

Summary of Initial Profile Survey at Somali Region, Harre Dry Valley (HA1W)

A. Basic Data

The survey was conducted on 15/12/2021 in Somali regional state at Jigjiga east, Harre village. The land tenure system in the area is individual. The type of interview conducted was Focus group discussion that includes both men and women participants. The total number of household heads represented was 11 of which 4 were women.

B. History

The natural resource of the area is mostly used for crop; pasture and shrubland. Comparing with the previous period the change is observable specially regarding vegetation cover; erosion; water availability etc. The main causes for these changes was recurrent drought; land degradation and pest infestation like locust. Moreover, the rain season is changed from six months per year to erratic distribution with which difficult to sustain the livelihood. Currently the biggest problem in the area is shortage of water.

C. Scope of Users of Available Natural Resource (NR)

The total number of primary household heads that are benefiting from the dry valley are 100 HH out of this 30 HH are female headed. In the wet season looking for pasture there are secondary users coming from Korahy zone and others. The respondents estimate the number of secondary user households coming from other areas are around 100. According to the respondents so far there was no experience of conflict for using the natural resource of the area.

D. Livestock and Access to Pasture/Rangeland

After the implementation of the project activities started on the dry valley the accessibility of pasture was increased both in terms of quality and quantity. But the available pasture and water is not enough for the livestock in the area.

The result of the focus group discussion shows that the estimated average number of livestock's in the area was dramatically declined. Recurrent drought and disease outbreak were the basic factors mentioned by the respondents as a reason. In general, the livestock holdings are declining with the number of households increases. According the respondents

during the dry season selling of their livestock was used as a coping strategy for securing their livelihood. The following table summarize the estimated current average number of animals per households in the dry valley.

Livestock	Current Average Number of Livestock	Remarks
Camel	Less than 1	Few households have pack animals (male camels)
Cattel	5	
Goat	5	
Sheep	15	
Donkey	2	

Moreover, for protecting the pasture/crop land of the area the communities in the area didn't have experience in applying various soil and water conservation measures. But they have experience about ensuring fodder availability to their livestock through cut and carry and seed propagation/collection methods. Concerning the problem of invasive species in the area Parthenium and Mursal are mentioned by the respondents with a moderate level of infestation. For preventing the further spreading of the invasive species, the respondents didn't know what to and then they reported to the government for getting support in terms of controlling methodologies.

E. Water and Wood: Availability and Access

In the past eight years the borehole which was the main source of the water in the area was not functioning properly and then instead the community in the areas was dependent on an emergency support through water trucking and during the dry season temporarily migrating to other areas for looking water.

But after the dry valley rehabilitation measures implemented by the project access to water in the area has been improved for both livestock and household consumptions. For example, in one of the water spreading weir structures the water is stayed behind for a period of around three months and benefiting the surrounding communities and livestock's.

F. Trees/Shrubs

The number of trees/shrubs found in the area is not much enough for the livestock and the communities around. Among the available trees Marra; Suksuk and Ein are the most important tree species specially for fodder; firewood and making shade. The communities in the area didn't have experience in planting trees. Due to drought and individually ownership of land the availability of firewood in the area is not enough this makes them to use livestock manure; weeds and shrubs instead. Moreover, women's to spent more than 12 hours per day for searching of firewood.

G. Crops

In the past season most of the individual households on the dry valley had been cultivated crops and vegetables like maize; sorghum; onion; peppers and tomato. But they didn't receive any type of support with regards to inputs like seeds; tools etc... instead they purchased individually. In the past three years they cultivate and harvest twice but the productivity specially this year was declined due to drought. According to the respondents the agricultural production activities in the dry valley is increased after the project activities are started.

H. Organizational Issues within the User Community

According to the availability and quality of advisory service provided by the development agent in the area is moderate. As the areas is near to the main road to Jigjiga the community in the area have easy access to market and transportation with a maximum of one hour to reach the market.

The communities in the area have a strong traditional mechanism for mediating conflict of interest of using the natural resource of the dry valley. But so far, they didn't have an experience of conflict concerning the use of the natural resources in the dry valley.

Moreover, there two cooperatives are functioning in the area which mainly engaged in milk and crop production activities with the number of members 16 and 12 respectively.

I. Skills and Income

Among the respondents one has a masonry skill acquired from the training provided by the project. Livestock and crop production are the typical livelihood options to create income in the area. As the land use setup is individual the household members including women and youths are benefited.

J. Suggestions

For further improvement of the area the following suggestions were forwarded by the respondents:

- For solving the water shortage problem construction of dam was proposed.
- Area coverage of the dry valley rehabilitation measures implemented need to be extended.
- Accessibility of agricultural inputs and tools by the concerned bodies should be considered.
- Improving the fodder development in the area is crucial for sustainably securing their livelihood specially during the drought season.