



MAKING ROADS WORK FOR WATER: INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCES

JULY 26, 2017,
LUSAKA, ZAMBIA



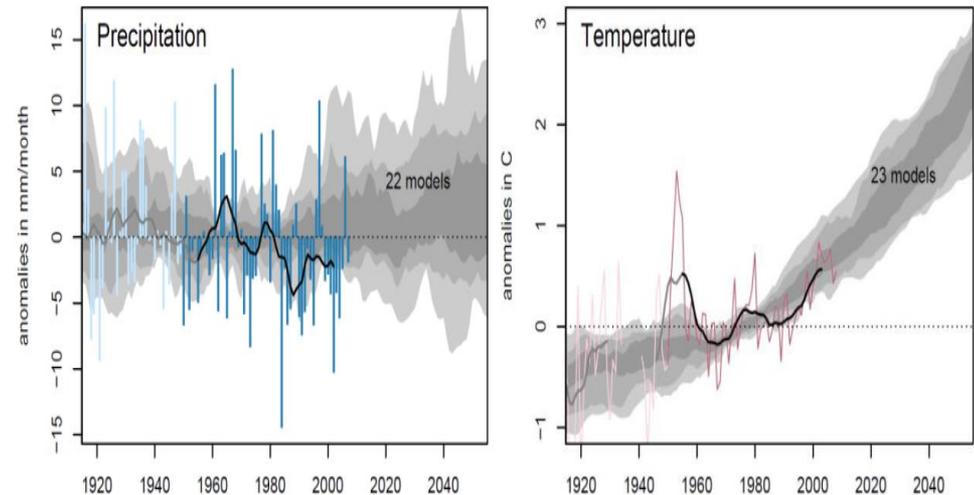
Dream and opportunity

To have roads for systematically used for water management all over the world, especially in Sub Saharan Africa and Asia and create win-wins



Why Sub Saharan Africa and Asia?

- ❖ Water scarcity (and excess in some cases) is one of the critical challenges to ensure food security Predicted extreme events to come (IPCC, 2007)
- ❖ Road construction is one of the biggest investments globally – 1-2 Trillion USD
 - Road network in SSA to increase to 2.8 M kilometer ni 2025



Findings from assessment in Tigray, Ethiopia

Erosion in 62% of culverts

Sedimentation: 11% of culverts

Waterlogging: 5 location/10 kilometer

Local flooding: 5 location/ 10 kilometer

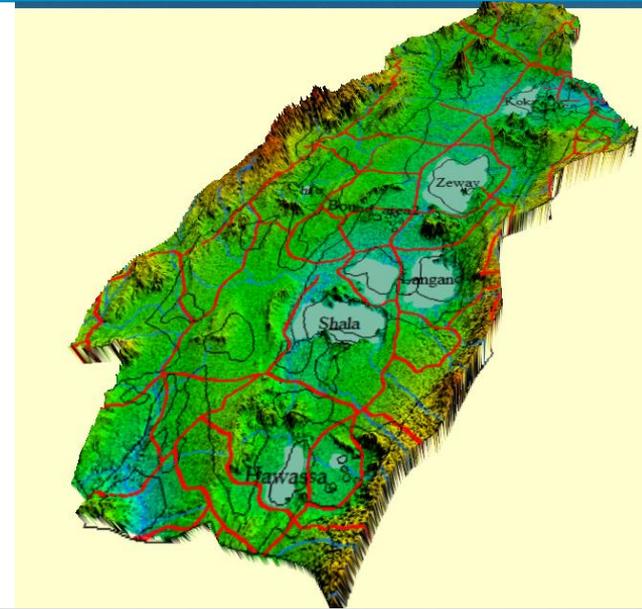
Why Sub Saharan Africa and Asia?

- ❖ Reduce maintenance burden among others by uphill watershed protection,
- ❖ Reduce damage from uncontrolled run-off on unpaved roads (a major issue) and reduced risk of gully damage



Why Sub Saharan Africa and Asia?

- **For better consideration of the hydro-ecosystems**
- Reduced flow to the reservoirs
- Damage to the roads, particularly in such high rainfall years



Water damage triggered by roads can be huge (Arsi, Ethiopia)



Avoid human suffering..



Urgent need to turn things around

- ❖ Reduce risk of road induced flooding and water logging
- ❖ Reduce erosion and sedimentation



Triple Win

REDUCED WATER
DAMAGE
TO ROADS
(-35%, -80%)
AND INCENTIVE
FOR FEEDER ROAD
MAINTENANCE



WATER MANAGED
FOR PRODUCTIVE USE

RISING GROUNDWATER
LEVELS

INCREASED SOIL
MOISTURE

WATER RETENTION

FLOOD MANAGEMENT

REDUCED
DAMAGE FROM ROADS
THROUGH FLOODING,
EROSION AND SEDIMENT
DEPOSITION

Making Roads Work for Water –Why It is Important

Big scale and impact

Roads have major impact on (surface) hydrology and flood patterns

Relatively low cost

Measures are low cost in comparison to total road investment (<5%)

In fact, compensated by reduced costs of maintenance: thus reduce pressure on this (inadequate) budget

Many measures even save investment costs (lower road embankments)

Starting in with harvesting water from roads in Ethiopia in 2014

- Storing high rainfall for dry period as groundwater, soil moisture or surface water
- Adequately dealing with 2015 El Niño
- Engaged > 2.25 M people in 2015/7 campaigns
- Benefitted 1.1 M people
- Guidelines being prepared
- Outscaling now to Kenya, Sudan, Uganda, Bangladesh, Malawi



ROAD WATER HARVESTING CAMPAIGN ETHIOPIA

- The implementation of water harvesting with roads in Ethiopia has gone beyond piloting programs.
- The technologies applied are variable, depending on site condition.
- The technologies were implemented in all districts since 2014 and more than 4 million people involved



THREE APPROACHES

1. Making use of the road as it for water management
2. Modifying design of the road
3. Additional measures



ETHIOPIA: ROAD SIDE INFILTRATION TRENCHES



KENYA: ROAD WATER FARM TRENCHES



MALAWI: IRRIGATING RIDGES



CHINA: ROAD SIDE PONDS



YEMEN: ROAD SIDE CISTERNS



ETHIOPIA: CONVERTED BORROW PIT



UGANDA – CONTROLLING RICE IRRIGATION WITH CULVERTS



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KENYA – ROAD DRIFTS FOR WATER RETENTION



BUILDING SAND DAM UP IN STEPS



MALI – ROAD EMBANKMENT = RESERVOIR



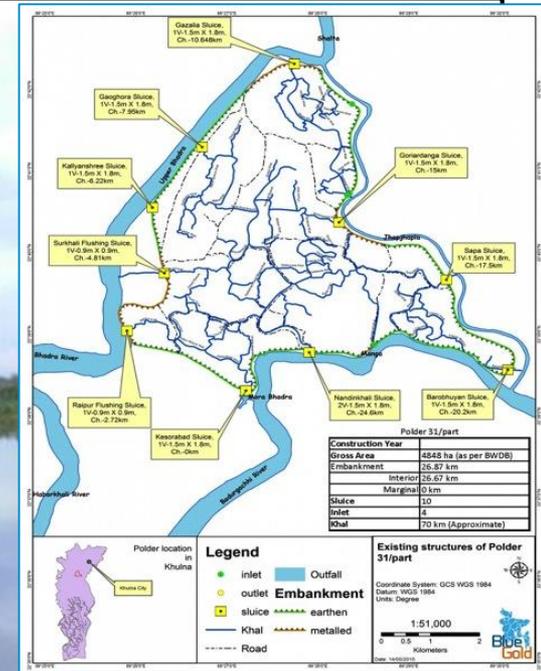
PAKISTAN – STABILIZING RIVER BED WITH ROAD DRIFT



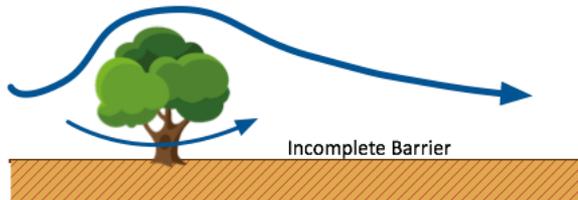
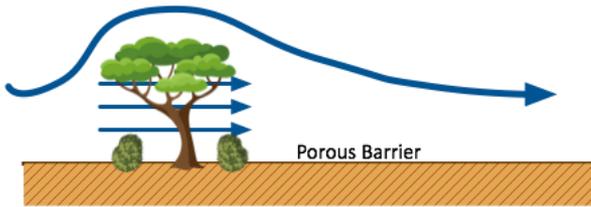
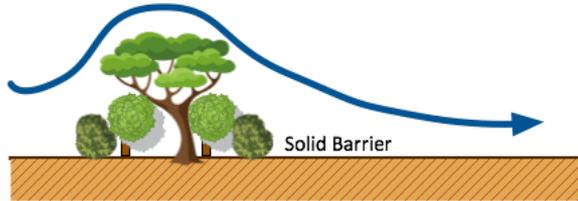
BANGLADESH: ROADS AS POST FLOOD SHELTERS



BANGLADESH REGULATING WATER LEVELS WITH ROADS



PROMOTING ROAD SIDE TREE PLANTING



MADAGASCAR – PROTECTING AND ECONOMICALLY USING THE ROAD BERMS



Solution: work with farmers to replace annual crop systems with a Vetiver-based, sustainable crop system that protects and stabilizes vulnerable batters

Impacts



Yield impacts of road for water in Sinqata

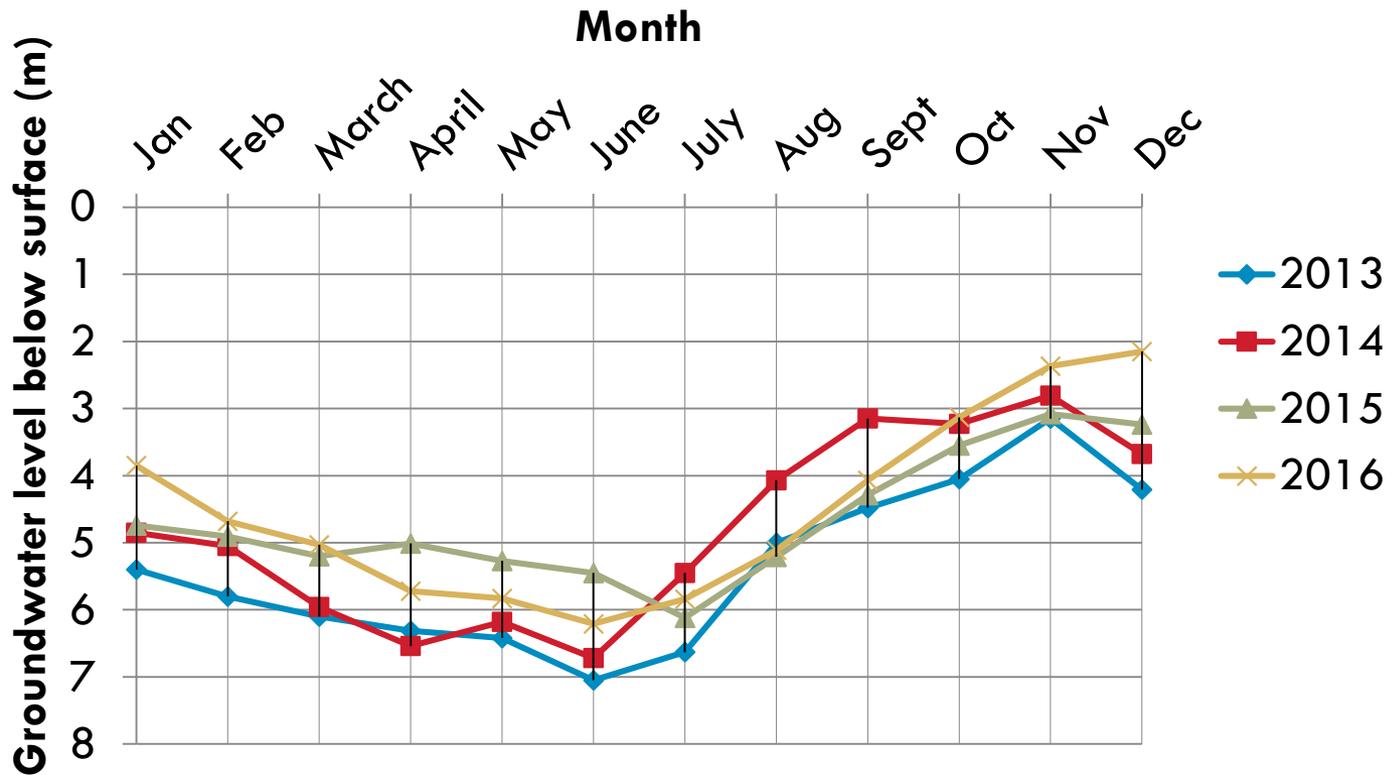


Effects on groundwater level

Water from a culvert and road side drainage channeled into a pond:

- Enhanced the shallow groundwater

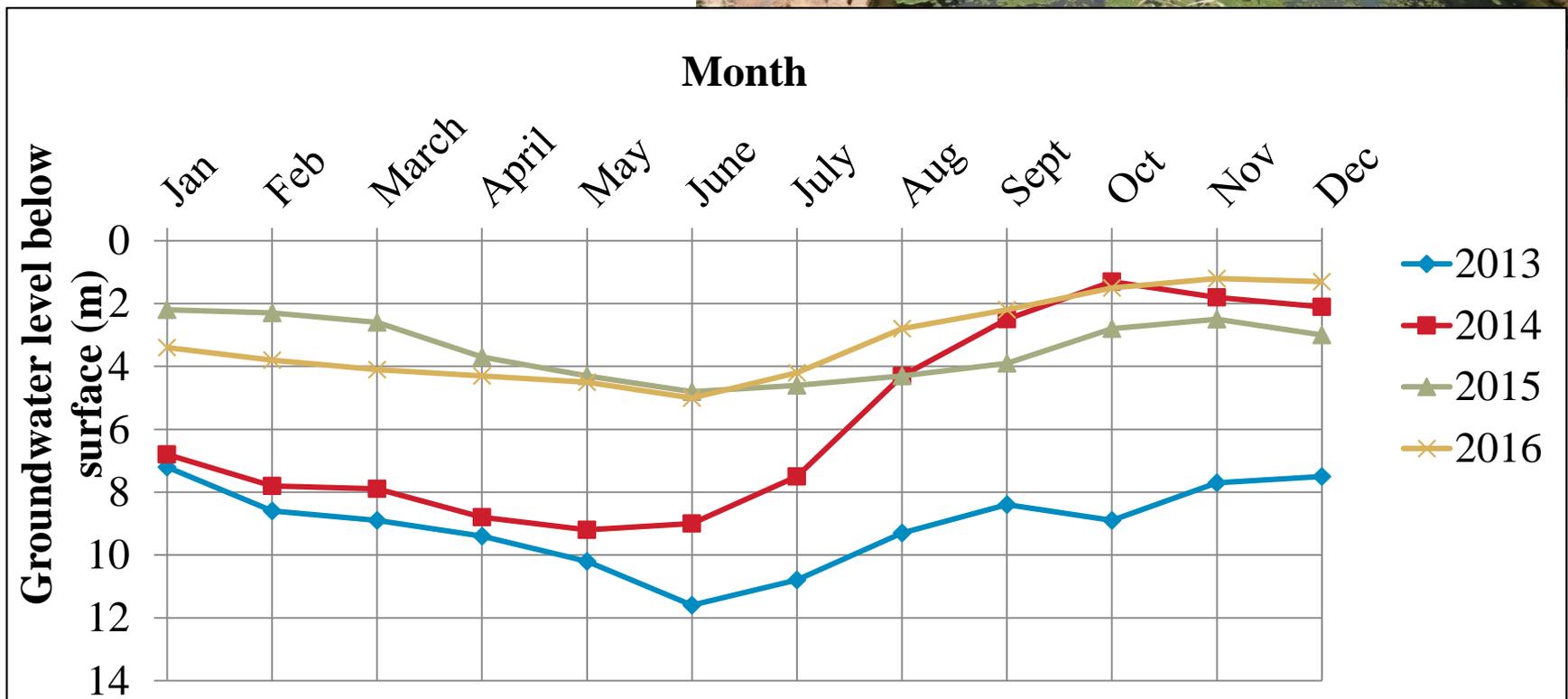
Groundwater level fluctuation in Freweign area, Tigray, Ethiopia



Note: Borrow pit was used as water storage in the month of July 2014.

Effects of check-dams

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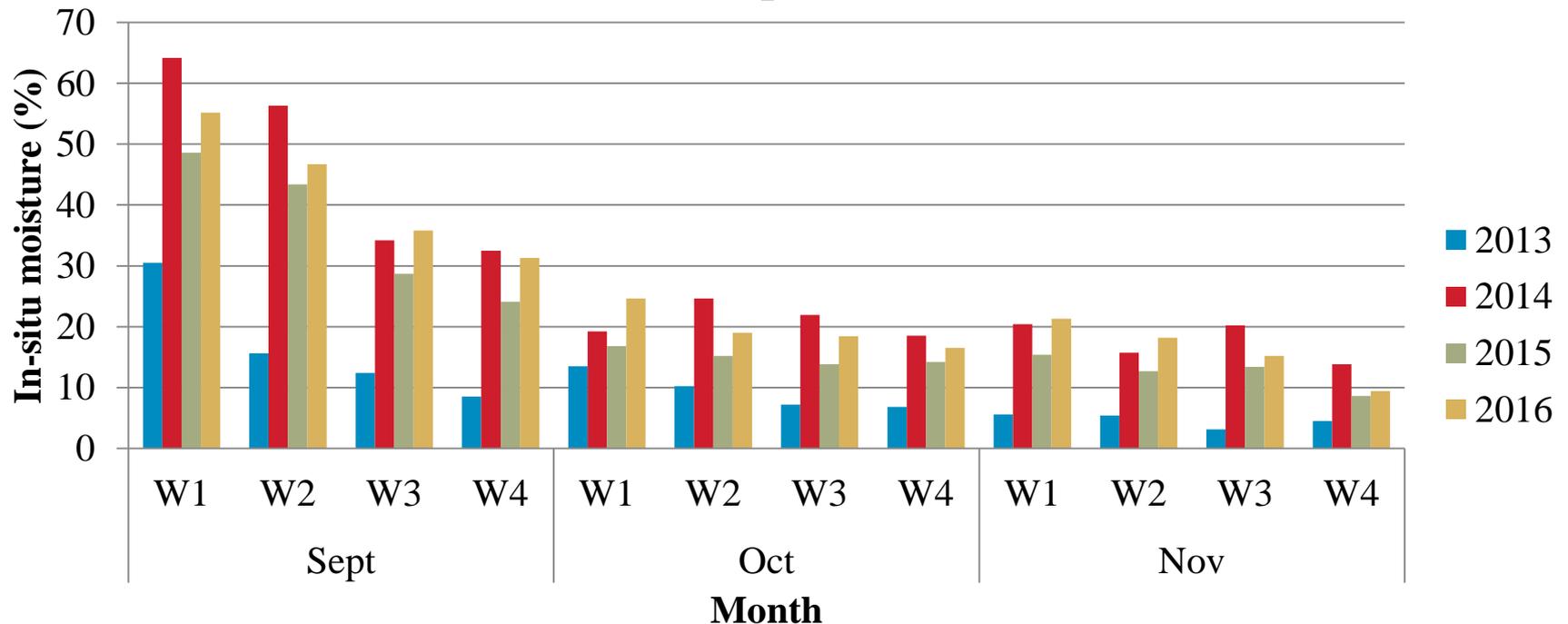


Effects on soil moisture from road spreader

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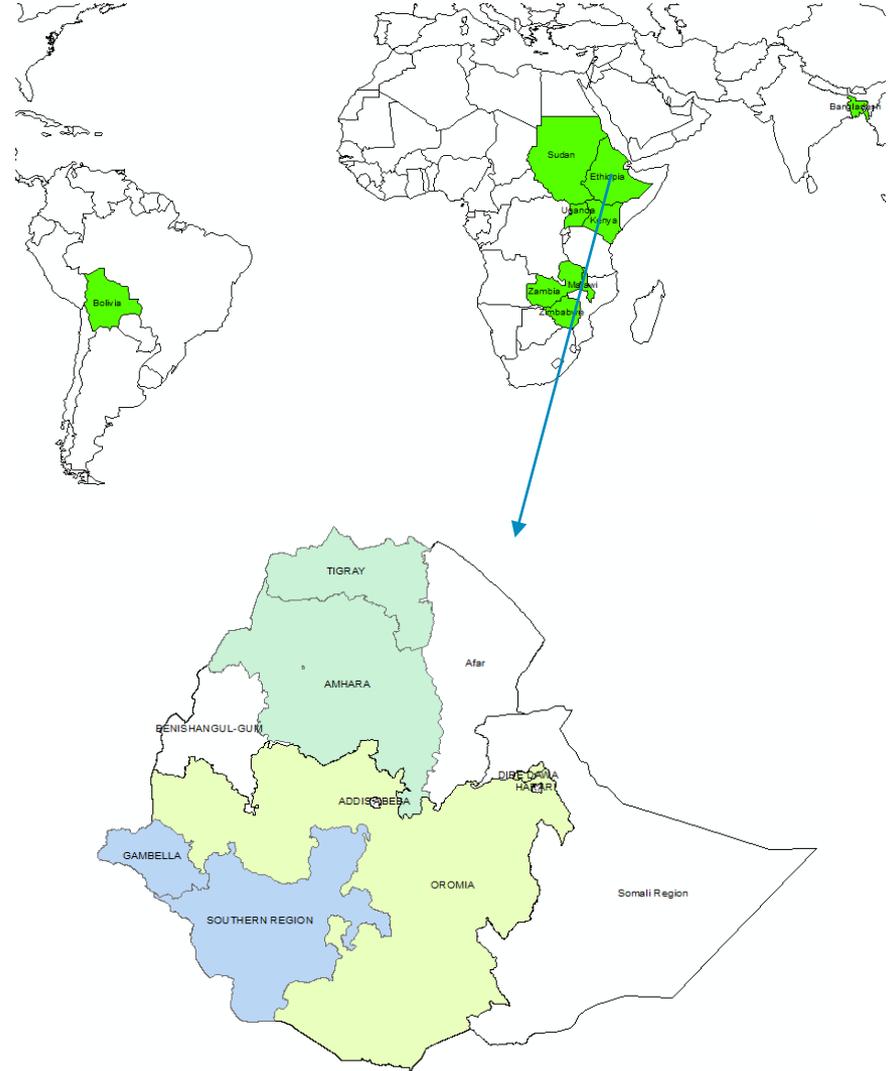


In-situ moisture distribution in soils (Megab area, Tigray, Ethiopia)



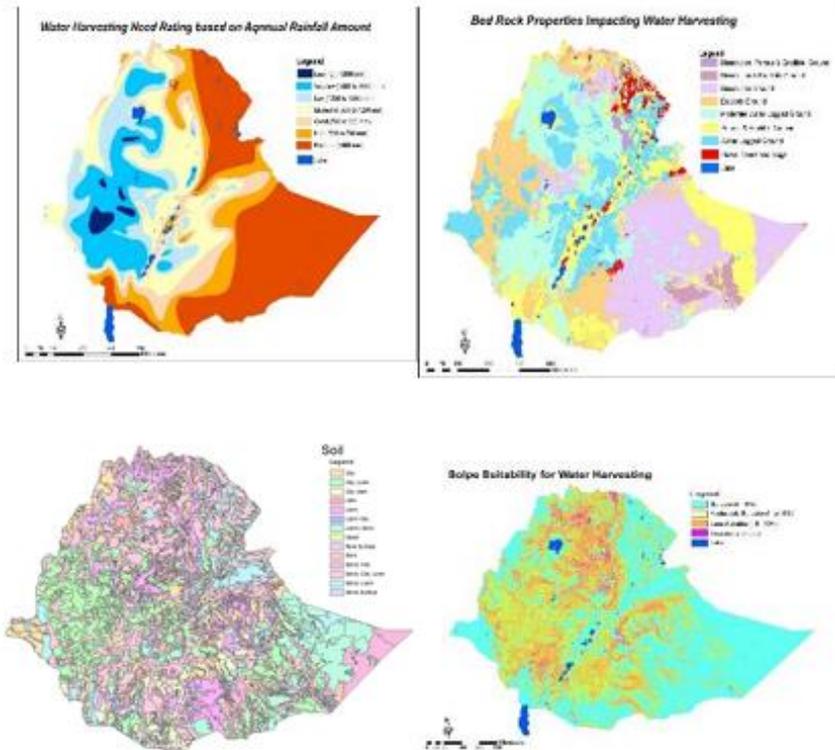
Lessons learned

- Climate resilient roads should not mean making more costly and weather-proof roads, but (at zero net cost)
- Institutionally there was no link among water, road and land sectors but this should change and it changing
 - Need to In modified guidelines and designs
 - In budget procedures
 - In capacity building and governance
- create in different condition close linkages
- Better understanding of the need for ‘road water management’ in its new form in various parts of the world



Lessons learned....

- Identification of **homogenous ‘road water management’ units** is important to design GLs in accordance to specifics of these units
- Agreement on the ‘dissipate water’ approach supported by the existing functional GLs by the road sector is not preferred option.
- The need to incorporate ‘road water management’ guideline to be one of the road sector GLs
- The widely varying hydrogeomorphic and agro-ecological conditions of Ethiopia make the GL easily replicable in other sub-Saharan African countries
- The leaning alliance is creating more awareness and attracting people and countries to adopt the approach



PLEASE JOIN THE QUEST

**Beneficial Road WM for Climate Resilience
and
Roads Sustainability!**

