

Highlights of the descriptive survey report

Climate induced hazards such as droughts, pose a major threat to the conditions of the rural households in Ethiopia. With the livelihood of the vast majority relying on the traditional agricultural, which is highly vulnerable to recurrent climate related hazards, coupled with a population growth rate of around 2.5% per year, Ethiopia needs to adapt to climate change and achieve significant increases in agricultural productivity over the next decades. In the past, severe droughts in Ethiopia have led to widespread famines. The country experienced 15 drought episodes between 1965 and 2015, some of which resulted in massive humanitarian crises. For instance, in 2015-2016 the country experienced one of the worst El Niño-induced droughts in decades, with below-average rainfall leading to 50–90% harvest failure affecting more than 10.2 million people, who became dependent on food assistance.

On this background, shielding the economy from severe climate shocks and building resilience to climate change induced shocks is an urgent policy priority for Ethiopia. It is with this sense of imperative need that the government of Ethiopia is taking proactive action to address climate change associated challenges. The launch of the Climate Resilient and Green Economy Strategy (CRGE) in 2011, which includes improving resilience to climate change as one of its main objectives is a clear indication in this regard. The inclusion of CRGE as one of the cross-cutting components of the country's current growth and transformation plan (GTP II), also shows the government's commitment to address climate change related issues. The GTP II acknowledges that in the long-term, if climate change is not tackled, growth and economic development itself will be at risk. This accentuates the need for concrete action to reduce vulnerability and increase resilience in the face of adverse climate shocks.

It is with this understanding that the Policy Studies Institute (PSI) together with the Development Economics Research Group at the University of Copenhagen (UCPH-DERG) started a collaborative research project supported financially by Danida on building resilience to climate change with the aim of providing a sound evidence base to help design future resilience enhancing policies in the country. In particular, the objective is to identify, compare and evaluate

the drivers of resilience to climate change in rural Ethiopia by examining actions taken at the household and village/district level as well as analyzing the effects of large-scale flagship programmes. They include the Ethiopian Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP), the Sustainable Land Management Programme (SLMP), and the Agricultural Growth Programme (AGP). This is done using existing national survey data, satellite measures of drought exposure and vegetation resilience, and a new, targeted household survey in rural Ethiopia, which is the topic of the present report.

The Resilience to Climate Change (RCC) household survey consists of interviews with 2,000 households across three agro-ecological zones in five regional states: Amhara, Oromia, Somali, Gambela and the Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' Region (SNNPR), and two towns. The Survey covered 40 Woredas drawn from the five regional states and one City administration (Dire Dawa). As the survey is also designed to enable assessment of the contributions of the three major national flagship programmes: PSNP, SLMP and AGP, 31 out of the 40 Woredas are from flagship programme Woredas, while the remaining nine are from non-programme Woredas. We used systematic random sampling to draw 50 households from each Woreda. Inaccessible Woredas and Woredas with a security problem were dropped before sampling.

The sampling strategy used the representativeness of the population as a critical principle. Three stages of sampling were undertaken: drawing sample Woredas, sample Kebeles, and sample households. Woredas were drawn randomly from 12 groups formed by a combination of agro-ecology and programme/non-programme status.

The survey questionnaire includes questions on household composition; agricultural production and technologies, livestock and non-farm activities; wealth and consumption; climate change perception, drought and resilience capacities; risk preferences, time preferences; and guessing-game experiments.

Hence, the intent of the workshop is to share key findings from the household survey which are expected to have an important contribution for designing future resilience enhancing policy actions in the country.

The invited workshop participants include senior government officials, member of parliaments, representatives from international and local research institutions, universities, donor representatives, invited speakers and practitioners at project implementation level.