

**Oromia Regional National State
Bureau of Agriculture and Natural
resources**

**Effort of Integrated Watershed Management
Towards Reversing Land Degradation**

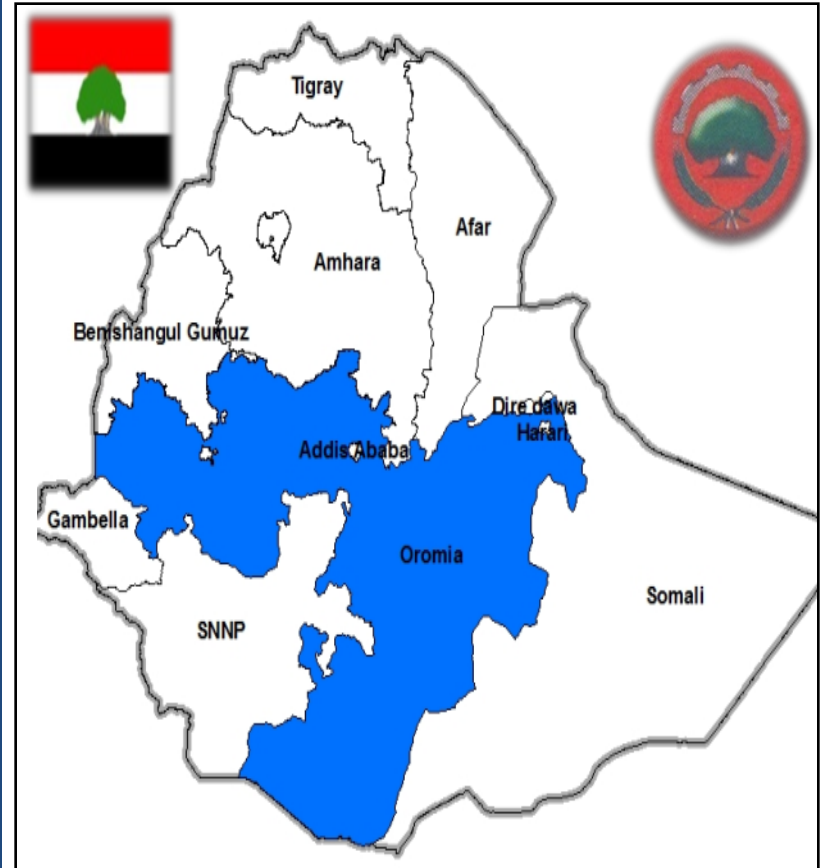
**Feb. 2017
Mekele**

Presentation outline

1. Introduction
2. Achievements
3. Challenges
4. Opportunities
5. Lessons Learned
6. Way Foreword

I. Introduction

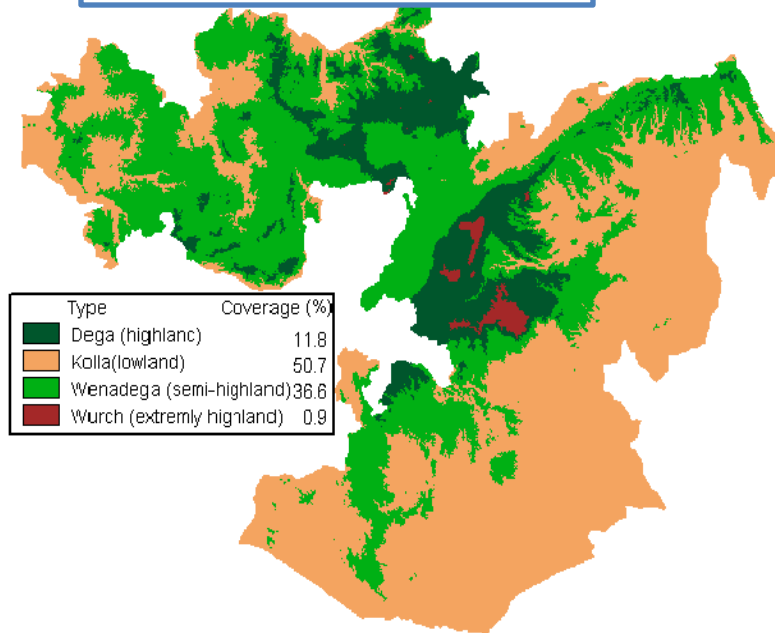
- **Oromia** is the largest Regional State in the country with total population 31.1 million and land area of 366,908 km².
- Geographically, it is located between 3° 18' 43" and 10° 09' 24" N latitude and 34° 18' 03" and 43° 04' 33" E longitude.
- The region has physical contact with almost all of the regional state except Tigray regional state.
- About 87% of the population live in the rural area and engaged in agriculture .
- The region consists of **Agrarian and mixed farming and pastoral area** .



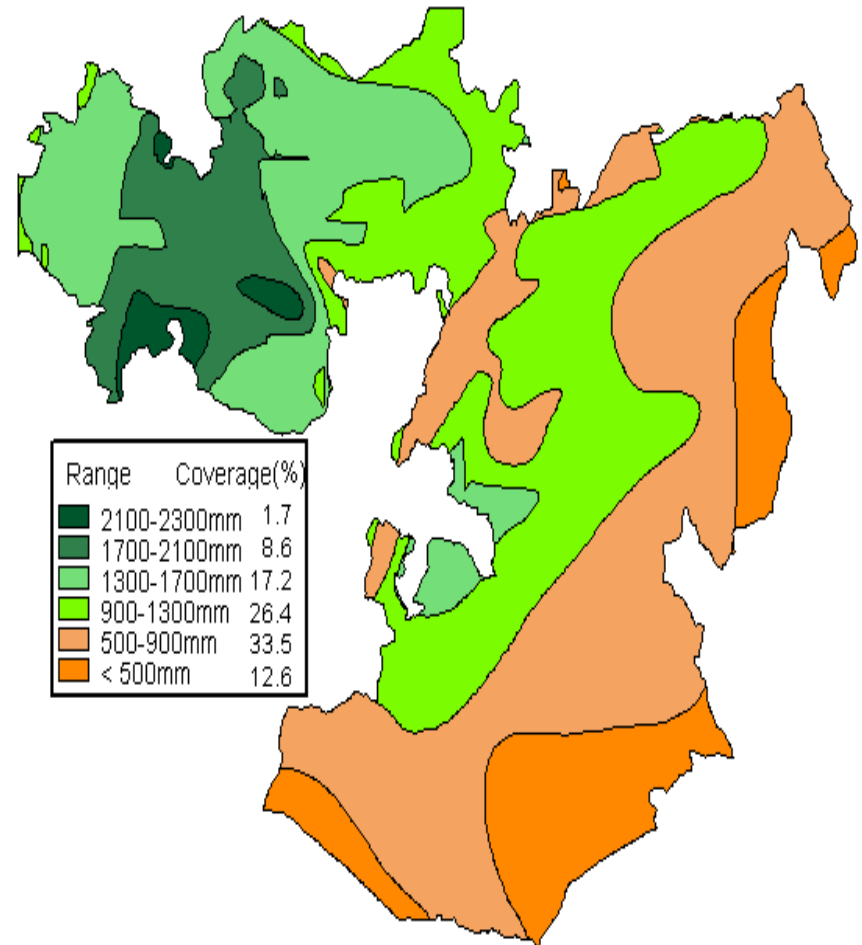
The region is characterized by diversified:

- ✓ Agro-climatic zones,
- ✓ Agricultural potential and
- ✓ Natural resources

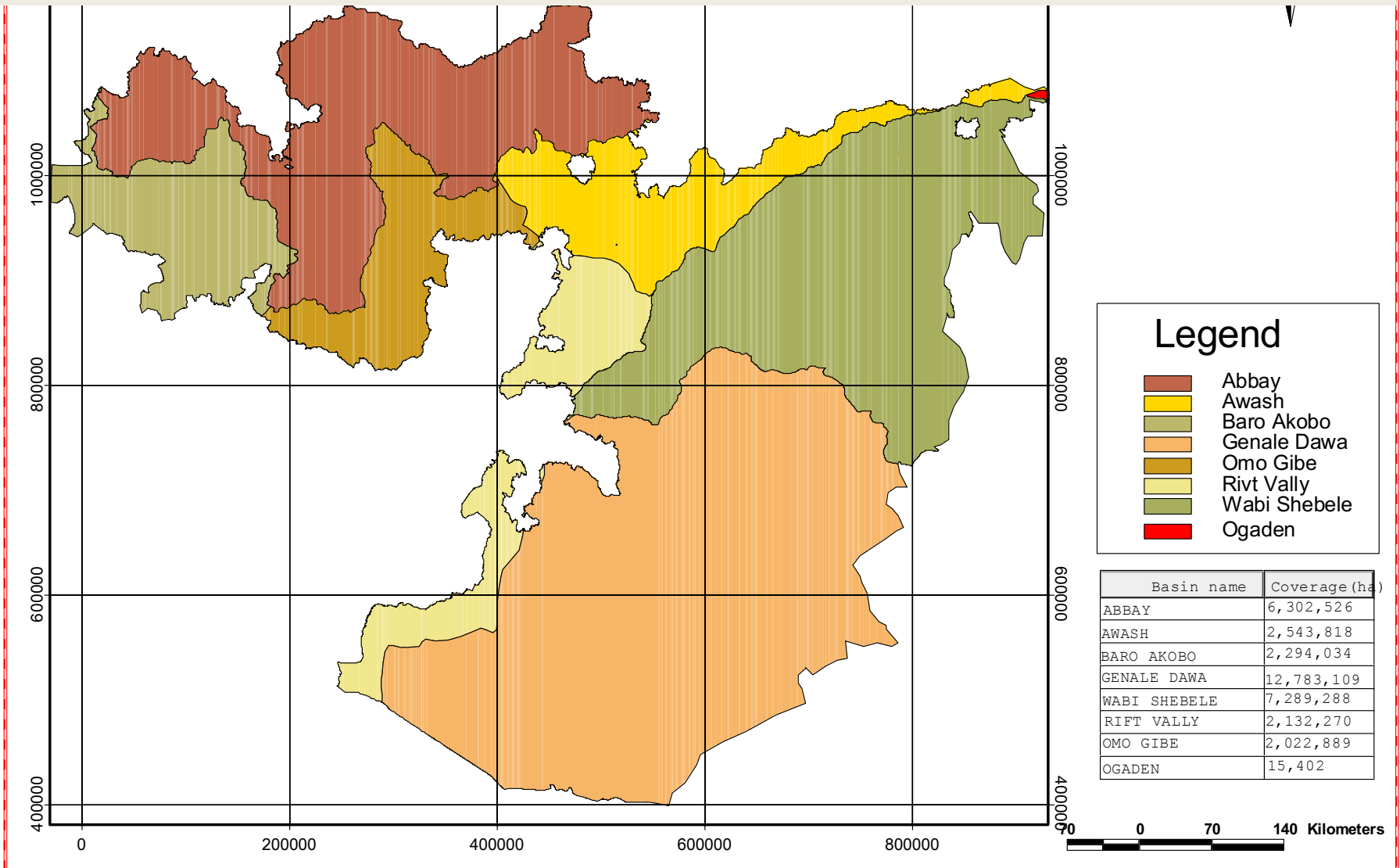
Agro ecology



Rain fall



The overall land mass of the Region is hydro logically divided into 8 Basins. **Six are River Basins** ,one **Lake Basin** and one **dry basin** . Two of the River Basins, Abbay and Baro Akobo, are part of Nile River .



Introduction

- ❖ Like the other part of the country the pressure on land is increasing at an alarming rate coupled with the ever increasing need of human and livestock population.
- ❖ As result extensive area of land has been brought to agriculture
 - ❖ without considering proper land management practices;
 - ❖ Cultivation of steep slopes; for expanding crop lands,
 - ❖ Deforestation for fuel, construction and timber.
 - ❖ overgrazing
 - ❖ uncontrolled land degradation/environmental degradation;
 - ❖ Consequential declining production and productivity
- ❖ And land degradation become serious issue .

Introduction

❖ Past natural resources conservation and rehabilitation approaches have not shown tangible changes on natural resources management.

❖ Due to

- ⌚ Top -down approach in planning and implementation
- ⌚ Only technical aspects of arresting soil erosion has got focus
- ⌚ While the underlying causes like socio-economic actors and policy issues were not fully considered

Introduction

- To alleviate this situations, Community-Based Participatory Watershed Development was launched in 2011 the country and also in the region.
- The Regional government has take the initiative and decided to tackle the existing worst scenario with attentive attention and full force in severely degraded areas.
- And common understanding were created at all level **on the problems of natural resources degradation and the importance of averting the problem**

Implementation Approach

- Before the launching of integrated watershed management in 2010/11 in the region,
 - The problem of land degradation was not equally acknowledged at all levels in the region
 - Because they think that oromia is in a better position in natural resources and watershed management is not type of activity to be undertaken through large community mobilization which requires large financial inputs .
 - To solve this problem, at the beginning of the first year , the Regional Government organized series of meetings and debate forums at all level
 - And in doing so, a common understanding were created.

Implementation Approach

- And now, on average **6.8 million** people were mobilized yearly for **30 days free labor** on the watershed management activities.
- Which is estimated to be **4.28 billion** Ethiopian Birr
- And the reflections on the programme imply that success is possible as the community is encouraged to rehabilitate the environmental

Community mobilization

- Target group training and orientation
 - practical supported training were organized yearly before the start of dry season work
- Planning
 - ✓ Participator approach
 - ✓ Multi-disciplinary,
 - ✓ Multi-component
- Input identification and supply
 - ✓ Identification of input types, amounts and their sources
- Experience sharing



Community mobilization

The starting date will be scheduled in consultations with communities and it begin with [sermon](#) depending on their interest.



Community work



First Aid, Handcrafts , refreshments and transportation



Achievements

Physical and Biological soil conservation

- **2,531,934** km different bunds have been constructed,
- **5,685,979 m³** check dam constructed
- **10,065,374** of water harvesting structures for plantation have been implemented.
- **1,174,010** ha [area closure](#)

Achievements



Achievements



Achievements



Impact

Degraded area become rehabilitated and changed to productive area



Impact

Gullies are Rehabilitated

Before



After



Impact

Area closure be come sources of income for community



Impact

Forest cover increased



Impact

Productivity of land increased



Wild life start to come back



Irrigation potential of the region increased due to [water recharge](#)



Traditional landscape rehabilitation



some examples of Water management





community water management



Road water harvesting

- Most of the water from road culvert increase erosion and causes big gully formation on farm land. Ex Dodota gully in Arsi



RWM solutions- Dodota



Dodota - RWM



Dodota

- Roadside
Tree
plantation
- Area closure



RWH Midhaga Tola :-



borrow pit in Bora



Challenges :

- Free grazing
- Implementation of biological measures at different levels was affected by shortage of rainfall and suitable seedlings for the arid areas,
- Low survival rate of seedling
- Poor data management
- Climate change



Opportunity

- Conducive police environment
- Committed community
- Availability of Best experiences

Lessons Learned

- The importance of practice-oriented training and experience sharing visits to best performing areas within and outside the region.
- The importance of assisting the communities in their effort to develop their byelaws,
- Closure areas are good means to attract wildlife and raise/regenerate indigenous tree species,
- The need for integrating other activities with the natural resource management mobilization program for maximum impact,

Way forward

- Watershed development approach is a powerful technique to tackle environmental degradation and climate change related problems
- Clearly define accountability and responsibility of all stock holder
- Establish harmonized and integrated working environment among all stakeholders;

Horaa Bulaa



Thank you