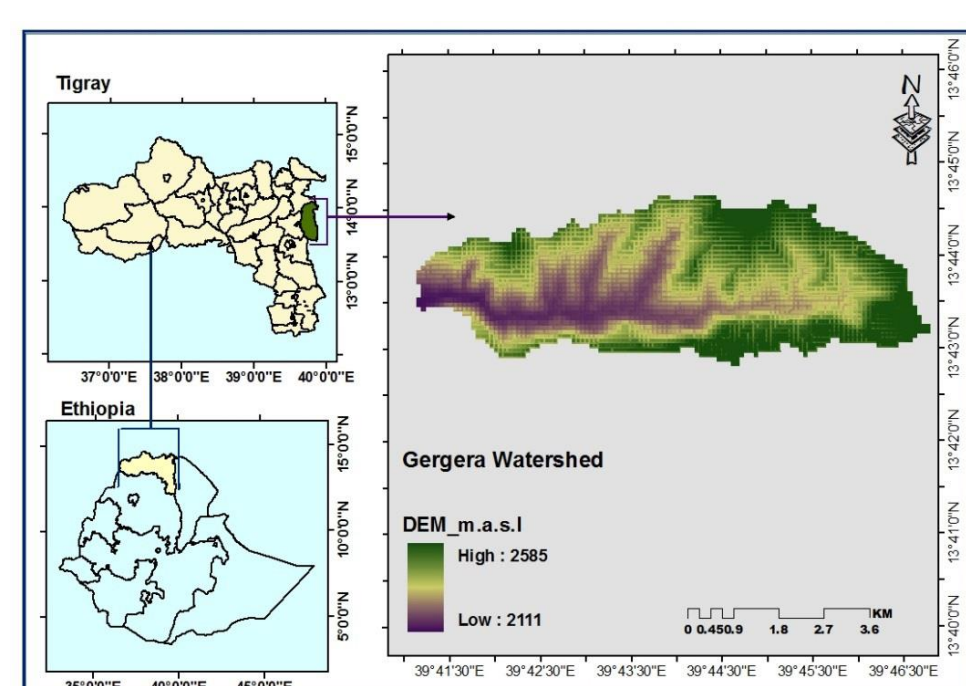## Context and Rationale

- Natural Resources and ecosystem degradation cost Ethiopia for decades

- Communities have been vulnerable to climate change and food and nutrition insecurity for centuries

- Rural landlessness and unemployment is becoming as an emerging issues and challenging to address

- Access to quality germplasm and improved farm inputs are constraining factors for scaling up of Agroforestry

- These all situations have manifested in Gergera watershed where the RRC has piloted in.

- Thus, study was conducted to evaluate the effectiveness of the RRC business model and its implication for enhancing scaling up of Agroforestry in Gergera watershed located in Atsbi-Wonberta district, Tigray region, Ethiopia.

Methods & Approaches Applied

- Inclusive and participatory risk assessment and joint vision mapping

- Agreed to privatize a public/government nursery with the name of RRC as a new business model

- Rural unemployed youths and women group established and owned the nursery (RRC) as a means for income generation and job opportunity

- Objective set by the group to make the RRC as a centre for quality germplasm production/supply and Agri-business services closure to farmers

- Built the capacity of the RRC members

Strengthening Rural Resource Centres as Local Practices: Simple and Smart Ways for Enhancing Scaling up of Agroforestry
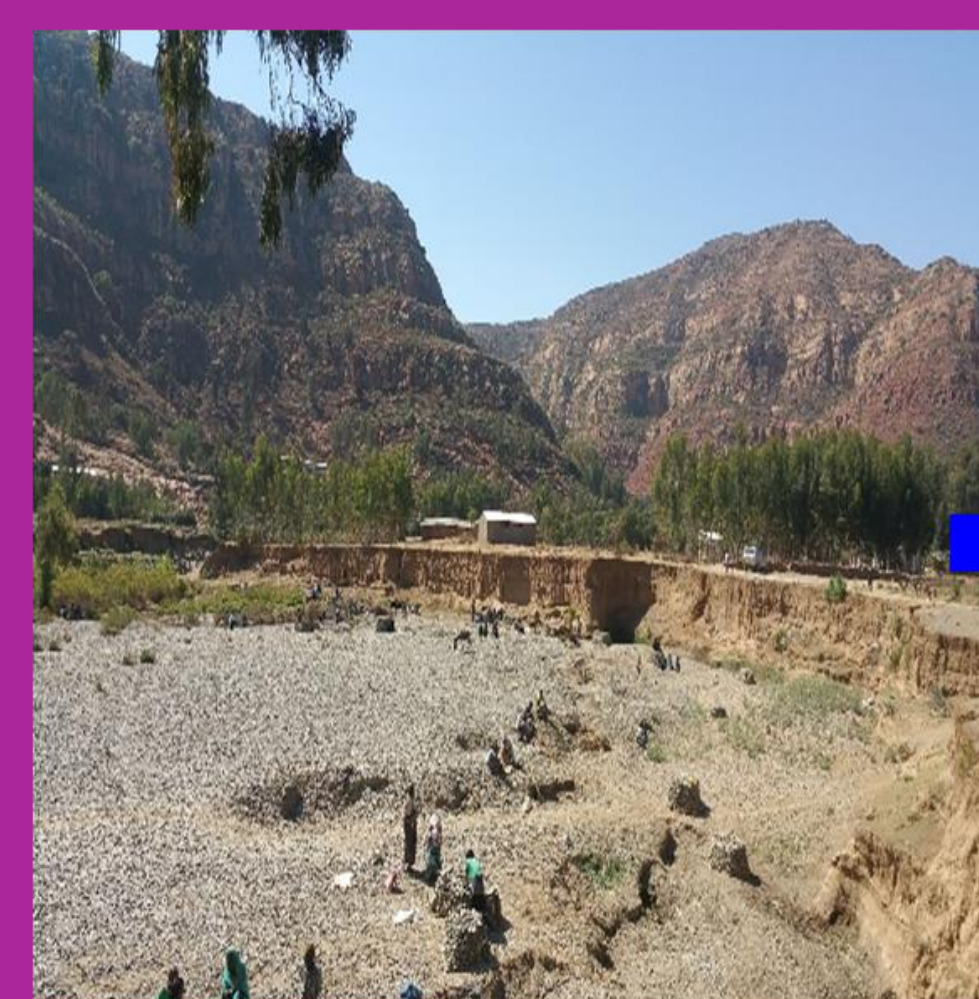
Hagazi N[1], Hadgu K[1], Hailemariam G[1], Gebru Y[2], Mekuria A[2]
[1]World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF), Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
[2]WeForest, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Main findings and outputs

- Significantly improved the skill & capacity of RRC members and created demand drive production and supply systems

- Managed to produce and supply quality Agroforestry germplasm and made the agroforestry inputs and services closure to farmers (>80% of farmers fulfilled their demand)

- RRC members diversified their livelihood options and increased their income by 38.6% in 2016 compared to 2015 and getting increasing on annual bases

- Feed availability significantly increased from year to year

- Rural employments and better income created because of the inputs and services from the RRC (gully reclaimed & covered with productive agroforestry practices and created job for more than 100 landless youth and women)

- The watershed community planted improved Avocado and other multipurpose trees and fodder grasses in more than 30 ha of farmlands on cluster bases

- Support the efforts in scaling up of agroforestry practices by government and development practitioners (>80% of the agroforestry technologies have supplied by the RRC)

- Flood damage to the farmlands decreased by 75% as a result of reclaimed gullies supported by biological measures led by the RRC members

- The approaches contributed to improved gully reclamation by 82% and restoration of degraded watershed

- Created year-round access to water for people & livestock and reduced women's long distance traveling to fetch water

February 2016 | March 2016 | September 2016

Outcomes/impacts

- The RRC model built on and strengthened local practices as best fit, simple and smart options for enhancing accelerated scaling up of agroforestry practices

- The RRC become a training and learning hub for farmers, extension officers, decision makers, development practitioners, scholars, national and international communities

- The RRC model become a showcase for privatizing public owned nurseries in Ethiopia and a means for creating job and income for the ever increasing rural unemployment

- The RRC model empowered women and landless youths

- The RRC contributed in increased rehabilitated land and enhanced biodiversity

Contacts: K.hadgu@cgiar.org
or N.hagazi@cigar.org