Titel der Dissertation

Farm forestry decision-making strategies of the Guraghe households, Southern-Central Highlands of Ethiopia

Description

Guraghe Highland is located in the southern central part of Ethiopia between the geographic coordinates of 7o30'to 8o 35' North latitude and 37o 30' to 38o 35' East longitude. The extreme altitudes range from 1000 to over 3600 masl. The highland region is mainly known for high population density of over 250 persons per km2.
The western part of the Guraghe massif is currently well-known for extensive on-farm plantations of Eucalyptus species. Since its introduction to the region during the 1950s expansion of eucalypt woodlots has been encouraged by total destruction of the native woody species. Every household grows eucalypt trees mainly to meet household wood demands and additionally to raise petty cash revenue. On the other hand, growing of leguminous multipurpose tree and/or shrub species is little practiced. Promotion agencies concentrate on production and distribution of exotic timber species which farmers largely plant for aesthetic purposes.

The present study aims at identifying major driving forces behind such heavy reliance on eucalypt woodlots, the reputation of which has faced heated debates world-wide. It also aims at developing methodological approaches of farm households' decision-making studies and to creating comprehensive understanding of farmers' behavioral choice criteria in on-farm tree/shrub management. The extent to which adequate understanding of farmers' decision-making processes contributes to the efforts of promoting on-farm tree management practices will be explored.

Specific objective of the study

Under the umbrella of this broad objective the following specific objectives will be pursued in this study:
- to elicit a plausible framework of farmers' cognitive strategies in farm forestry decision-making processes and to model the specific criteria of various decision processes;
- to coherently establish the responses of farmers in varying socio-economic and physical environments to farm forestry choice risks and uncertainties; and
- to identify and prescribe alternative farm forestry decision-making approaches and policy interventions with special emphasis on the enhancement of sustainable agroforestry practices.