Dryland restoration scaling project

Improving the productivity of dryland agriculture

Many approaches for restoring degraded drylands have succeeded in Ethiopia. For example, fencing communal grazing lands for cutand-carry forage production has been a driving force behind improved livelihoods in Tigray. Meanwhile, controlled burning controls shrubs and improves rangeland conditions in Borana zone of Oromia region.

Implemented across four countries in Sub-Saharan Africa— Ethiopia, Kenya, Mali, and Niger—this three-year project combines local and expert knowledge to identify factors controlling the success of land restoration under differing local conditions, and tailors land restoration practices to these local circumstances. The Ethiopia component is led by the Livestock Systems and Environment team of the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI).



Funded by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the European Commission, the project supports major IFAD loans to the Ethiopian government, and the Netherlands Development Organization-funded Drylands **Development Programme and USAID-funded Pastoralist Areas** Resilience Improvement through Market Expansion program.



Local capacity for, & new understanding from, structured learning on what restoration strategies work where & for whom

Globally relevant community of practice and guidelines, methods and tools for upscaling and outscaling

Figure 1. Research 'in' development impact pathway

These decisions are based on the 'context'—including biophysical factors (e.g., soils and climate) and social factors (e.g. capital, market access, and institutions).

ILRI will then support its partners to improve scaling of restoration approaches. It will lead the 'options-by-context' analysis and the coordination of the action research component with farmers and herders, as well as providing technical backstopping to government and project staff. The action research will fill several functions, specifically:

- a. adapt options to local conditions;
- b. test options in the same and in different areas to compare their effectiveness; and
- c. use the information created to develop tools to

A restored landscape, including a grazing enclosure, in Tigray region

Seeking to scale successful dryland restoration efforts in Ethiopia, the project applies the resulting data and assessments to create tools for targeting restoration approaches proven in Ethiopia to new areas where they are likely to succeed. The overall project—in Ethiopia, Kenya, Mali, and Niger—is being led by the World Agroforestry Centre.

Project approach

target restoration investments in drylands.

The tools will identify where an option is likely to succeed (where the context fits the option), and where it is likely to fail (where it does not fit the option). Once developed, the tools will made freely available.



The project takes an 'options-by-context' approach to conduct research 'in' development, as outlined in Figure 1. The project team began by assessing what dryland restoration options have succeeded in Ethiopia. The term 'options' refers to technical, market and institutional approaches to dryland restoration, often applied in combination with one another.

The team then works with government and NGO partners to select options to scale in action research trials, and where this scaling should occur.

Borana zone rangeland, restored through grazing enclosure, bush clearing, and prescribed burning

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