$ ha $1.1-2.0$ ha ≥ 2 ha
8. Average monthly income of the households: ≤ 100 Birr $101-350$ Birr
 $351-650$ Birr $651-100$ Birr ≥ 1001 Birr
9. Household's asset:

No	Type of asset	Number of assets						Remark
		1	2	3	4	5	≥ 6	
1	Ox							
2	Cow							
3	Heifer							
4	Calf							
5	Donkey							
6	Mule							
7	Horse							
8	Beehive							
9	Poultry							
10	Goat							
11	Sheep							
12	others							

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!!!

PART TWO: Main Questions of the Study

1. Do the local peoples participate currently in different local socio-economic development activities in your area? a) Yes b) No
2. If yes, which type of the local socio-economic development activities are undertaken by the involvement of the community currently in your area?
- a) SWCP
- b) ISF
- c) PSE
- d) ERP
- e) AEP
- f) Others(specify)-----

3. In which of the above mentioned activities do you participate, currently?

4. What are the specific contributions of you and your family in the activities you involved?

No.	Activities	Put (√) or mark on your participation
1	Involving in the AE and ER planning	
2	Deciding the site SWCP of implementation	
3	Contribution of labor force, money and equipment to ERAE activities when necessary	
4	Participating in both physical and financial resource distribution	
5	Controlling resources available in the activities of ERAE	
6	Coordinating the local peoples in the participation processes being committee	
7	Other (specify)	
8	None	

5. Do you think that, there are factors that hinder the community involvement in different environmental and agricultural development activities?

- 1) Yes 2) No

6. If your answer for question 5 is yes, what are those factors?

7. How do you see about government coordination level of community in ERAE activities?-----

8. At what position have you participated in the ERAE you mentioned in question 4.

- a) Community member
- b) Elected community committee
- c) Elderly
- d) Community leader
- e) *Kebele* council member
- f) None
- g) Other (specify) -----

9. If your answer for question 8 is none, what could be your reasons?

- a) Lack of information
- b) I was not told to participation
- c) Lack of time
- d) DAs did it
- e) *Kebele* Cabinets did it
- f) *Woreda* did it
- g) Health extension workers did it
- h) Teachers did it
- i) Other (specify) -----

10. Then, who is responsible for the following activities in your area?

No	Activities	Code
a	Type of ERAE activities in your area	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10
b	Site selection of the activities	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10
c	Identification of each activities in the area	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10
d	Determining the structure and mechanisms of community involvement in ERAE activities	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10
e	Planning and implementing in health and education service delivery activities	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10
f	Determining the site of environment rehabilitation practices	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10
g	Responsible in agricultural extension by using different technologies	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10
h	Planning and implementing practices in the environment rehabilitation activities	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10
i	Implementation of better agricultural extension technologies	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10
j	Responsibility of resources distribution i.e. both physical and financial resources (including budget allocation in every fiscal years)	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10
k	Provision of different equipments to ERAE service delivery better in your area	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10
l	Control of resources in the activities in your area	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10
m	Problems made in the involvement of community in ERAE activities	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10
n	Provision of training for the community so as to involve more in the ERAE activities	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10
o	Empowering women to participate equally with the male in every ERAE activities	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10
p	Accountability for each resources in the area	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10

➤ Refer the following codes given below in order to circle question number 10.

- 1) *Woreda* Natural Resources office
- 2) *Woreda* experts
- 3) *Woreda* agriculture development office
- 4) *Woreda* council
- 5) DAs
- 6) *Kebele* health extension workers
- 7) *Kebele* teachers and school administrative
- 8) *Kebele's* administration structure
- 9) Community Based Associations
- 10) Non-government organizations

Indicate your level of agreement/disagreement on the items in the table below by putting an "X" under the corresponding numbers (1=strongly disagree 2= disagree 3=undecided 4= agree & 5= strongly agree

S.N	Items	score					Remark
		1	2	3	4	5	
1	Strong leadership structure and community involvement are highly practiced to minimize the leadership challenges so as to enhance the ERAE recently in your area.						
2	Currently, acts of responsibility, good governance, equity and justice in resources distribution through the given structure is intentionally carried out for the benefit of the community in your area.						
3	Planning and implementation activities of ERAE by using the local community are being undertaken on a regular basis in your area						
4	Transparency and accountability in decision making, budgeting and control of resources are highly carried out in your area.						
5	Different CBAs have played huge parts in tackling inequalities and promoting the ERAE in your area						
6	Strong interest of involving community especially, young people in ERAE is highly encouraged in your area.						
7	Based on the highly improving characteristics of the community participation in ERAE, the future BS will be better.						

GENDER ASPECTS OF COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

1) Do male and female work for equal position in all ERAE developmental activities?

1) Yes

2) No

2) If no, whose participation is more in planning, and implementation of the activities?

1) Male

2) Female

3) Do female and male; participate equally in decision making processes of ERAE

activities affaires?

1) Yes

2) No

4) If your answer for question 3 is No, please mention some of your reason.

5) Do you think that females can participate equally as male in soil and water conservation and in other agricultural productivities activities?

1) Yes

2) No

6) If your answer for question number 5 is no, please, mention some your reasons

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!!!

Annex I

So Asawu Shiiqiyaa Pilggetta (xinaatiyaa) Oysha

Doomettaa

Ha pilgettaa oosuwa oottiyaa Manttaa Fiqqiru Merrihunna majja, Addisaabaa Yuniversittiyan Herra Dichcha Timirte Kifiliyaa tamaare gidishin ha'ii wodiyan ba tamaariyo na'antto digiriyaa timirttiyaa polanawu koshshiyaa pilggettaa (xinaatiyaa) oosuwaa "Challenges and Prospects of Community Participation in Improving Local Socio-Economic Development" yaagiya huuphe yohuwan Boloso Sorreni ottiiddi de'ees. Ha pilggetta oyshaassi de'iyaa gophphe halchchoy pilggettaa oosuwawu maaddiya naqaashaa shishshannaassa. Hagaappe kaallidi de'iyaa oyshatussi intee immiyo zaaroy intte sunttay qonccenna meran pilggettaa gididon geliyagaa gidishin pilggettaa wurssettan beettanawu de'iyaa demotti ('findings') qalame timirte go'aa xalaalaassi pee'anawu de'iyaaageeta gidiyo gishshawu zaaruwaa immiyo wodiyan siranawu koshshenna. Ha pilggetta oysha woraqatay muleera naa'u shemppuwan shaahettees. Koyro shemppoy so asawu de'iyaa aquwaa-peeshshaa duusaa hanotata (eeshshata) xeelliya oyshata oyqqidaagaa gidishin naa'antto shemppoy qassi pilggettaassi kuushsha gidiya oyshata oyqqiis.

Kaaletuwaa:-

- I. Ha woraqataa bollan ne suntta xaafiyogaa koshshenna.
- II. Dooroy imettido oyshatussi zaaruwaa immiyo saaxinetun beeriyaa woykko likke (✓) malaataa wottiyoogan woykko zaaruwaa oyqqida dooruwa pitaliyaa enccuriyooogan zaarite.
- III. Xaafidi zaariyo oyshatussi qanttanne qoncce gidida zaaruwa imettida mela sohotun xaafite.

Koyro Shempuwa: Zaruwaa Immiya Asatu Oonateta Naqaashaa

1. Keettaawaa mattuma: 1) Macca 2) Attuma
2. Machchiyo/geliyo hanotaa: Machchidaagaa Machchibennagaa
Machchidi birshshidaagaa
3. Laytta (Bariyaa): 15-49 50-59 ≥60
4. Timirttiyaa xekkaa: a. Tamaaribenaagaa b. Nabbabiyoogaanne xaafiyooqa kanchchiya eriyaggaa c. Kifile 1-4 tamaridaggaa Kifile 5-8 tamaridaggaa
e. Kifile 9-10 tamaridaggaa f. Kifile 11-12 tamaridaggaa g. Hara timirte xekkata gakkiko qonccissaa.....

5. So asaa qooda: Macca..... Attuma.....xaaxi-waaxin.....

6. Oosuwa qommuwaa: Goshshaa Zal'iyaa kushe hiillaa Kawo oosuwaa
Shemppuwan(xuratan) de'iyagaa Dummatiya oosota gidikko
qonccissa.....

7. Goshsha biittaa yesuwa (hektaariyaan): Biittay baynnaagaa .5ha
0.75ha 0.76-1.0ha 1.1-2.0 ha >2ha

8. So asaassi aginan geliyaa mishshaa qoodaa: ≤100 Biraa 101-350 Biraa 351-
650 Biraa 651-1000 Biraa ≥1001 Biraa

9. So asaassi de'iyaa mehiyaa qomootanne qoodaa:

Payduwa Maraa	Mehiyaa(buquraa) qommuwaa	Mehiyaa(buquraa) qoodaa						Xeeluwaa
		12	3	4	5	6	>6	
1	Booraa/Mirrguwa							
2	Maattaa miizzaa							
3	Ussaa							
4	Miizzee							
5	Hariyaa							
6	Baluquwaa							
7	Paraa							
8	Mattaa kootta							
9	Kuttuwaa							
10	Deeshshaa							
11	Dorssaa							
12	Harabata							

KEHEPPE GALLATAYISSI////////

Naa''antto Shemppuwaa: Xinaatiyawu Ayfe Gidiyaa Oyshata

1. Heera asay hayi deiya dumma dumma heeraa dere aqo dichchaa qaattatun gelidi ottioy hannotayi de7ii ?

a. Ee

b. Chii

2. Ee gikko , heeraa asaye bamataani heeran de7iya heera dere aqo dichchaa ooso qaattatuppe eti gelidi dumma maaduwa bonttaappe koshshiyaaba oottiy oogeti awugeetee ?

a. Payyatettaa

b. Timirttiyaa

c. Macca asa merreta

d. Heera mereta naguwa

e. Goshsha ossuwa kalluwaa

f. Haggetuppedummagidikko shakkada yotta -----

3. Qommora qonccissido oosotappe ha saatiyan neeni shaakkiyo ooso qommotti awugeetee?-----

4. Neeni giddo gelada shaahettiin oosotuni neeni ne so assaye oottiyo dummattidia he oosotun ayebbee ?

Paydduwa	Ooso qaatata	Ha-malaa tanne beeraa qonccissa()
1	Dichchaa halchchwaa kesuwen shoochettiyaagaa	
2	Woqqan , mishshaane hara buqurata deriyaawu galiyo sirattan beera	
3	Ossay oosettiyo sohuwaa maaciyaagan	
4	Dumma dumma mishshaane hara buqurata deriyaawu xelyaagoo	
5	Dumma dumma heera buqurota kaaliyagga weyyikko xelliyaga	

6	Heera ossay baheeraa dichchaa oosoya oottana mala deterettiyoogaan	
7	Harabaati de7ikko qaneeissaa	
8	Mulle ba kalluwa	

5. Derettay duma duma ba heera dera aqo dichchaa oosotun gelidi baappe naageettiyaabatun shaahetteennaaden xubbiyabati de7oosana gaada qoppay?

a. Ee

b. Chii

6. Qomorra de7iya oysha payduwa 5 Ee, gikko, ha xubbiyabati aybattee?-----

7. Derettay ba-heeran dere-aqo dichchaa oosotun shaahette naaden dereteta osuwaawu denterettiyo yekka hanota watta yeellayii? shaahauwaa beeraa dumma osoyii?-----

8. Oysha payduwa 4 ni neani qanccissido ne heeraa dere aqo dichchaa qaattetun ne shaahuwaa beeraa dumma sahayii?

a. Derreteta yeraadane

b. Heeran doonettida kenttiya

c. Heeran cimmadan

d. Dereteta gaddawa

e. Kabbaliyaa zorreta ketta yarra

f. Mulle baa

g. Hara dummatyagaa qonccissa-----

9. Ne zaarwaa qommoye oyeshaa payduwan 8 chii baa gikko , neyyo gaaso gidonawo danddayiyabaya aybee?

- a. Naqashshaa pacatetta
- b. Taani oosatu giddo gezedo oottana wala odetti – erenna gishshawa
- c. Gidiya wode bayenna gishshawu
- d. Goshsha osanchayi yottido gishshawu
- e. Qabbaliya zorreta yaratti yottido gishshayo
- f. Woredda bahuppe
- g. Payyatete osanichcha
- h. Asstemmaretta
- i. Heera neni oodiyobi dikko odda-----

10. Hegga gidikko onne yatteni haubabssi oyeshettiyayi?

payduwa	Oottana oosotta	Malattattaa
A	Ayemmala ossoye ossetide7ii	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10
B	Otteyo sohhuwa onni dorri	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10
C	Ottana ossuwa onni dumayii	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10
D	Wattdi shshakane ottana ossuwa , oggiya ,ne kalluwa dummatetta	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10
E	Ottana ossuwa hallichchuwa ne sanni dugge wottiyoga	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10
F	Bittaye hattni mechchetdi xayennni onne naggeti	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10
G	Goshsha ossuwasi kummetta awattete	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10
H	Halluchchuwa ossuwa otteyoga	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10
I	Orrat goshsha ossuwa kaliyagga	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10
J	Awattetaye dei77ga mishsha giddied hare benikka	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10
K	Koshshiyiba ubba immyoga	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10
L	Kallidi ubbaba awattetani kalliyoga	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10
M	Assaye ottishshin merettiya mettota melliyaga	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10

N	Erra gijjuwa ossuwa	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10
o	Machchasa lohhesuwa	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10
P	Kawwuttetan oyeshshtanashin dei77e yoga	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10

Bollara dei77eyagettu payedottusi immetida mallata duggerra dessi.

1. worreda payatetta kalliya ketta
2. worreda timmirtiya kalliya ketta
3. worreda goshsha ossuwa kalliya ketta
4. worreda kawotetta
5. dichcha ossanchcha
6. qabbaliya payatetta ossanichcha
7. qabbaliya asttamaretta
8. qabbaliya ayessiyagetta
9. mabbaratta
10. parranjjata(kawoo kettape dummatiygetta)

Machchasa telliyaba

1. derre machchasa ne attumasa lagge tiliye?

a. Ee

b. Chii

2. ayyesi mettoye ayebbe -----

KEHEPPE GALLATAYISSI////////

Interview guide for key informants

1. Interview for *Woreda* experts

- 1) How is the current situation of community participation in the improving the existing fallow method, using of cover crops, use of farm implements for soil and water conservation, practicing to control soil erosion and using of green manure in your *Woreda*?
- 2) How is the present situation of community participation in planning, implementation, decision making, and control of resources specifically in the activities of ERAE in your *Woreda*?
- 3) What are the major structures to ensure participation of community in planning, implementation, resource distribution and decision making at *Woreda* level in your area?
- 4) What are the major causes for and consequences of community participation to involve in different environmental protection and agricultural development activities at grassroots level?
- 5) What mechanisms do you use to encourage community so as to increase their commitment and involve in ERAE activities at *Kebele* level?
- 6) How do you explain the relevance of existing structures in encouraging community to involve in the environmental protection from damage and enhances agricultural productivities in your *Woreda*?
- 7) What advantages and disadvantages do you observe in the participation of the community in respect to gender?
- 8) How do you see the participation of the women compared with men in over all planning, implementation, decision making and control of resources so as to bring improvement in ERAE activities in the area?
- 9) What roles does Community Based Associations (CBA) play in planning, implementation, decision making, and control of resources in the area?

- 10) What are problems encountered by community while planning, implementation, decision making, and control of resources so as to bring the change in ERAE in your area?
- 11) In what procedure do *Kebeles* and community level committees are elected in order to coordinate the activities?
- 12) What is the contribution of local government on the encouragements of community to involve more in improving the agricultural productivities and environmental rehabilitation activities in the area?
- 13) How do you see the future condition of community participation in planning, implementation, decision - making and control of resources so as to improve the agricultural productivities and environmental protection practices in the area?

2. Interview for CBAs Representatives

- 1) How do you see the current situation of community participation level in different activities of improving the agricultural extension and the environmental rehabilitation practices in your village?
- 2) Have you ever participated in planning, implementation, decision making, and control of resources through the available structure in agricultural and environmental rehabilitation program and practices in your area?
- 3) How do you see the existing structure relevance in encouraging the community to involve more in the ERAE activities with full interest and commitment?
- 4) What do you think as the problem in your area with respect to community structure?
- 5) What are the major causes for and consequences of community participation in your area?

6) What are the major mechanisms to ensure participation of community in planning, implementation, resource distribution and decision making well in ERAE activities at village level?

7) What roles does Community Based Associations (CBA) play in planning, implementation, decision making, and control of resources in ERAE at *Kebele* level?

8) What advantages and disadvantages do you observe in the participation of the community in terms of gender?

9) How do you see the participation of the women compared with men in over all planning, implementation, decision making and control of resources so as to bring improved ERAE activities in the area?

10) What problems are encountered by Community Based Associations (CBA) and the communities at large while planning, implementation, decision making, and control of resources so as to improve the ERAE activities well?

11) What is the contribution of local government leading the Community Based Associations (CBAs) to involve in more in ERAE: construction of contours and terraces, protection of gullies, bulking of seed/planting materials required for agro-forest, improving the seeds and fertilizers utilizations activities?

12) How do you measure the accountability and responsibility level of the local government in facilitating the planning, implementation, decision making and control of resources to be done by the greatest participation of the local community?

13) Have you ever given the capacity building like continuous training and action based trip about the way how to increase the agricultural product and environmental rehabilitation in your area?

14) How do you relate participation of the community and democracy in the involvement of the local people in different activities of ERAE?

15) How do you see the future condition of community participation in planning, implementation, decision - making and control of resources to bring better local socio-economic developments in the area?

CHECKLIST FOR FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION

- 1) Discuss the level of knowledge about the structure and mechanisms of community participation in the improvements of different ERAE activities in your area.
- 2) What relevant means should be made within the community to participate, share information work jointly and consulted in planning, implementation, control of the resources and decision making.
- 3) Discuss the significance of community participation in improving the ERAE in your area.
- 4) Discuss the major problems of community participation in planning, implementation, decision making and control of resources in relation to the ERAE activities of your area.
- 5) Discuss the appropriate way that participate women and men equally in all over the ERAE processes.
- 6) Discuss the relationship between the local government and local community accountability and responsibility level in planning, implementation, decision making and control of the resources in your area.
- 7) Discuss the current and future situation of the community participation level in ERAE activities in your own perception.