



# LANDCARE INTERNATIONAL

Championing Landcare at the global level



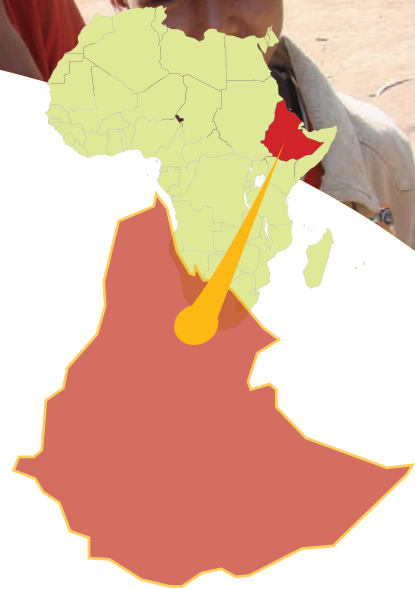
## LANDCARE ETHIOPIA

### Introduction

Ethiopian agricultural economy is under continuous threat from various forms of land degradation. Soil erosion by water is the most important and poses a threat to food security and development prospects. Loss of arable land due to soil erosion is a widespread phenomenon in the highlands.

Landcare in Ethiopia started in 2007 and is being implemented by the Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research in collaboration with African Highlands Initiative programme of the World Agroforestry Centre. The following are major activities implemented under Landcare in Galessa, Ethiopia:

1. Participatory gully rehabilitation
2. Niche compatible afforestation: (*C. palmensis*, *A. decurrnens* and *H. Abyssinica* were planted for soil fertility at different niches.
3. Introduction of improved crop varieties such as potatoes, barely, linseed, triticale, apple and forage crop varieties.





4. Landscape level soil conservation: 35 ha has been protected with soil bund since 2007, and planted with multi-purpose trees and grasses to stabilize them
5. Composting for application to high value crops
6. Introduction of legume forage plants for improved productivity of fallow land
7. Participatory runoff assessment to illustrate to farmers the value of conservation structures
8. Characterization of local plant species for soil fertility management

## Lessons learnt

1. Introduction of crop varieties improved cash generation and food availability. Farmers developed confidence and courage to practice sustainable water management options.
2. Involvement of local administrators in land management increased awareness on land management issues that need policy interventions.
3. Land Management and development agenda can be implemented when supported by immediate benefits to communities.
4. Linking high value crops to markets benefits communities and encourages their participation in land management



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