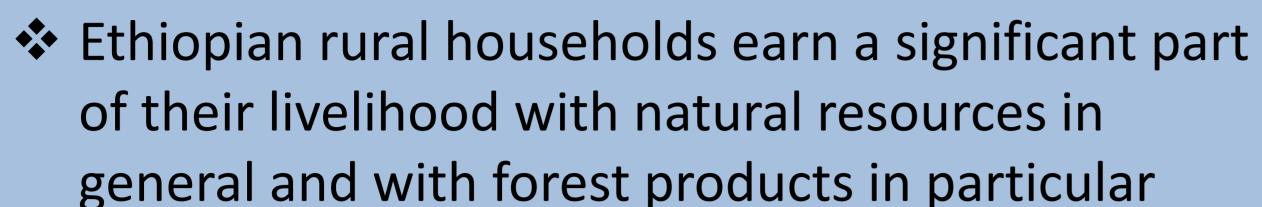
# Agroforestry – Food Security Nexus: Future Potentials of Bamboo to Food Security Enhancement in Ethiopia



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### Background 😂



- Bamboo is one of the most important forest resources
  - 850,000 hectares lowland bamboo varieties
  - 350,000 hectares highland bamboo varieties
- Source of energy, fodder, construction, and input for SMEs via forward and backward linkages
- Major part of farming system and source of livelihood for rural people
- Despite a high potential for enhancing livelihoods and environmental sustainability, the sector has been overlooked for a long time
- Being cognizant of the benefits of bamboo, attention has been given to the sector since recently

## Objective

Assess the current status and future potentials of bamboo to enhance sustainable livelihoods and food security of smallholder farmers in Ethiopia



#### Data and methods



- Research area: Amhara and Benishangul Gumuz
- Qualitative and quantitative data collected covering 486 randomly selected households
- Focus group discussions, key informant interviews, case story narrations, and household questionnaire
- Ordered response models
  - Food consumption score
  - Dietary diversity score
- Principle component analysis
  - Coping strategies index

#### Results



- \* Households' food consumption profile improves with higher levels of income from bamboo
- ❖ Wealth index has a strong positive relationship with food consumption score, dietary diversity score and a negative relationship with coping strategies index
- Food crises are tackled by
  - i. Consumption switching strategies (eat inferior foods, reducing food variety)
  - ii. Bamboo related strategies (selling bamboo culms, eating bamboo shoots, harvest immature crops)
  - iii. Other strategies (borrowing cash, help from neighbors, sell assets)

#### Way forward

- To tap into the full potential of bamboo, a collective action of the government, NGOs and other stakeholders is required mainly to create awareness among smallholder farm households and artisans about
  - diverse benefits of bamboo
  - > improved methods of growing and extracting culms
  - adoption of improved technologies



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