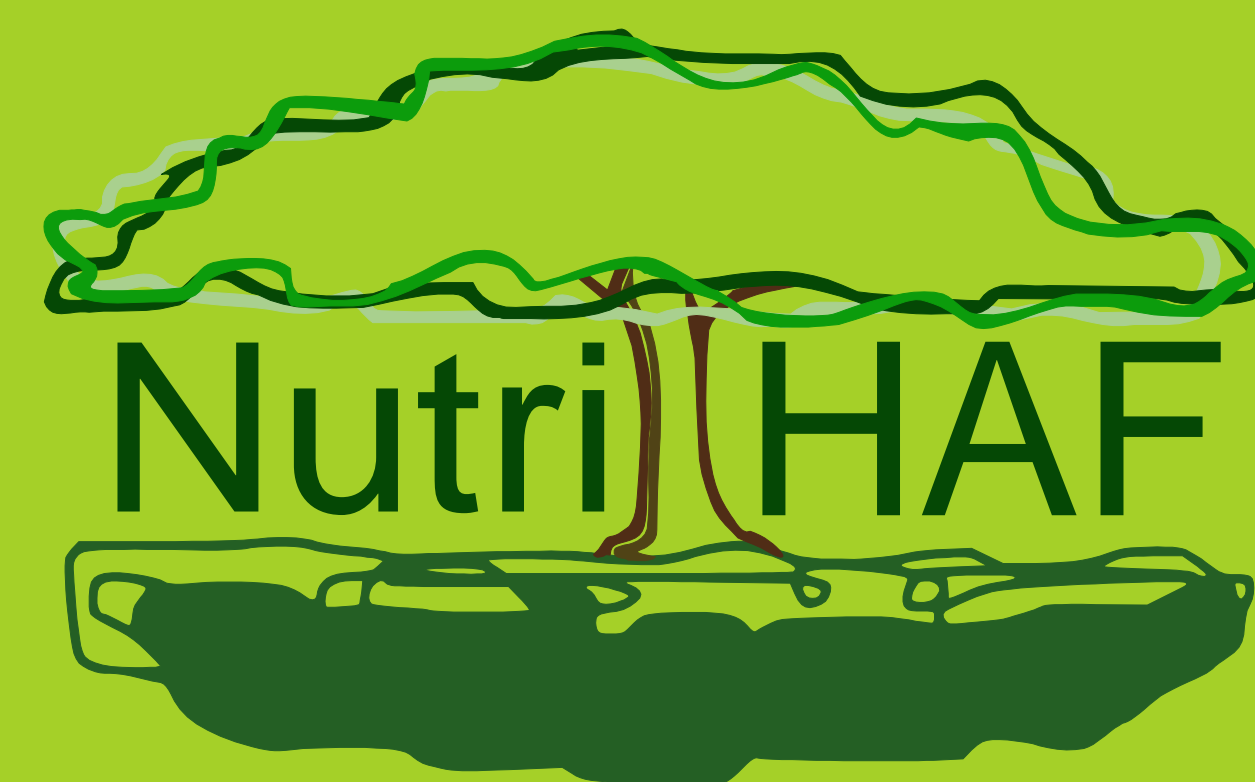


NutriHAF – Africa
Diversifying agriculture for balanced nutrition through fruits and vegetables in multi-storey cropping systems



Challenges and Prospects of Farm and Non-farm Livelihood Strategies of Smallholder Farmers in Yayu Biosphere Reserve, South-West Ethiopia. A Qualitative Analysis

TROPENTAG CONFERENCE, SEPTEMBER 18-21, VIENNA, AUSTRIA

Project partners



Zentrum für Entwicklungsforschung
Center for Development Research
University of Bonn



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Ethiopian Environment and Forest Research Institute



Logo Welthungerhilfe



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Three major project aims of NutriHAF



Increase nutrition security of the population with a focus on micro-nutrients



Diversify and intensify agriculture in the target regions → increase of income and resilience



Reduce pressure on natural habitats in biodiversity hotspot → developing holistic approaches and implementation strategies for a sustainable, nutrition-sensitive and diversified agriculture

Where does NutriHAF work?



NutriHAF works in biodiversity hotspots in Ethiopia and Madagascar

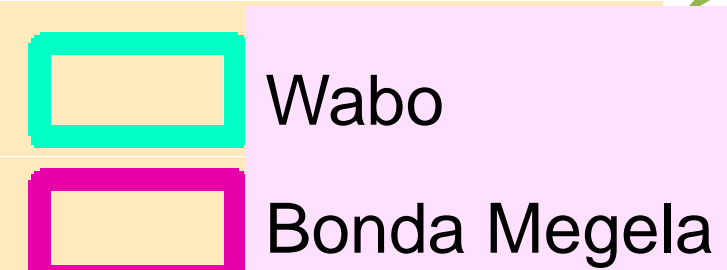


In Ethiopia, NutriHAF works in the transition zone of the Yayu biosphere reserve in

Hurumu Woreda



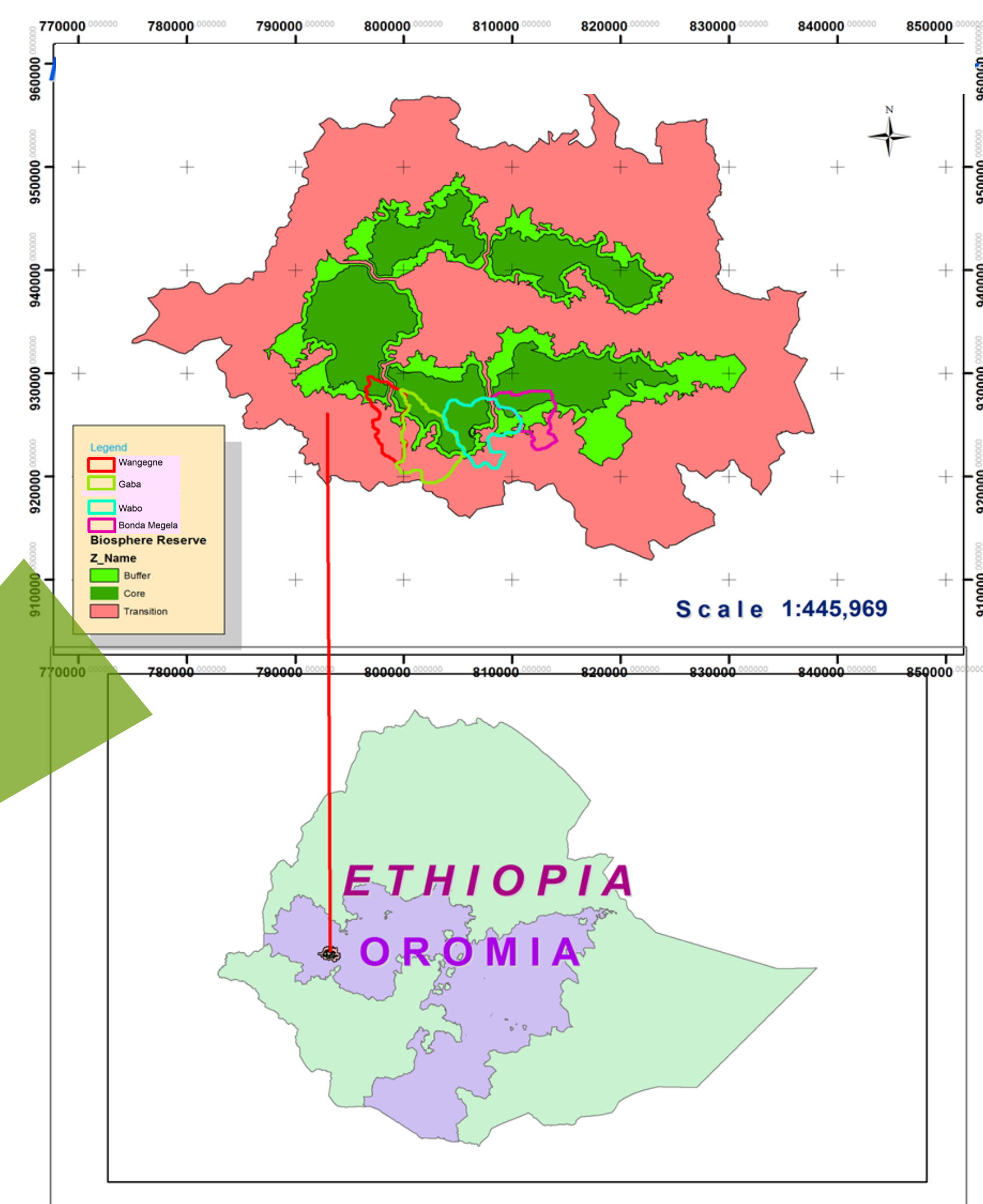
Yayu Woreda



Women carrying firewood at the project sites © S.Nischalke/NutriHAF



Bonda Megela-One of the project village © S. Nischalke/ NutriHAF



Map of the study kebeles in Ethiopia © GIS sketch by Sheleme Demisse, ECFF

Introduction

- The study aimed at analyzing the challenges and prospects of farm and non-farm livelihood strategies of smallholder farmers taking Yayu Biosphere reserve in Ethiopia as a case study site.
- 28 FGDs, 6 key informant interviews, and participant observation were employed to collect in depth gender disaggregated qualitative data from four sites, viz. Bondomegela, Wabo, Gaba and Wangegne in Illubabor zone, South-West Ethiopia.

Farm Livelihood strategies

- MAIN CHALLENGES**
 - Low price for commodities produced (particularly coffee)
 - Unaffordable & scarcity of agricultural inputs (particularly synthetic fertilizer)
 - Diseases and wild animals attack
 - Scarcity of capital, and labor particularly during harvesting
 - Fragmentation of land as a result of population pressure
- Impact of Climate change (such as erratic precipitation and temperature)

PROSPECTS

- Low interest of the youth to take over farming as an occupation/or considering as a last option
- Increasing interest of parents to involve their children in non-farm sectors and resistance against farming (due to its demanding nature)
- Increasing tendency for rural out-migration and increasing interest to work in urban areas
- Expansion of non-farm sectors and urbanization.

Non-farm Livelihood strategies

- MAIN CHALLENGES**
 - Scarcity of capital to start up a non-farm business
 - Farmers have limited time to be involved in this sector
 - Requirement of additional land for certain non-farm businesses
 - Unable to be involved in profitable non-farm businesses due to lack of skill and knowledge that fit to the demand of some non-farm businesses
 - Wrong perception and attitude on some non-farm livelihood strategies
- PROSPECTS**
 - Main livelihood strategy for the landless
 - Among the main livelihood strategies for women headed households
 - Not directly influenced by climate change
 - Serving as coping mechanism and income diversification strategy during harsh conditions
 - Contributing to the development of small scale enterprises

Conclusion

- Farmers lack other better livelihood alternatives, and they are losing hope in taking up farming as a main means of livelihood due to the challenges they are facing on farming.
- As a result, a gloomy feature has been created on the future prospects of farming and calls for the urgency of integrated development interventions: including interventions that focus on improving the resource management capacity of smallholder farmers & reducing pressure on land by designing capacity building programs to enable them fit to better paying non-farm jobs.



NutriHAF field trials of indigenous vegetables at the project sites © Techane/ECFF



NutriHAF field trials of indigenous vegetables at the project site © Techane/ECFF

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