



Name: *Fethia Abdullahi Ahmed*

Current Appointment: Consultant

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Area of Research/Teaching

Under the Community Based Training Programme of different International Organizations in Ethiopia, I worked with several community groups at district levels (*woreda*) who are working on rural irrigation projects since 2011. My work entailed examining problems affecting community groups and recommending solutions to identified problems. I trained community members of Irrigation Water Users Associations regarding basic institutional strengthening activities, interpretation of Federal Proclamation and Regulations, enabling the communities to enforce bylaws and to enable them manage their resources, as well as recommending the development of local saving mechanisms among members of community projects.

I describe the study conducted in 2011-2012 for Oxfam America in Ethiopia, an intervention aimed at helping farmers to set up Water Users Associations to enhance smallholder access to water for irrigation. It was set through installing irrigation infrastructures, ad hoc trainings on cultivation techniques, efficient water management and purchase of productive inputs such as seeds, fertilizers and equipment. The research looked at five categories of sustainability: Technical Capacity, Financial Management, Governance, Farm Profitability and Land and Water Resources. The research confirms that sustaining investment in access to irrigation for small holder farmers needs an effective strategy to increase food production and improve agricultural incomes. Analysts need to evaluate both the current and future demands for water in the region. Additionally, farm-level access to affordable credit is equally important. Furthermore, equal access to resources and opportunities for women particularly in natural resources management, production and marketing is crucial. To the best extent possible, intervention programs should help to reduce the risks associated with hydrology, finance and market access.

In my work, I have been able to use my analytical and critical thinking skills in forecasting opportunities and challenges that may affect projects regarding water use and governance issues, issues which may need detailed analysis and resolution. Further, my recent professional experience in an irrigation project design at International Fund for Agricultural Development, has contributed to my understanding in addressing governance issues at all levels, understanding social differences, environmental issues and how Gender and nutrition sensitive component in projects will contribute a better development for poverty reduction.

I am eager to expand my intellectual frontiers in the pursuit of a greater understanding of critical and challenging issues that influence livelihoods. Specifically, participation of women in decision making and leadership roles especially in small scale irrigation management. Traditional, social and economic patterns that place a powerful constraints on the rights of women and their opportunities to form a key part of the rural economy.

Biography

My name is Fethia Ahmed, a 27 years old woman with an LLB in Laws obtained from Haramaya University, in Ethiopia. I have been contributing on areas involving improvement of livelihood conditions mainly in rural areas of Ethiopia. I have been working with local communities on improving how water and land resources are managed and used, by means of community training programmes through different International and UN Organizations including Oxfam International Liaison office with the African Union, Oxfam America, International Water Management Institute, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nation and International Fund for Agricultural Development, in Ethiopia. I am a co-author on an evaluation report for Oxfam America conducted at International Water Management Institute on Institutional Sustainability of Smallholder Water Systems for Productive Use. I was given the opportunity to travel to Turkey, Singapore and South Korea to participate in seminars where I shared the result of my research with professionals from around the Globe.

Name: Fethia A. Ahmed
Educational Background: LLB with Laws
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Research Interests & Accomplishments

Smallholder households

Access to irrigation

Women in agriculture



Arata Chufa
Irrigation scheme
members,
August 2013



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