

Factors Affecting Land Management Performance in Ethiopia: The Case of Wolmera Woreda

Mulatu Eticha Guma¹

¹Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Land Administration and Use Executive Office.

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Abstract

The main objective of this study is to identify major factors affecting rural land management performance in Walmara woreda, West Shoa zone of the Oromia regional state. The document also investigated the impact of land certification on farmers' perceived land tenure security and land management practices, particularly its advantages for economic empowerment and sense of ownership. To identify the main factors for land management performance and show direction for policymakers for land degradation that adversely affects the land management performance of the agricultural sector. The simple random sampling method was used to collect data from 377 respondents in Wolmera Woreda, in Berfeta Tokefa, and Nano Geneti Kebele.

Both primary and secondary data were collected from different sources, including rural land administration and use at regional, zonal, district, and kebele levels as the primary source of our data, and other reports and publications were also used as secondary data sources. Primary data were collected using semi structured interviews, focus group discussions, key informant interviews, and office and field observation. The collected data were analysed using descriptive statistics, including mean, median, frequency, and bar charts. Findings from both focus group discussions and semi-structured interviews indicate that farmers' land tenure security and access to financial loans improved following land certification.

Moreover, land management practices such as tree planting and investment in organic fertilisers showed notable increases after farmers obtained land certification and access to credit.

This highlights land certification as a key strategy for enhancing farmers' land management. Consequently, both the federal government and regional states should prioritize issuing certified land titles for all rural lands to strengthen land management performance nationwide, with particular attention to Walmera woreda.

Keywords: Land Certification, Land Management Practice, Land Tenure, and Land Rights Security.

I. INTRODUCTION

In most developing countries, land is linked to people's culture, identity, and dignity. This claim is often expressed in the folklore of these countries. For example, in Ethiopian national and heroic songs and poems, land is considered a dignity (i.e., the honor a person gives to himself) that soldiers are fighting for (Bezu and Holden, 2014).

Since the period of colonial rule, Ethiopian land policies have had impacts on resource allocation and agricultural development (Götz 2019; FAO 2008).

Ethiopia's landscapes are very diverse and stretch from deserts to volcanoes and highlands. It has an area of 1,104,300 sq. km, which makes it roughly as wide as France and Spain combined. More than 70% of Africa's mountains are found in Ethiopia.

The key source of the country's economy is farming, which accounts for approximately 50% of the GDP, 85% of total import/export revenue, and more than 80% of total employment (Ethiopian Economics Association, 2008; Cochrane and Vercillo, 2019).

The current study provides insights into the range of actions regarding the land tenure system linked to SDGs in

general and SDG 15, or “Life on Land,” in particular, at the country level in Ethiopia. Presently, 40% of the Earth’s land surface is already used for agriculture, and arable land tenure will increase under protectionist paradigms for food security.

Another new incorporation in the new proclamation pertains to displacement compensation paid for rural landholders who are permanently displaced from their holdings. When we consult Proclamation No. 455/2005, “A rural landholder whose landholding has been permanently expropriated shall be paid displacement compensation, which shall be equivalent to ten times the average annual income he secured during the five years preceding the expropriation of the land” (Article 8 of Proclamation No. 455/2005, 2005)

In the Ethiopian context, the main goal of land certification is an attempt by the government to ensure the security of tenure and protect the rights of farmers by registering their respective holdings and providing certificates that will further guarantee holders so that they will not face another loss through land redistribution, at least for 20–30 years (Nzioki, 2006). The Oromia region is believed to target fulfilling the conditions to support the economic development endeavor of the country in general and contribute to the overall development effort of the region in particular. However, as argued by Lyons and Chandra (2001), the complete benefit of certification is likely to be achieved only when all land administration components are operational and efficient.

The main objectives of this study seek to investigate factors affecting land management performance in Walmara woreda of Nano Genet and Barfata Tokefa kebele west Shoa zone of Oromia regional state.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Land was the most vital resource on earth, from which humankind derives almost all its basic needs. Land plays a significant role in economic, social, political, and cultural dimensions. In terms of economic use, it serves as a basis for livelihood; in terms of social aspects, land is a space for interaction; in terms of politics, land is the source of power; in terms of culture, land is a symbol of collective identity. Administration of this vital resource (land) was a major issue underlying social, economic, and cultural development (Plimmer, 2011).

Rural land was both an economic and a political/social question in present-day Ethiopia. The insertion of the issue of land in the Ethiopian constitution in the early 1990s, however, might indicate that rural land has increasingly become a political affair.

Land degradation is one of our most pressing ecological challenges, with more than 75% of land worldwide currently impacted. These losses affect an estimated 3.2 billion people that are dependent on degraded land for food, water, and other essential ecosystem services (IPBES, 2019). Together with climate

change, land degradation is undermining the livelihood of local communities, displacing populations from traditional lands, and causing rapid and widespread loss of biodiversity (Muleta, 2025).

III. METHODOLOGY (APPROACH)

The study was based on both primary and secondary sources of information. Primary data was collected through a survey, focus group discussions, and field observation. Secondary data was collected from governmental organizations at the regional and woreda levels. The sources and methods used to obtain data for the research are presented below. Primary data required to validate the research question are collected from primary or original sources to get the required data from the primary sources through in-depth interviews, focus group discussions, and field observation. These techniques are used to collect data such as land size, total household size, land registration, and the feeling of security of land rights. Secondary data was collected to analyse factors affecting land management performance on government programs. A secondary source of information includes governmental annual reports and official statistical abstracts. Visited Oromia Land Bureau, the Oromia Regional Agriculture Bureau, the Walmara woreda Rural Land Administration and Use Office, and other stakeholders in the Walmara woreda sectors.

IV. DATA RESULTS PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSIONS

This chapter presented and analysed the data collected through primary and secondary sources. The main emphasis of this project work was to assess factors affecting land management performance practices in Walmara woreda of rural land administration and use. Thus, the analysis of the data was made accessible using percentages, tables, and figures with simple mathematical calculations. The survey was conducted by distributing questionnaires to directors, team leaders, and Climate Action through Land Landscape Management for Land Administration Project for Result CALM-LA PforR project coordinators from the Walmara rural land administration, use office, agriculture, and Natural Resource Office. The questionnaires were distributed for 377 respondents.

➤ *Age Category and Distribution of Respondent Rate*

The study’s population is predominantly composed of male-headed households. Out of the total samples, 76.92% of them were male-headed farmers. Access to land is predominantly biased toward male-headed households in the area, showing the gender imbalance in the area. Table 4.2 shows that about three-fourths of the sample of landholding farmers was economically active sections of the population. The ages of 96.02% of the farmers fall in the range of 18–60 years, whereas one-third (25.79%) of the respondents were adults. The statistics of age respondent rate are the standard deviation: 0.93, mean: 2.22, and variance: 0.816, respectively.

Table 1 Age Category and Distribution of Respondent Rate

Age Distribution					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	18-30	97	25.7	25.7	25.7
	31-45	115	30.5	30.5	56.2
	46-60	150	39.8	39.8	96.0
	61-70	11	2.9	2.9	98.9
	>70	4	1.1	1.1	100.0
	Total	377	100.0	100.0	

Statistics		
Age Distribution		
N	Valid	377
	Missing	0
Mean		2.23
Std. Deviation		.903
Variance		.816

➤ Educational Qualification

The educational background qualifications of the respondents were 239 (63.39%) male, while the remaining 138 (36.60%) were female. From this, the male

respondents were the majority of the participants in the study area. The mean value was 2.24, and the standard deviation value was also 1.059.

Table 2 Educational Back Ground Level

Statistics		
Educational qualification		
N	Valid	377
	Missing	0
Mean		2.24
Std. Deviation		1.059

Educational qualification					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	High school	116	30.8	30.8	30.8
	Diploma	106	28.1	28.1	58.9
	First degree	109	28.9	28.9	87.8
	Mastr's Degree	39	10.3	10.3	98.1
	PhD	7	1.9	1.9	100.0
	Total	377	100.0	100.0	

➤ Factors that Affect Land Management Performance of Walmara Woreda Nano Genent and Barfata Tokefa kebele.

The contribution of parcels registered for tuner security rights and to solve factors affecting land management performance was very important and plays a significant role for landholders in Walmara woreda of the Oromia region and at the national level.

• Parcel Registered of Respondent Response Rate

Parcels registered status in Walmara, Woreda Male respondents: 235 (62.33%) parcels registered and 40 (10.61%) not registered. As well as female respondents, 75 (19.89%) parcels were registered, and 27 (7.16%) were not registered. Therefore, based on the information provided, there are a total of 310 (82.22%) parcels registered. in Walmara Woreda by both male and female respondents. The major parcel was found by male-headed landholders.

Table 3 Parcel Registered of Respondent Rate

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	310	82.2	82.2	82.2
	No	67	17.8	17.8	100.0
	Total	377	100.0	100.0	

• Respondent Rate to Get Certificate for Your Holding

Among the total sample size of the respondents who were certified as your landholding male respondents, 235

(62.33%) parcels were registered and 40 (10.61%) were not registered. As well as female respondents, 75 (19.89%) parcels were registered, and 27 (7.16%) were not

registered. Therefore, based on the information provided, there are a total of 310 (82.22%) parcels registered in Walmara Woreda by both male and female respondents.

The first major finding was that the parcel registered was owned by a male-headed landholder.

Table 4 Respondent Rate to Get Certificate for Your Holding.

Respondent Rate to Get Certificate for Your Holding					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	275	72.9	72.9	72.9
	No	102	27.1	27.1	100.0
	Total	377	100.0	100.0	

- The Types and Levels of Certificates Respondent Rate*

Second-Level Land Certificates suggest that land certification is a significant aspect of livelihood and property rights within the community. The distribution of certificate levels and types among males and females is the most prevalent, with second-level landholding certificates

totalling a total of 259 (68.70%), indicating that this was likely the most recognized or required level of certification in the Walmara Woreda of Nano Genet and Barfata Tokefa Kebele. The primary book (green book) of certificates was the second most common, with 97 (25.70%) certificates issued. The temporary Book of Certificates (paper) has the least representation, with only 21 (5.57%) certificates.

Table 5 Types and Level of Certificate Holding of Respondent Rate

Level of Certificate of Holding					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Temporary	21	5.6	5.6	5.6
	Primary	97	25.7	25.7	31.3
	Second level	259	68.7	68.7	100.0
	Total	377	100.0	100.0	

- Respondent Rate Responses on Land Holding Clearly Demarcated*

The major finding of high percentage of 266 (70.6%) demarcated land holdings suggests that a significant portion of the population in Walmara Woreda has established and recognized boundaries for their properties.

While 111 (29.4%) of respondents said that our parcel was not demarcated, this can contribute to the security of tenure. Clear demarcation often leads to better security of land ownership, reducing disputes and conflicts over land boundaries.

Table 6 Land Holding Clearly Demarcated

Land Holding Clearly Demarcated					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	266	70.6	70.6	70.6
	No	111	29.4	29.4	100.0
	Total	377	100.0	100.0	

- Problem that Discourages You to Invest on Your Land*

The finding A high percentage (81.3%) of respondents are discouraged from investing in fertilizers. This could be due to factors such as affordability, availability, or concerns about the effectiveness of fertilizers. While a majority (62.3%) still feel discouraged by financial constraints, this is less pronounced than with

machinery and fertilizer. This suggests that there may be some access to loans or finance for a portion of the respondents. Tenure Insecurity A significant portion (67.0%) feels that tenure insecurity discourages investment, indicating that concerns about land ownership and rights are prevalent among respondents.

Table 7 Problems that Discourages to Invest on Your Land Respondent Rate

Problem that Discourages You to Invest on Your Land					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Machinery	73	19.4	19.4	19.4
	Fertilizer	107	28.4	28.4	47.7
	Loan	69	18.3	18.3	66.0
	Tenure in security	91	24.1	24.1	90.2
	HR	37	9.8	9.8	100.0
	Total	377	100.0	100.0	

- *Respondent Rate Fear About Your Land will be Taken by the Government*

The majority (60.9%) of respondents fear that urban expansion will lead to the confiscation of their land. This suggests a growing concern about urbanization and its impact on rural land rights, possibly reflecting fears of encroachment as cities expand. Slightly more than half of

the respondents (51.4%) fear that their land may be taken due to certificate issues. This indicates a significant concern regarding land ownership documentation and the potential for disputes or government claims. In this category, fewer respondents (43.3%) fear that their land will be taken for developmental purposes, indicating that while there is some concern, it is less pronounced than fears related to urban expansion and certificate issues.

Table 8 Respondent Rate Fear About Your Land will be Taken by the Government

Respondent Rate Fear About Your Land Will be Taken by the Government					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	certificate	140	37.1	37.1	37.1
	Urban expansion	133	35.3	35.3	72.4
	Developmental purpose	104	27.6	27.6	100.0
	Total	377	100.0	100.0	

- *The Potential Challenges for Expanding Accesses to SLLCs*

Awareness of issues related to second-level landholding certificate (SLLC) access is high (69%), but it does not translate into effective solutions due to the presence of multiple challenges. The data suggests that even when farmers are aware of the problems, systemic

issues like topography, resource availability, technical expertise, and political commitment hinder progress. Topography and resource availability are key issues. The challenges posed by land topography and the availability of registration materials were critical barriers that needed addressing. Solutions may involve investing in better mapping technologies and equipment to facilitate land demarcation, particularly in areas with challenging terrain.

Table 9 Respondent Rate of Potential Challenges for Expanding Access to SLLCs Among Smallholder Farmers

Among smallholder farmers in the woreda in which case are the potential challenges for expanding accesses to SLLCs?					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Awareness	169	44.8	44.8	44.8
	Technical	63	16.7	16.7	61.5
	Material for registration	72	19.1	19.1	80.6
	low commitment	73	19.4	19.4	100.0
	Total	377	100.0	100.0	

- *Factors that Influence the Farmer Decision to Seek or Avoid SLLCs*

Finding A majority of farmers (39.3%) are inclined to seek SLLCs, indicating a general recognition of the benefits associated with securing land tenure. However, a substantial minority (35.8%) still to avoid them, suggesting that certain barriers or concerns exist. Finding: Loan terms have the highest positive influence on the decision to seek SLLCs, with a significant majority

indicating that favourable loan terms encourage them to pursue land tenure security. This suggests that financial conditions play a crucial role in farmers' decision-making processes. Finding: Interest rates are also a notable factor influencing decisions, but the influence is less pronounced than that of loan terms. A majority still seek SLLCs despite interest rates, indicating that while they are a consideration, they may not be as significant a barrier as perceived risks or unfavourable loan terms.

Table 10 Factors that Influence the Farmer Decision to Seek or Avoid SLLCs

Factors that Influence the Farmer Decision to Seek or Avoid SLLCs					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Interest Rate	135	35.8	35.8	35.8
	Loan term	148	39.3	39.3	75.1
	Perceived risks	94	24.9	24.9	100.0
	Total	377	100.0	100.0	

➤ *The Asses Land Management Practice in Walmara Woreda Nano Geneti and Barfata Tokefa Kebele*

- *Capacity Building Initiatives or Training Programs*

Capacity-Building Initiatives: The data suggests that while more than half of the respondents were engaged in training programs, there was still a substantial number of staff who did not receive training. This could have implications for the effectiveness and efficiency of land administration processes, as well-trained staff are essential for effective service delivery.

Importance of Training and involvement in training programs is crucial for enhancing the skills and knowledge of staff members in land administration. Continuous professional development ensures that staffs are up-to-date with best practices, legal frameworks, and technological advancements in land management.

Table 11 Respondent Response Rate Capacity-Building Initiatives or Training

Capacity Building Initiatives or Training Programs for Staff, Members and Farmers Involved in Land Administration					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	yes	207	54.9	54.9	54.9
	no	170	45.1	45.1	100.0
	Total	377	100.0	100.0	

The majority of staff members, 207 (54.9%), reported being involved in capacity-building initiatives or training programs related to land administration. However, a significant portion (45.1%) is not involved, indicating that there may be gaps in capacity-building efforts that could be addressed.

- *Specific Provisions in the Legal Frameworks that Address Land Redistribution*

✓ *Finding:*

The majority of respondents 217(57.5%) believe that there are specific provisions in the legal frameworks that

address land redistribution. This indicates recognition of legal structures that support land redistribution efforts. The existence of legal provisions for land redistribution is crucial, as it provides a formal mechanism for addressing land inequality and facilitating equitable access to land resources. These provisions can empower marginalized communities and support social justice initiatives. While a majority recognize the existence of legal provisions, the fact that 160 (42.5%) of respondents do not see such provisions may indicate gaps in awareness or understanding of the legal framework. This could hinder effective implementation and advocacy for land redistribution initiatives.

Table 12 Specific Provisions in the Legal Frameworks that Address Land Administration

Specific Provisions in the Legal Frameworks that Address Land Administration					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	yes	217	57.6	57.6	57.6
	no	160	42.4	42.4	100.0
	Total	377	100.0	100.0	

- *Farmer's Awareness the Existence of Small-Scale Land –Based Loan Contract as a Form of Agricultural*

The majority finding of respondent response rate 212 (56.23%) were not beneficiaries of small-scale contracts

for more gained or earned high productivity to sustain livelihood. While 165 (43.8%) were used, more benefited from small-scale contracts by using their certificates as collateral.

Table 13 Farmers Aware the Existence of Small-Scale Land-Based Loan Contracts (SLLCs) as a form of Agricultural Finance

Farmers Aware the Existence of Small-Scale Land-Based Loan Contracts (SLLCs) as a Form of Agricultural Finance					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	yes	165	43.8	43.8	43.8
	no	212	56.2	56.2	100.0
	Total	377	100.0	100.0	

- *The Specific Provisions of Legal Frameworks Laws, Regulations, Tenure Security Right and Policies*

✓ *Respondent Response Rate of Specific Provisions in the Legal Frameworks that Address to Land Disputes Resolution*

The fact that 270 (71.6%) of respondents do not see such provisions may indicate gaps in awareness or understanding of the legal framework. This could hinder effective implementation and advocacy for land dispute resolution initiatives. While the majority of respondents, 107 (28.4%), believe that there are specific provisions in the legal framework that address land disputes.

Table 14 Respondent Response Rate of Specific Provisions in the Legal Frameworks that Address to Land Disputes Resolution

Respondent Response Rate of Specific Provisions in the Legal Frameworks that Address to Land Disputes Resolution					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	yes	107	28.4	28.4	28.4

	no	270	71.6	71.6	100.0
	Total	377	100.0	100.0	

✓ *Specific Laws, Regulations and Policies*

The majority of 290 respondents (76.92%) do not see such provisions, which may indicate gaps in awareness or understanding of specific laws, regulations, and policies. This could hinder effective implementation and advocacy

for specific laws, regulations, and policies of the resolution initiatives. While the majority of respondents (82.5%) believe that there are specific provisions in the legal frameworks that address land laws, regulations, and policies.

Table 15 Respondent Response Rate of Specific Laws, Regulations, and Policies

Respondent Response Rate of Specific Laws, Regulations, and Policies					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	yes	85	22.5	22.5	22.5
	no	292	77.5	77.5	100.0
	Total	377	100.0	100.0	

✓ *Respondent Response Rate of Support Services or Training Programs Available to Assist Farmers in Accessing and Managing SLLCs Effectively*

The majority of respondents (229, or 60.7%) believe that there were support services-specific provisions. While the majority of 148 (39.3%) respondents do not get support

services or training, it may indicate gaps in awareness or understanding of laws, regulations, and policies. This could hinder effective implementation and advocacy for specific laws, regulations, and policies of the resolution initiatives.

Table 16 Respondent Response Rate of Support Services or Training Programs Available to Assist Farmers in Accessing and Managing SLLCs Effectively

Respondent Response Rate of Support Services or Training Programs Available to Assist Farmers in Accessing and Managing SLLCs Effectively					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	yes	229	60.7	60.7	60.7
	no	148	39.3	39.3	100.0
	Total	377	100.0	100.0	

✓ *Respondent Response Rate of Eligibility Criteria or Requirements that Farmers Need to Meet in Order to Quality for SLLCs*

The majority of respondents 265(70.3%) did not know or believe about the criteria or requirements that

farmers need to meet to meet quality standards for SLLCs. The majority of respondents, 112 (29.7%), believe that they know about the criteria or requirements that farmers need to meet to meet the quality of second-level landholding certificates.

Table 17 Respondent Response Rate of Eligibility Criteria or Requirements that Farmers Need to Meet in Order to Quality for SLLCs

Respondent Response Rate of Eligibility Criteria or Requirements that Farmers Need to Meet in Order to Quality for SLLCs					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	yes	112	29.7	40.4	40.4
	no	265	70.3	59.6	100.0
	Total	377	73.5	100.0	
Total		377	100.0		

➤ *The Mechanism to Improve Land Management and Natural Resource Performance of Walmara Woreda*

• *Respondent Response Rate of Information Regarding to Amendments or Update Legal Frame Work*

The major finding of the respondent rate (278, or 69.20%) was that the amendments or updates to the legal framework of proclamation amendments play a significant role in the proper management of land. While Strategy 61 (15.2%) and Policy Amendments 38 (9.5%) are not widely implemented in the lower communities.

Table 18 Respondent Response Rate Regarding to Amendments or Updates to Legal Frame Works Governing Rural Land Administration Recently

Respondent Response Rate Regarding to Amendments or Updates to Legal Frame Works Governing Rural Land Administration Recently in Case of					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Policy Amendment	38	9.5	10.1	10.1

	Proclamation Amendment	278	69.2	73.7	83.8
	Strategy	61	15.2	16.2	100.0
	Total	377	93.8	100.0	
Total			100		

- *Respondent Response Rate of Government Programs or Initiatives Aimed at Promoting Responsible and Sustainable use of SLLCs*

The major finding of the respondent rate of 183 (45.5%) was that the regular budget of the government was

aimed at promoting the responsible and sustainable use of second-level landholding certificates. While Funds or Donors 92 (22.9%) and Subside Budget 102 (24.5%) had less engagement aimed at prompting the responsible and sustainable improvement of second-level landholding certificates.

Table 19 Respondent Response Rate of Government Programs or Initiatives Aimed at Promoting Responsible and Sustainable use of SLLCs

Respondent response rate of government programs or initiatives aimed at promoting responsible and sustainable use of SLLCs					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Regular or government budget	183	45.5	48.5	48.5
	Funds or Donors	92	22.9	24.4	72.9
	Subside Budget	102	25.4	27.1	100.0
	Total	377	93.8	100.0	
Total			100.0		

- *Respondent Response Rate to Improve Land Management as a Result of Legally Secured of Holding Right*

The major finding of the respondent rate (219, or 54.5%) was that the improvement of your land

management result for legally secured holding rights plays a significant role in the proper management of land. While the respondent rate of 158 (39.3%) did not widely know the improvement of land management results for secured holding rights.

Table 20 Respondent Rate for Improvement on Your Land Management as a Result of Your Legally Secured Holding Right

Respondent Rate for Improvement on Your Land Management as a Result of Your Legally Secured Holding Right					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	yes	219	54.5	58.1	58.1
	no	158	39.3	41.9	100.0
	Total	377	93.8	100.0	
Total			100.0		

➤ Interview Responded Response Rate

The results of the survey, which selected three farmers or landowners from among the sample respondents in Wolmera District Nano Garden and Barfata Tofefa Kebele, are presented as follows: They explain the importance of having land ownership, as it is very important for all activities and solves boundary claims and disputes. We were very worried about the security of our land without getting a certificate of ownership, but they say that we took advantage of this favourable opportunity, which has increased our economic capacity beyond ownership. The main advantage of this certificate is that it has reduced mutual land acquisitions and helped to curb illegal land acquisitions. These experts I interviewed say that not only are there few microfinance providers, but also that they limit the size of the hectare so that we do not become borrowers by reserving their certificates.

➤ Socio-Demographic and Economic Characteristics of Respondents

The study 's population is predominantly composed of male-headed households. Out of the total samples, 377 76.92% of them were male-headed farmers. Access to land

is predominantly biased toward male-headed households in the area, showing the gender imbalance in the area. Table 4.2 shows that about three-fourths of the sample of landholding farmers was economically active sections of the population. The ages of 96.02% of the farmers fall in the range of 18–60 years, whereas one-third (25.79%) of the respondents were adults. The statistics of age respondent rate are the standard deviation: 0.93 mean: 2.22, and variance: 0.816, respectively.

V. CONCLUSSIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS

➤ Conclusions

Land certification plays a key role in rural land management in all developing countries in general, and in Ethiopia in particular. This study indicated that once issues related to land insecurity receive policy attention, it is not difficult to address rural land management challenges. The results showed that land titles enable farmers to access credit, which helps them increase production and productivity. Farmers with land certificates also have a greater chance of purchasing machinery and fertilisers, obtaining loans, and confidently renting out their land.

The land registration and certification program has been implemented in Oromia National Regional State since 2003 to register all parcels of farm households and grant them legal holding certificates, thereby increasing farmers' sense of land tenure security. In this regard, farmers received the primary book of certificates as a legal document, which ensures the usufruct rights of households.

This study found that land title certification plays an important role in enhancing farmers' participation in various conservation efforts on their farmland and in reducing insecurity caused by urban expansion and the conversion of farmland to settlements and industrial areas. In Walmera Woreda, some farmers experienced insecurity due to land redistribution in various kebeles before they received their land title certificates. The study also found that there are specific provisions in the legal frameworks addressing land redistribution, indicating recognition of legal structures that support such efforts.

Following land certification, the majority of landholders in Walmera District (96.02%) participated in various land management activities aimed at improving productivity and ensuring sustainable land management for future generations.

While farmers benefited from using their certificates as collateral for access to finance, the majority (56%) still did not receive loans, with only 44% accessing finance through their certificates. Capacity-building training provided by both government and non-government organisations for land administration and use experts at district and kebele levels showed promise in improving land management performance. However, these trainings have not yet reached all experts and relevant stakeholders.

The majority of respondents (76.92% of 290 participants) were not aware of specific provisions related to rural land, indicating gaps in knowledge or understanding of laws, regulations, and policies. This lack of awareness hinders the effective implementation and advocacy of rural land administration and management initiatives.

Furthermore, many respondents, particularly farmers in Marfeta Tokefa, and Nano Geneti—showed low awareness regarding recent amendments or updates to legal frameworks governing rural land administration, including policy amendments, proclamations, and strategy revisions.

➤ Recommendations

I would like to make the following recommendations, based on my finding to solve the problems of land management performance in the future:

- Expand and Accelerate Land Certification Coverage, the federal and regional governments should prioritise completing land certification for all rural households to

enhance tenure security and encourage long-term investments in sustainable land management.

- Special attention should be given to areas like Walmera Woreda where land redistribution has created insecurity among farmers. It would be a good solution for the federal government, the National Bank of Ethiopia, and other lending microfinance institutions to set clear instructions on how much credit should be given to farmers, pastoralists, or sub-pastoralists with a size of one to two hectares, according to the existing conditional status of the regions.
- The government, as a country, responds to effectively control the effects of land management and use. Currently, as a country, more than 480 districts are implementing or strengthening the National Rural Land Administration and Information System (NRLAIS) and extending it to all districts of the country to control and avoid land invasions and unplanned settlements, ensuring the existence of ownership, as in the past, as a dead capital economy.
- It is important to prepare to implement laws, decrees, regulations, guidelines, and strategies for the future of farmers and pastoralists, even if it is the beginning of the current loan bond, by expanding its scope and reach and considering the actual situation of the country and regions.
- The government should enforce the laws on corruption and rent-seeking seriously, and corruption and rent-seeking that are found in the area should be penalized depending on the law, which is crucial to deterring criminals specifically and the public at large.
- As in the Oromia region, at present there is only one small loan provider from Siinqee Bank, which is close to becoming a bank, so it is not giving as much credit as expected. Therefore, to overcome this problem, other banks in the region should provide loan services to farmers. Strong discussion between the government and private banks.

➤ Major Finding Summary

- Majority of the respondents is male while female respondents were lower in frequency. This shows that the number of male at the study site was more than number of female. It implies in that kebele more ownership of landholding for male than female and it need to give specially attention to gender equality issues.
- The contribution of parcels registered for tenure security rights and to solve factors affecting land management performance was very important and plays a significant role for landholder
- The major finding was the distribution of certificate levels and types among males and females is the most prevalent, with second-level landholding certificates.
- The major finding of high percentage of 266 (70.6%) clearly demarcated land holdings suggests that a significant portion of the population has established and recognized boundaries for their properties.

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