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ASSESSING THE EFFECT OF LAND DEGRADATION ON FARMER'S LIVELIHOOD OPTIONS CHOKE MOUNTAIN

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ABSTRACT

This study tried to assess the effect of land degradation on farmer's livelihood options in Sinan Woreda, East Gojam zone, Ethiopia. Land degradation particularly in the study area and generally in Ethiopia highlands has been a concern for many years and these consisted fundamental bases of rural livelihood problem. The objective of this study was to explore the existing farmers' livelihood options in the study area. In recent years more holistic land degradation problems have been promoted with different scholars where its impact is yet to be seen on farmers' livelihood options. The research design was focused on cross sectional survey and multistage sampling methods would be used to select the study area and sample size. The primary data was collected through dispensing research questionnaires for land degradation and farmers livelihood options. The study was based on the data collected from 187 households. The collected data were analyzed through descriptive and econometric analysis. The descriptive analyses concluded the livelihood options that farmers use to survive the problem of land degradation. The descriptive result shows that 59.4 percent of the total household revealed that agro-forestry product especially apple fruit plays an important role in farmers livelihood. The farm practices in the study area were an important source of income for farmer's livelihood. The result of econometrics model (Multinomial Logit model) shows that education has a positive and significant impact at the confidence level of 0.07% (0.0475 of marginal effect) with relation to the livelihood option (income source). Agro-forestry was one of the most important variables that impacted farmers' livelihood options positively and significantly sway natural resource utilization, and involving in different livelihood option. It is generalized that the facts from land degradation have impact on key livelihood resources and the area is vulnerable to climate change.



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