

Teshome Walle Temesgen 2010: Social and Economic Assessment of the Resettlement Program in Amhara Region, Ethiopia. Doctor of Philosophy (Tropical Agriculture), Major Field: Tropical Agriculture, Interdisciplinary Graduate Program. Thesis Advisor: Associate Professor Savitree Rangsihaht, Ph.D. 181 pages.

The objectives of this study were to: 1) understand and compare the economic and social changes of resettlers as a result of the new resettlement program, 2) assess the impacts of the resettlement program on the environment 3) identify the problems associated with the resettlement program and get suggestions and recommendations from the resettlers and 4) provide plans and activities to strengthen the ongoing development efforts of the new resettlement program.

The study was conducted in six recent resettlement *Kebeles* (Villages) in Metema and Quara *Woredas* (Districts) of Amhara National Regional State, Ethiopia. An interview schedule was employed to collect data from 337 resettlers' households, selected by simple random sampling methods. Data were analyzed by using descriptive and inferential statistics to test hypotheses at  $P < 0.05$ .

The findings of the present study revealed that the total annual household income of more than 50% of resettlers in both of studied *Woredas* has doubled (to reach above 7,000 Birr/household) after the resettlement program. The resettlers in Metema and Quara *Woredas* have respectively expressed moderate and low satisfaction levels in terms of their access to identified twelve common social services after resettlement program. The results of the study further indicated that the overwhelming majority of resettlers have never practiced any type of soil fertility management activities in the new resettlement areas. The level of participation of resettlers in natural forest protection was found to be low. Analysis of data using paired sample t-test revealed that average annual on-farm and total household income of resettlers as well as access to identified common social services after the resettlement program were significantly higher ( $p < 0.05$ ) than the case before the resettlement.

Absence of sufficient and clean water, all weather road and communication facilities are among problems encountered in the resettlement areas. Natural resource degradation in the resettlement areas is advancing at an alarming rate, while low levels conservation are practiced. It's recommended that local government and concerned authorities strive to raise the awareness of resettlers on natural resource conservation activities; and intervene to urgently integrate development needs and conservation measures.

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