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Assessment of Rural Landlessness, Access to Land and Livelihood Options: The Case of Gubalafto Woreda, North Wollo Zone, Amhara Region, Ethiopia.

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Bahir Dar University

Institute of Land Administration

Department of Land Administration and Surveying

MSc Program in Land Administration and Management

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By

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January, 2023

Bahir Dar, Ethiopia

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**Assessment of Rural Landlessness, Access to Land and Livelihood
Options: The Case of Gubalafto Woreda, North Wollo Zone,
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By
Melisa Ayalew

A Thesis

Submitted to the Institute of Land Administration, Bahir Dar University in
Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of Masters of Science
(MSc) in Land Administration and Management

Advisor: Tadesse Amsalu (PhD)

January, 2023
Bahir Dar, Ethiopia

DECLARATION

This is to certify that the thesis entitled “Assessment of rural landlessness, access to land and livelihood options: the case of Gubalafto Woreda, North Wollo Zone, Amhara Region, Ethiopia.”, submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of science (MSc) in Land Administration and Management, Bahir Dar University, is a record of original work carried out by me and has never been submitted to this or any other institution to get any other degree or certificates. The assistance and help I received during the course of this investigation have been duly acknowledged.

Declared by: - Melisa Ayalew Molla

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Approval of Thesis for Defense

I hereby certify that, I have supervised, read, and evaluated this thesis titled “Assessment of rural landlessness, access to land and livelihood options: the case of Gubalafto Woreda, North Wollo Zone, Amhara Region, Ethiopia.” by Melisa Ayalew prepared under my guidance. I recommend the thesis be submitted for oral defense.

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Approval of thesis for defense result

As members of the board of examiners, we examined this thesis entitled “Assessment of rural landlessness, access to land and livelihood options: the case of Gubalafto Woreda, North Wollo Zone, Amhara Region, Ethiopia,” by Melisa Ayalew. We hereby certify that the thesis is accepted for fulfilling the requirements for the award of the degree of “Master of Science in Land Administration and Management”.

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ABSTRACT

Land is the most critical asset in rural Ethiopia. With an ever-increasing population, the number of landless people has increased tremendously. Thus landlessness is a common reality in rural areas, including the study area. Having this in mind, this study was carried out to assess rural landlessness, access to land and livelihood options in Gubalafto woreda. The study applied mixed research method and all the necessary data required for this study were gathered from both primary and secondary sources. This study also employed both probability and non-probability sampling techniques. For this study, two-sample kebeles were selected purposely. Also, 177 landless were selected using simple random sampling method. In addition, data was gathered by using key informant interview and focused group discussion with purposively selected individuals. A combination of both quantitative and qualitative data analysis methods were employed to analyze the data. Quantitative data which were generated from questionnaire survey were analyzed using descriptive statistics. Qualitative data that were collected from key informant interview and focused group discussion were analyzed following the principle of theme analysis. The findings of this study showed that rural landlessness is a serious and increasing problem from time to time. In this case, access to land has become a narrow possibility for the rural landless in the study area. Due to this only a fraction of the rural landless has got land from parents, sharecropping, government allocation and rent. This land access problem makes many landless live with their parents rather than leading independent life. The available livelihood options are scarce and even those started by few landless are not profitable. The result of this study also indicated that institutional efforts in facilitating provision of inputs required and in organizing the landless in integrated manner to reduce the problem of landless was weak. Therefore, the study recommends that, there must be clear guidelines or planned activities to be followed by each institution on how the landless issues should be handled, and institutional efforts should be strengthened to assist the landless in an integrated manner so that the landless could consider more livelihood options that are profitable.

Key words: Rural landless, access to land, livelihood options, off farm activity, socioeconomic implication.

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

ADLI	Agricultural Development-Led Industrialization
CSA	Central Statistical Agency
CSA	Central Statistical Agency
DFID	Department for International Development
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
EEPRI/EEA	Ethiopian Economic Policy Research Institute
EPRDF	Ethiopian People’s Revolutionary Democratic Front
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organizations
FDRE	Federal democratic republic of Ethiopia
FGD	Focus group discussion
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
KII	Key Informant Interview
MFLs	Microfinance institutions
Msl	mean see level
NGO	Non-governmental organization
RLAUP	Rural land administration and use proclamation
UNCDF	United Nations Capital Development Fund
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Land is a scarce natural resource. The demand is continuously growing to satisfy human beings basic needs, limitless wants and desires. People must adopt the best use of land resources to sustain the economic, social and ecological benefits for the present and the next generations (FAO, 2010). It is also a vast political resource that describes how people, families, and communities hold power within established institutions of government (IFAD, 2008).

Land is a fundamental resource for the economic development of both developing and developed countries in the world (Burns and Dalrymple, 2008). Luis et al. (2020) Stated that three out of four of the world's poorest billion people depend on agricultural land and related activities for their survival. According to the World Development Report 2008, “the size of the rural population is expected to continue to grow until 2020. South Asia will begin such a decline after 2025, and Africa after 2030 at the earliest. Besides, increasing rural populations lead to encroachment on forests, marshes, and the few remaining natural habitats, as well as an increase in landlessness and a reduction in the amount of farmland available for cultivation. For instance, the average size of landholdings in India has decreased from 2.6 hectares in 1960 to 1.4 hectares in 2000, and this trend is continuing. Similar trends have been observed over the past 20 years in Bangladesh, the Philippines, and Thailand, where average farm sizes have decreased and landlessness has increased (World Development Report, 2008). Also in Cambodia, rural landlessness went up from 13 percent in 1997 to 20 percent in 2004, and analysts believe that the current figure is close to 30 percent (IFAD, 2008).

According to Maxwell and Weibe (1999) land is the crucial source of generating livelihood income for society, and a fundamental asset for economic development, food security and poverty reduction in Africa. For instance, in Sub-Saharan Africa, it is evident that access to land has helped farm households improve their livelihoods via generating income, maintaining natural capital, creating physical assets and building human capital(Kjaer , 2017). However, due to environmental and socioeconomic issues, the availability of farmland to landless people has recently decreased (Shackleton and Masunungure, 2018). And this is related to a growing population, a limited supply of natural resources, land fragmentation brought on by periodic redistribution, an increase in urbanization, and the creation of small towns (Bilsborrow &

DeLargy, 1990). Moreover, in a number of nations in Eastern and Southern Africa, the amount of cultivated land per capita has decreased by half in the past generation (IFAD, 2008).

Likewise in Ethiopia, the country's growth is heavily reliant on the success of the agricultural sector, which continues to be the country's main economic pillar (Boone, 2019). It accounts for 42 percent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), a major source of foreign exchange earnings and means of livelihood directly or indirectly for 85 percent of the population (CSA, 2016). In rural areas of Ethiopia, farming activities are the main sources of income for landless people (Boone, 2019). However, farming operations are conducted on degraded areas in Ethiopia's highlands due to a lack of appropriate arable land (Meaza et al., 2016). Holden and Bezu (2013) indicated that landless households in Southern Ethiopia were more dependent on non-agricultural means of subsistence, and there is a sizable rural-urban mobility among the landless particularly in regions with acute agricultural land scarcity.

The constitution of Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia provides Ethiopian peasants have right to obtain land without payment (FDRE, 1995). Nevertheless, land shortage is currently an issue for the nation, particularly in the highland regions where population concentrations and growth are relatively high. Consequently, the constitution fails to provide land to all rural landless as the source of income. Thus, landlessness has been a big issue for the local authorities in the county (Diriba, 2020). Furthermore, Rahman and Manprasert (2006) pointed out that in rural communities where the majority depends on land to generate means of subsistence, and the issue of landlessness is a sign of poverty, debt, and powerlessness.

Moreover, in Amhara Region, Tadesse and Birhanu (2016) showed that, although land redistribution was carried out in Amhara region in last decades to accommodate landless households including women, the newly emerging young population in rural areas has largely remained landless due to the absence of subsequent land redistribution. They also put problems of landlessness is the major challenge in the region as population is showing high growth rate from year to year. These incidents are widely encountered in Gubalafto woreda in which the study is undertaken. Therefore this study focuses on assessment of rural landlessness, opportunities to access land and livelihood options in Gubalafto Woreda.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Land is a key resource for growth and development. It is the crucial source of generating livelihood income for society, a fundamental asset for economic development, food security and poverty reduction in Africa (Maxwell and Weibe 1999). For instance, in Sub-Saharan Africa, It is evident that having access to land has aided farm households in improving their standard of living through income generation, preservation of natural capital, creation of physical assets, and development of human capital (Kjaer, 2017). Also Solomon and Mansberger (2003) indicate that the potential to eliminate poverty and promote sustainable development lies in access to rural land. However, due to environmental and socioeconomic issues, the amount of farmland provided to landless people has recently decreased (Shackleton and Masunungure, 2018). These include an increase in population number, a decrease in the amount of available land, land fragmentation brought on by frequent land transfers, an increase in urbanization, and the creation of small towns (Bilsborrow and DeLargy, 1990). Besides, growing rural populations result in expansion of cultivated areas, encroachment into forests, wetlands and the few remaining natural habitats, as well as in increasing landlessness and decreasing size of farm land (World Development Report, 2008). Nachtergaele et al. (2011) showed that, per capital farmland is estimated to shrink from the current level of 0.2 to 0.1 ha in 2050 in the developing countries due to the rapid increase in human population.

Likewise in Ethiopia, the great majority of the Ethiopian people make a living in the agricultural sector. Also, access to agricultural land continues to play crucial role in the country's overall development (Boone, 2019). Adenew and Abdi (2005) also states that the social, economic, and political position of rural households in the country is strongly correlated with the availability of land. However, due to the rapid increase in population, the size of this basic resource is becoming severely scarce (Bezu and Holden, 2014). As the result a number of rural residents have become landless and also landlessness emerging among the youth who are unable to stay on their parents' land. In this situation, the small land holdings of the majority of rural households were unable to meet the children's land demands, and there are cases where landless children tend to make conflicts with their parents.

Some studies have been conducted on the issue of landlessness by different authors in different time and place. For example, Anwar et al. (2004) studied on landlessness and rural Poverty in

Pakistan. The researcher showed that poverty is strongly correlated with lack of land which is the principal asset in the rural economy of Pakistan. In addition, the study revealed that a high concentration of landownership and unfair tenancy contracts are major obstacles to agricultural growth and alleviation of poverty. Another study is done by Chowdhury and Baten (2010) on increasing landlessness and its impact on food security and explored the link between landlessness and food security in rural Bangladesh. The result shows landlessness leads to farmer's insufficient purchasing power to buy adequate nutritious food for their families.

Again Rahman and Manprasert (2006) conducted a study on landlessness and its impact on economic development in Bangladesh. This study also focused on only landlessness and economic development. The result shows a negative relationship between landlessness and economic development. Additionally, Wolde et al, (2020) conducted a study on land size and landlessness as connotations for food security in rural low-income farmers in Gedeo Zone, Southern Ethiopia. This study examines the cause and consequences of food insecurity for rural low-income farmers. The study revealed that households in the area were vulnerable to food insecurity primarily due to landlessness and land fragmentation.

However, there is no adequate study carried out on how the rural landless attempt to get access to land, how the kebele administration treats the issue of rural landless and livelihood options considered by the landless, and socio economic and environmental consequences related to landlessness and institutional arrangements put in place to handle rural landlessness issues in the study area. Therefore, taking note of the previous research findings and gaps identified, this study tries to investigate trends in rural landlessness, opportunities to access land, and livelihood options adopted by the landless, and the role of institutions in charge of addressing the problem of rural landlessness in Gubalafto woreda.

1.3 Objective of the Study

1.3.1 General Objective

The main objective of this study is to assess rural landlessness in the context of access to land and livelihood options adopted by the landless in Gubalafto Woreda.

1.3.2 Specific Objectives

- ☞ To assess the trend of rural landlessness in the study area.
- ☞ To investigate strategies followed by the landless to get access to land in the study area.
- ☞ To identify available livelihood options followed by landless in the study area.
- ☞ To investigate the implications of rural landlessness on social, economic and environmental conditions in the study area.
- ☞ To examine the existing institutional arrangements put in place to assist rural landless get access to land and also engage in off-farm activities.

1.4 Research Question

The study has tried to answer the following interrelated questions:

1. What is the trend of rural landlessness in the study area over the last decades?
2. What strategies are followed by the landless to get access to land?
3. What are the available livelihood options of landless in the study area and how effective are the options?
4. What are social, economic and environmental consequences of landlessness in the study area?
5. What institutional arrangements are put in place to handle rural landless problems and how efficient are they in addressing the landlessness problem.

1.5 Significance of the Study

The empirical results of this study will provide valuable input for relevant stakeholders, such as land administration offices, NGOs, youth affairs office, agricultural offices, micro finance offices on how to handle and address the issue of rural landlessness. It contributes to motivate other researchers for further studies in the area of rural landlessness. It will also be a stepping

stone for researchers, policy makers, donors and concerned parties to be informed on the issue of rural landlessness. The recommended suggestions of this study used as feedback for concerned body to reduce the problem of landlessness.

1.6 Scope of the Study

Conceptually rural landlessness is abroad concept that can be seen as multidimensional aspects. But, it is not possible to cover the whole aspects with the available time and resources. Thus, it is advisable to limit the study size and the scope of the problem to a manageable size. Hence, this study is focusing on assessment of rural landlessness, access to land and livelihood options. It assess trends, ways of accessing land and livelihood options of rural landless, socioeconomic and environmental implications of landlessness and lastly existing institutional arrangements to assist the rural landless get access to land and engage in off farm activities were addressed. Geographically, this study is confined to assessing rural landlessness, access to land and livelihood options in Gubalafto Woreda, North Wollo Zone, Amhara Region, Ethiopia.

1.7 Limitation of the Study

It is usual that any research from its initiation to its completion has more or less challenges in the process of carrying out the study. In this study, the researcher had faced some problems. Among these, lack of up-to-date literature related to rural land landlessness, land administration officials are busy to get in office due to work loads and field works, lengthy appointments to return questionnaires or to conduct interview, presence of involuntary respondents for Interview and questionnaires, giving wrong responses and time constraint. These problems caused data collection to take long time. Despite this, the researcher overcome these problems by using varies mechanisms. For instance, the researcher made frequent mails and phone calls until officials in the field or meeting returned and asking the representative of the sector.

1.8 Organization of the Paper

This study is organized into five chapters. The first chapter introduces the general overview including the background of the study, statement of the problem, objectives, and research questions, significance of the study, scope, and limitation of the study. The second chapter presents a review of the literature, which applies to the concern of the study. Chapter three describes research methodology which includes a brief description of the study area,

research approach and design, sampling technique, data sources, and data collection tools and method of data analysis. Results and discussions are presented in chapter four. The conclusion and recommendations are mentioned in the final chapter.

1.9 Operational Definition of Terms

Rural land: means small-scale lands preserved for the farmers residing in the area to plow and produce crops, plant trees, build houses or maintain livestock. It is both the agricultural and non-agricultural land that is important to the livelihood of the farmer in the area he/she is residing.

Rural landless: a Person, who is above 18 years old, resides in a rural kebele and who wants to engage in agriculture, but has no land that is supported by a landholding certificate.

Access to land: refers to possibilities to get land such as; inheritance, donation, renting, sharecropping, etc, or through land reform and redistribution, resettlement and spontaneous occupation and squatting.

Livelihood options: - refers to economic activities that the rural landless are engaged to generate income. These could be on farm and off farm activities.

CHAPTER TWO:LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

In this section, different theoretical and empirical literatures are reviewed based on the objectives of the study. The theoretical review include concepts of land and landlessness, causes of rural landlessness, land tenure in Ethiopia, ways of access to land to landless, livelihood options of rural landless, consequences of rural landlessness, institutions to handle the problem of rural landlessness. Finally, it incorporates the empirical review and conceptual framework of the study.

2.2 Land and Landless Concepts

Land is a crucial resource for the economic growth of both developing and developed countries in the world (Burns and Dalrymple, 2008). Land is a natural resource that can be used to produce other natural resources (all gifts of nature). The availability of land is crucial for human life. A global concern for both the present and future generations has evolved on the necessity for thoughtful and careful land ownership along with more intensive use of its resource (UN-ECE, 1996). As land is a key asset for the rural poor and provides an important basis for economic and social development, equitable access to land has the potential to empower the poor (Deininger et al., 2003). However, growing rural populations result in increasing landlessness and decreasing size of farm land.

Landlessness can be defined on the basis of ownership and access to agricultural land. Wage workers (permanent or temporary), artisans, and petty traders, servicemen without ownership of registered rural land are the main groups of the landless in rural areas (Khan et al., 1986). Fekadu (2018) put an operational definitions of landless as a people who resides in a rural kebele but does not have right to land that is supported by a landholding certificate. This includes those who operate land through renting-in and sharecropping, and those who reside in the rural kebele and live on off-farm employment. Therefore landlessness is a state or a condition of lacking the right to hold land. Moreover, Rahmato (2018) defines landless as an individual living in a rural community who has no rights to land registered in his or her name as well as having small parcel of agricultural land is considered landless. It is still acceptable to refer someone as landless even if they have temporary access to land in rental agreement.

2.3 Causes of Landlessness

Different scholars put different causes of rural landlessness. Such as: Rahman and Manprasert (2006) indicates shortage of land, rapid population growth, low productivity in agriculture, lack of effective government policies, colonial legacies are causes of landlessness and near-landlessness. Again, Milkessa and Matebu (2021) states the main reasons for landlessness are: population increase, being underage during the last land redistribution, investment activities in kebeles that are adjacent to towns. Also, Tuyen (2012) shown that landlessness is a result of agricultural land being used for industrial and urban development during periods of economic growth and population expansion. In addition, due to increasing population trends and land degradation, which is made worse by climate change, access to arable land in Africa has been declining (FAO, 2010).

In addition to this, according to Nayenga (2003), the following are the main drivers of landlessness.

- A. Demographic characteristics:** - The most important demographic factors that lead to landlessness is relate to increasing population pressure. Presence of large families leads to excessive land fragmentation and complete loss of land. Because of the presence of many inheritors in the family. Small plots of land divided among many members to lead to over-use of the soils leading to soil exhaustion and reduced productivity. This situation finally leads to landlessness.
- B. Land sales:** - Sale of land is the most important cause of landlessness overall occurring in both the rural and urban areas. Households who sell their land to fulfill their daily basic needs finally became landless.
- C. Land grabbing and disputes:** - Upon the demise of the husbands, widows loss land due to land grabbing by the relatives of the deceased. Land disputes arise due to a number of factors including large families; people are generally unaware of land policy and its application and territorial conflict. Because most maps are outdated, it is not clear to districts where their boundaries lie and this result in territorial conflicts that lead to eviction of poor people.
- D. Gender inequalities:** - In the majority of communities land was said to be belong to the man and they are the ones who can inherit. This cause to landlessness to women's since

they are unable to make investment decisions for the long term and lose the land upon death of their spouse.

E. Negative impacts of Government policies: - peoples become landless as a result of eviction of land by the government without compensation and when there is an investment activity.

F. Natural disasters; - Natural calamities such as floods and landslides can be cause of landlessness.

2.4 Land Tenure in Ethiopia

Land is a major socioeconomic asset in Ethiopia and the way land rights are defined influences the use of land resources and economic growth. In Ethiopian history, the struggle over who controls the land has played a significant role and it is likely that similar trends will continue. In relation to land policy and changes, three periods are distinguished. These include the Imperial regime until 1974, the Dergue regime until 1991 and the EPDRF regime since 1991 (Berhanu and Feyera, 2005).

During the Imperial regime, the country accommodated a land tenure system that was described by most scholars as one of the most complex compilations of differing tenure systems in Africa (Joireman, 2000). The commonly identified tenure systems were communal (rist), grant land (gult), freehold (also known as private gebbar tenure), church (semon), and state (maderia, mengist) (Crewett, at al., 2008). Before 1974, the rist system (in which all descendants of an individual who owned the land were entitled to a share of family land) and gult (an ownership right acquired from the monarch or provincial rulers who were empowered to make land grants) were dominant in the Amhara Region.

The imperial land tenure system was characterized by high tenure insecurity which prevented peasants and farmers from the full benefit of their labor. The system was finally abolished by the rural land proclamation of 1975 enacted by the Derg (Military) regime that overthrew the Imperial regime a year earlier. The Dergue regime put an end to private land ownership and declared land to be the collective property of the Ethiopian people, in which land could not be transferred by sale, lease, or mortgage. Although the land proclamation enabled a number of peasant farmers to have access to land, frequent land redistribution severely eroded sense tenure security and hampered intensive land management by land holders. Despite the regime's attempt

to redistribute land to the landless, the demand for land far outweighed the supply and rural landlessness remained a growing problem (Dessalegn, 1984).

In 1991 the Military government was overthrown by the present regime, and the Transitional Government of Ethiopia, in its declaration on economic policy of that year announced the continuation of the land policy of the Derg (Crewett *et al.*, 2008). In 1995, the new constitution approved and confirmed state ownership of land. Article 40 of the constitution states, the right to ownership of rural and urban land, as well as of all natural resources is exclusively vested in the state and the peoples of Ethiopia. It also indicates land is a common property of the nations, nationalities and peoples of Ethiopia (FDRE, 1995). Although the federal and Regional land proclamations ensure free access to agricultural land, severe land shortage has hampered government ambitions to provide land to the rural landless.

2.5 Access to Land in Ethiopia

Access to land is broadly defined as the processes by which people, individually or collectively, are able to use land, whether on a temporary or permanent basis (IIED and FAO, 2006). The EPRDF regime which overthrew the Derg in 1991 maintained rural and urban land under public ownership. The constitution of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia states that the right to ownership of rural and urban land, as well as of all natural resources, is exclusively vested in the state and in the peoples of Ethiopia (FDRE, 1995). The constitution also states Ethiopian peasants have right to obtain land without payment. Similarly, the current RLAUP (Proc. 456/2005) follows the constitutional principle that creates free access to rural land. It states that peasant farmers and pastoralists engaged in agriculture for a living shall be given rural land free of charge. A person, above the age of 18 years may claim land for agricultural activities, and women who want to engage in agriculture shall also have the right to get and use land. It also identifies inheritance, donation and authorities as the source of acquiring rural land. Land redistribution as it was done during the Derg regime is however prohibited unless the great majority of rural community members reach an agreement. Hence, land shortage is a problem in the country today, particularly in the highland regions where population density and growth are very high. Consequently, the constitution falls short of guaranteeing all rural landless people access to land as a source of income (Diriba, 2020). As a result, landlessness became a major problem in the country.

2.6 Ways of Access to land in Amhara Region

People can use a wide range of strategies to gain access to land. These include purchase, adverse possession or prescription, leasing, sharecropping, inheritance: squatting illegally (FAO, 2002). With regards to this, the Revised Rural Land Administration and Use Determination Proclamation Number 252/2009 of Amhara Region, rural land can be access by the following mechanisms:

1. **Land Distribution:** When it is demonstrated that free land is available, if the rural landowners are not alive and there is no legal heir, due to settlement, or due to their consent to leave their area longer than a deadline specified by a regulation issued to implement this proclamation, this additional land is distributed to the locals.
2. **Rent of Rural Land:** As long as they do not force the landowner to leave their holding, any rural landowner may rent out their use rights to anyone. Any person who holds a holding right may only rent it out for agricultural purposes.
3. **Inheritance:** In accordance with this proclamation, any rural landowner may willfully transfer his ownership as well as the right to use the land to anyone who is actively involved in agriculture or who desires to do so. Through a will, the landowner can assign his ownership and the right to use the property for a defined period of time to many parties.
4. **Donation:** Any rural landowner may donate their landholding and its usage rights to anyone who lives in the Region and meets at least one of the following criteria.
 - ✓ To a child, grandchild, or other family member who has participated in agriculture or wishes to do so, provided that their holdings do not go above the maximum ceiling.
 - ✓ To anyone else the landowner believes he has served or has been serving who has engaged in agricultural activity or wishes to do so, so long as the landowner provides the written document approving them.

Similarly, Milkessa and Matebu (2021) indicated landless in Ethiopia can access farmland through gift from parents, inheritance, renting and sharecropping arrangements.

2.7 The Role of Land Rental Market to Landless in Rural Ethiopia

Land rentals can play an important role by allowing those farmers who are either landless or hold small land but have the necessary resources generate income by renting in land or practicing share cropping. The capacity to transfer land also improves incentives for making investments related to land (Deininger et al., 2008). Also, Households without adequate male labour or oxen often rent out a portion of their land to households with more resources out of necessity. These resource-poor land owning households are often headed by women, comprised primarily of the elderly, or are too poor to access the resources needed to work their land using family labour. Female headed households in Ethiopia are particularly disadvantaged in farming because ox ploughing (the predominant mode of cultivation) is traditionally a male activity, making it difficult for women to acquire both the oxen and the male labour needed to cultivate effectively and efficiently (Deininger et al., 2009). For such households shared tenancy arrangements can provide a critical source of income to supplement subsistence farming activities.

The current situation in the Ethiopia indicates that the land rental market is vibrant in most parts of the country and it seems that farmers with adequate farm resources but lacking farm land are interested to rent in more land than they are currently able to access in the market, indicating that the market may be constrained to some degree (Deininger et al., 2009). This reality creates better opportunity for women and other vulnerable groups to get better land rental price or share cropping arrangements. However, most land leasing or share cropping transactions are informal and there is a tendency to influence women land holders and other vulnerable groups to enter share cropping or land renting with relatives and neighbours (Holden and Bezabih, 2009). Sharecropping arrangements create an opportunity for the landless or land-poor members of the household, particularly adult children without government allocated land to have access to land and generate income for their livelihoods (Segers et al., 2010).

2.8 Livelihood Strategies/Options of Rural Landless

Livelihood strategies are the activities that people decide to combine in order to achieve their livelihood goals (UNCDF, 2005). Livelihood strategies is an overarching term used to denote the range and combination of activities and choices that people make/undertake in order to achieve their livelihood goals including productive activities, investment strategies, reproductive choices, etc. (DFID, 1999).

The basis of a livelihood strategy is the asset position of the household at a given point in time (Ellis, 2000). On the other hand the ability to pursue different livelihood strategies is dependent on the basic material and social, tangible and intangible assets that people have in their possession (Scoones, 1998). People draw on their different assets to build a livelihood strategy, which enables them to manage and sustain their lives, and the lives of their families (May, Brown, Cooper, and Brill, 2009). Asset endowments are constantly changing due to different factors (DFID, 1999). For instance due to population growth land as one of natural capital constantly diminishing and peoples are being landless. Hence livelihood strategies must be able to adapt or change altogether as the surrounding conditions change (IRP and India, 2006).

Although some capitals like lands are constantly diminishing and in some cases one type or components of assets/capitals totally absent; they usually combined in a multitude of different ways to generate positive livelihood outcomes (DFID, 1999). On the other hand when land is totally absent; landless rural households may pursue different kinds of livelihood strategies by utilizing other livelihood assets.

According to some scholars, livelihood strategies pursued by rural households in sub-Saharan Africa have become increasingly multidimensional and multi-local in the past two decades (Mohammed, 2007). Scoones (1998) identified three broad clusters of livelihood strategies. They are: agricultural intensification/extensification, livelihood diversification and migration. Scoones sees these to cover the range of options open to rural people. Either you gain more of your livelihood from agriculture (including livestock rearing, aquaculture, forestry, etc.) through processes of intensification (increasing output per unit area through capital investment or increases in labour inputs) or extensification (calling more land into cultivation), or you diversify to a range of off-farm income earning activities since majority of this activities do not require land holdings, or you move away and seek a livelihood in urban, semi urban or other rural areas where land is available, either temporarily or permanently.

On the other hand McDowell and Haan (1999) identified three different sorts of livelihood strategies that landless rural households adopt to survive. These are: participating in non-farm activities, by renting-in land from landholders, and migration. As compared to others these strategies were similar as stipulated by Scoones, except the wording. As to my understanding

participating in non-farm activities represents diversification, renting-in land from landholders represents agricultural intensification/extensification and migration is the same for both.

Furthermore according to Lanjouw and Lanjouw (2000), the majority of rural households practice either migration to urban areas or the development of non-farm employment in rural areas as a remedy to the scarcity of arable land and the expansion of the rural labor force that are not productively absorbed in the agricultural sector. In this case the livelihood strategies pursued was only two which is migration and non-farm employment.

Ellis (2000) on the other hand, identified two types of livelihood strategies namely: natural resource based strategies and non-natural resource based strategies. The natural resource based activities include collection or gathering (e.g. from woodlands and forest), food cultivation, non-food cultivation, livestock keeping and pastoralism, and non-farm activities such as brick making, weaving, thatching and so on. Non natural resource based activities include rural trade (marketing of farm outputs, inputs and consumer goods), other rural services (e.g. vehicle repair), rural manufacture, remittances (urban and international), and other transfer such as pensions deriving from past formal sector employment.

There is a variety of livelihood strategies classification. World Bank (2008) also in World Development Report identified five types of livelihood strategies: They are (1) agricultural markets (market oriented small holders), (2) farming (subsistence oriented farmers), (3) labour oriented households (wage work in agriculture, rural non-farm economy, or from nonagricultural self-employment), (4) migration and remittance, and (5) diversification; which combine (agricultural markets, farming, labour oriented strategy, and migration). Although the following classification of livelihood strategies are pursued by all rural households, it is equally important and be pursued by landless rural households as well. So livelihood strategies pursued by landless households are elaborated as follows.

2.8.1 Agricultural Intensification/Farming

Intensification of agricultural production is meant that a more efficient use of available farm resources such as land, labor, capital (livestock and money), and other inputs (e.g. energy, water, nutrients) that increases output per unit of input. Improved farm inputs such as chemical nutrients, irrigation facilities, improved seeds and breeds of livestock, pesticides and better agronomic practices are of vital importance in raising the productivity of land and, labor

thereby to increase total farm outputs (Samia and Woubshet, 1996). However for intensification landless rural households should have an arrangement for getting lands. For instance in Ethiopia, there are various land use arrangements are available for landless rural households; even though they differ from locality to locality. According to Tesfaye (2004), there are two kinds of land acquisition arrangements in Ethiopia; in which landless rural households makes use of lands for agricultural activities. These arrangements are fixed cash rental and share cropping.

Many of the small land holders lack oxen for plowing and input for planting. Elderly, disadvantaged groups, women headed households, ultra poor and absentee holders mostly rent out their holdings or arrange share cropping with capable ones. The traditional farming system like heavily labor based for plowing, planting, weeding, harvesting, threshing and soil and water conservation activities are very difficult for women and other vulnerable groups. Absentee landholders may also prefer to work on other activities and rent out their land to others (Zemen, 2013). Consequently share cropping and fixed cash rental arrangement helps landless rural households participate in agricultural as a source of their livelihood.

2.8.2 Off-farm

Forestry, fisheries or hunting and gathering on common-property resources are sometimes called Off-farm (DFID, 2002) or any of agricultural activities, which are away from the family farm, as in the case of agricultural wage labor (Leones and Feldman, 1998). Also refers to wage or exchange labour on other farms, and labour payments in kind such as harvest sharing and other non-wage labour contracts (Loison, 2015). Engagement in wage labor forms the core of off-farm based livelihood strategies. Especially for households that do not have access to land or whose access is limited (in terms of land area and quality of land), do not have the resources to make their farms more productive, or lack the other assets that can temporarily ease declining entitlements to food, the sale of its labour is seen as a more viable alternative or as a parallel strategy to own agricultural production and other food accession efforts.

2.8.3 Nonfarm

Nonfarm livelihood activities constitutes all secondary (including manufacturing, processing, construction) and tertiary (including transport, trade, finance, rent, services) sectors (DFID, 2002). It is also any types of activities, outside agriculture (Leones and Feldman, 1998). It also includes all economic activities in rural areas except agriculture, livestock, fishing and hunting

(Lanjouw and Lanjouw, 2000). Most recent studies agree that cash and in-kind Rural Nonfarm Income is a substantial contribution to total household income. The contribution from the Rural Nonfarm alone is 40–45% in Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America and South East Asia, and 30–40% in South Asia (DFID, 2002). This proportion varies widely between, landless households and those with access to land for farming; this means landless households pursue nonfarm livelihood strategies than small holders (Ellis, 1998).

2.8.4 Migration

According to Hagen-Zanker (2010), migration is the temporary or permanent move of individuals or groups of people from one geographic location to another for various reasons like better employment possibilities. Also as described by Gautam (2005) migration is a form of geographical or spatial mobility, which involves a change of usual residence of a person between clearly defined geographical units. Both poor and better off people pursue migration as a livelihood strategy. Choice of destination and levels of benefits and risks, however, vary significantly, according to the economic and social power of the migrant (Siddiqui, 2003).

2.8.5 Diversification

Livelihood diversification is defined as the process by which households construct a diverse portfolio of activities, assets and social support capabilities for survival and in order to improve their standard of living. Diversifications do not only represent having or promoting many different income portfolios across different sectors, but also mean to represent diversifying income sources within agriculture sector itself (Ellis, 2000). For many rural landless, diversification may well be conditioned by “push” factors. The only way to survive is to have many sources of income as land gets scarcer, agriculture production drops, and households experience economic volatility (Adi, 2003). According to (Ellis, 2000), the motivations behind why people and households choose diversification as a livelihood strategy can be broadly categorized into two categories such as; need (necessity) and choice.

The term "necessity" refers to forced and desperate motives for diversifying. Examples include denying a tenant family access to their land, fragmentation of farm holdings following an inheritance, environmental degradation resulting in decreased crop yields, natural or man-made disasters like drought, floods, or civil war that cause displacement and abandonment of previous

assets, and the inability to continue engaging in strenuous agricultural activities due to accident or illness.

Choice, by contrast, refers to voluntary and proactive reasons for diversifying. For example, seeking out seasonal wage earning opportunities, travelling to find work in remote locations, educating children to improve their prospects of obtaining nonfarm jobs, saving money to invest in nonfarm businesses such as trading, utilizing money obtained off the farm to buy fertilizers or capital equipment for the farm enterprise.

Ellis (2001) summarized that farm based livelihoods are no longer able to provide a secure long-term livelihood for a number of reasons. Some of these include: land fragmentation at inheritance causing plots to become less viable for family food security, adverse environmental change that increase the risks associated with natural resource-based livelihood activities and declines in agricultural markets relative to non-farm wage levels. Such problems push small holder farmers to diversify their income in non-farm livelihood alternatives.

2.9 Landlessness and Its Consequences

2.9.1 Economic Problems of Landlessness

2.9.1.1 Landlessness and Poverty

As land is the source of wellbeing in agrarian society, most people without sufficient access to land are poor and unable to sustain their families (Dekker, 2005). Rahman and Manprasert (2006) stated that the problem of landlessness is an expression of poverty, indebtedness, and helplessness in rural areas where the majority depends on land to generate means of livelihood. The people without secure access to land became faced vulnerability to hunger and poverty. In general landlessness causes Poverty and further leads to Unable to send children to school, unable to cloth children properly, un able to treat them when there is health problem, starvation and unable to full fill basic needs.

2.9.1.2 Access to Land and Food Security

Access to land is a key determinant of food security and economic well-being for rural households. Formulation of food security and poverty reduction strategies and policies need prior understanding of the links between access to land and alternative livelihoods. Since land is crucial to the majority of Africans' lives, Food security and poverty reduction cannot be achieved

without addressing concerns with access to land and security of tenure (ECA, 2004). Access to food ensures an active and healthy life. Also, to achieve food security, one needs to have access to adequate and nourishing food. In addition, for the purpose of establishing food security, Access to productive resources, such as land is viewed as essential (Chowdhury and Baten, 2010). They also indicated landless peoples are not able to secure their access to food even when food is available in the locality or the regional market. This indicates rural landlessness is the main causes of food insecurity.

2.9.1.3 Access to Land and Agricultural Productivity

Agriculture is the dominant economic sector supporting the livelihood of the Ethiopian people and more than 80 percent of the country's 80 million labor force is engaged in farming. This makes land is essential to the life of poor rural people as it is their primary source of food, shelter, income and social identity. Despite the fact that various environmental, socio-economic and political factors are attributed for food shortages in the country, the major cause is serious shortage of farmland and low productivity in rural areas (Teshome, 2009).

Agricultural productivity on small holder farms, in many countries in Africa is further constrained by declining per capita land holding due to population growth, fragmentation of land (Abate et al., 2012). A study by Berhanu et al. (2003) showed that landholding size is one of the factors that influence farm income and the level of household food security. As the size of the land declines, per capita food production and farm income also decline, indicating that extremely small-sized farms cannot be made productive even with improved technology. Such farmers have little or no surplus for investment and for input purchase.

2.9.2 Social Problems of Landlessness

2.9.2.1 Landlessness and Migration

Shortage of farming land and weakening livelihoods ultimately causes migration to urban areas (Rhoda, 1983). Ethiopia is dealing with a rise in young landlessness in rural areas which could encourage more people to move urban areas (Nzinga and Tsegay, 2012). Scoones (1998) also states that, Access to land is an important determinant of livelihood strategies. Individuals who could not access agricultural land will not be able to engage in agriculture and they choice migrate to other areas where land is available, either temporarily or permanently. In most cases,

migration of landless left the parents without tutors. Although the rural youth (above 18 years old) have a constitutional right to have access to land, the current situation shows that it is only a small fraction of the rural youth that has got the opportunity to acquire agricultural land. As a result, most rural youth are looking for employment options other than agriculture in other areas (Zemen, 2014).

2.9.2.2 Landlessness, Conflict and Social Instability

Holden et al. (2010) pointed out that the scarcity of land as a result of high population pressure is the major causes of conflicts. Such disputes arises between siblings, between landless and community leaders, even landless sons beating their mothers and fathers. This shows how much the shortage of land and landlessness has damaged the relationship between landless children and parents. The landless youth complain that parents are not willing to give land to their own children even for sharecropping or rent. The growing shortage of land, even for sharecropping, is transforming the relationship between landholders and sharecroppers (Fekadu, 2018). Conflict caused by landlessness leads to damaging the social relation of the community and also creates social instability.

2.9.3 Environmental Problems of Landlessness

2.9.3.1 Landlessness, Deforestation and Land Fragmentation

The increased population and landlessness of the subsequent farming generations led to unwise use of natural resources in general and forest in particular (Tadesse and Birhanu, 2018). The segment of the farming population does not get the chance to go to school for economic and landless reasons becomes jobless. As they lack an alternative source of income, they may force to cut down the tree to make charcoal. Deforestation impacts agriculture through natural disturbance, including biodiversity loss damaged habitat, drought, adverse soil erosion, degradation of wasteland, extinction of life, and displacement of populations (Oljirra, 2019; Bishaw, 2009).

In addition, landlessness and small size of farmland of a family gets more fragmented into very small pieces of land when the landless children inherit land from their parents and the fragmentation exposes the land for land degradation which is an impediment to increasing yield and rather leads to poverty and food insecurity (Fekadu, 2018).

2.10 Institutions and Strategies for Handling Rural Landlessness

The Government of Ethiopia formulated a long-term economic development strategy, i.e., the agricultural development-led industrialization (ADLI) strategy (FDRE, 1994) which considers agriculture as its point of departure and growth engine to the poverty of the country and eventually alleviate its food insecurity problem. Zemen (2014) indicates that Ethiopia's Agricultural Development Led Industrialization strategy gives significant emphasis to the agricultural sector. However, the existing arable land cannot support the growing rural population's needs for a living in a sustainable manner.

The country's food security strategy is also one of the core pillars of the ADLI strategy. The initial version of the country's food security strategy was issued in 1996. However, this was revised in 2002 highlighting the Government of Ethiopians commitment to address the root causes and effects of food insecurity in the country (FDRE, 2001). The food security strategy of Ethiopia is based on three important pillars: i) increasing food and agricultural production; ii) improving food entitlement; and, ii) strengthening capacity to manage food crises. Concerning increasing food and agricultural production, a major emphasis is given to enhancing productivity of the smallholder farmers (landless and near landless) through the diffusion of improved farming technologies. In the case of improving food entitlement, the focus is on reducing vulnerability to shocks in drought prone areas through a safety net program.

In addition, the food security strategy also emphasizes promoting and strengthening micro- and small-scale enterprise development, improving food marketing system, promoting and strengthening supplementary employment opportunities and income generating schemes, and provision of credit services to address the demand side problems. Also, Microfinance institutions (MFLs) are institutions mainly aimed at landless households and the loans are given for peaty trading and small livestock production. It is established to extend credit to the poor in rural areas; the poorer households are landless households (Ramana and Mahajan, 2004).

2.11 Land Policies and Non-Farm Activities in Rural Ethiopia

Although present landowners theoretically have permanent user rights that they can also pass on to their children, their rights are actually contingent on their ongoing residency in the village where their farm is located. The recent federal land use law indicated that, the land of those households who stayed outside of the locality for long period will be redistributed to the landless

and land poor peoples (FDRE, 2005). The implementation and interpretation of this law may vary locally, but one significant outcome is that it discourages temporary or permanent migration among current landholders. Additionally, even if they were local inhabitants, farmers who do not cultivate their land for two consecutive years lose their land user right. This may create a discouragement for farmers to engage in non-farm activities as low-intensity farming may be taken as 'abandonment' by local authorities. These limitations are a continuation of the policies under the Derg regime which had even stronger controls on labor movement. Over time, these policies have helped create rural economies with low levels of migration and relatively little economic diversification (Little et al., 2006).

2.12 Review of Previous Empirical Research Works

The objective of reviewing of some previous empirical researches related to this study is that, to see some highlight about their strong and weak sides that plays an important role (input) for the issues of rural landlessness, access to land and livelihood options. From the researcher review, five previous empirical research works did not see access to land and livelihood options of rural landless, as well as institutional arrangements to reduce the problem of rural landlessness as knowledge gap. In general, the following empirical reviews shows some highlights through describing the author, and country of study, issues studied, the methods used for the study, and findings of the study.

Anwar et al. (2004) studied on landlessness and rural Poverty in Pakistan. The paper uses survey method. The result showed that poverty is strongly correlated with lack of land which is the principal asset in the rural economy of Pakistan. They indicate that Poverty estimates using official poverty line suggest the high prevalence of rural poverty ranging from 39% to 48% in all provinces. In addition, the study revealed that a high concentration of land ownership and unfair tenancy contracts are major obstacles to agricultural growth and alleviation of poverty.

Chowdhury & Baten (2010) also conducted on increasing landlessness and its impact on food in Bangladesh. The study aims at exploring the impact of landlessness on the livelihood of the poor farmers in the rural areas. The study was based on primary and secondary data, and also the techniques of in- depth interviews and Focus Group Discussions have been adopted for data collection. The study reveals that, even though rural areas produce 75% of the world's food, small and marginal farmers there are still denied access to food because of landlessness and other

related issues. The result also shows Landlessness leads to farmer's insufficient purchasing power to buy adequate nutritious food for their families.

Rahman and Manprasert (2006) investigated on the issue of landlessness and its impact on economic development in Bangladesh. The study used a primary survey method with interview and questionnaire. And also a descriptive statistics was adopted as method of data analysis. The result shows landlessness, which is a result of economic, demographic, and environmental factors, is the main cause of rural poverty. All these factors have definite impact on country's economy to destabilize the macroeconomic environment to a great extent. It indicates there is a negative relationship between landlessness and economic development. The study also shows Setting up agro-based industries as well as promoting employment in non-agricultural sector is a must for achieving potential economic growth.

Wolde et al. (2020) conducted on land size and landlessness as connotations for food security in rural low income farmers in four rural woredas of Gedeo Zone, Southern Ethiopia. The researcher used descriptive statistics and causal-chain analysis method. The study revealed that households in the area were vulnerable to food insecurity primarily due to landless and land fragmentation. The result of survey indicates that from the sampled 468 households, 32.1, 14.98 and 52.89% are landless, have land <0.1 ha and 0.1 to 0.5 ha respectively which is a critical factor for food insecurity and rural vulnerability of the area.

Furthermore, Alemayehu et.al (2021) studied on determinants of rural livelihood diversification strategies among Chewaka resettlers' communities of southwestern Ethiopia. The study utilized both primary and secondary data which were collected using interview schedule, focus group discussions and field observations. Descriptive and inferential statistics along with multinomial logit model have been employed to analyze the data. It was found that agriculture has a leading contribution to the total households' income (72.5%) followed by non-farm (20%) and off-farm activities (7.5%). The study also revealed that land holding size, educational status, livestock holding, sex, age, market distance, credit access, annual income, access to training and household sizes were the major determinants of livelihood diversification strategies. The study is undertaken on livelihood strategies of rural households in general. However it does not clearly indicate livelihood strategies of landless.

2.13 Conceptual Framework of the Study

Conceptual framework is a representation of the relationship between the variables or characteristics or properties that the researcher expected to see or want to study. It is structured from a set of broad ideas and theories either in graphical or narrative form that help a researcher to properly identify variables that he/she is looking at, frame his/her questions and identify relevant literature (Kenneth, 2005). In this study, as the researcher focused on rural landlessness, there are causes or variables for existence of the problem and landlessness leads social, economic and social consequences. On the other hand availability of opportunities to access land for landless determines the trend of landlessness and livelihood options of landless. Based on this, the researcher developed conceptual framework of the study as follows in Figure 2.1.

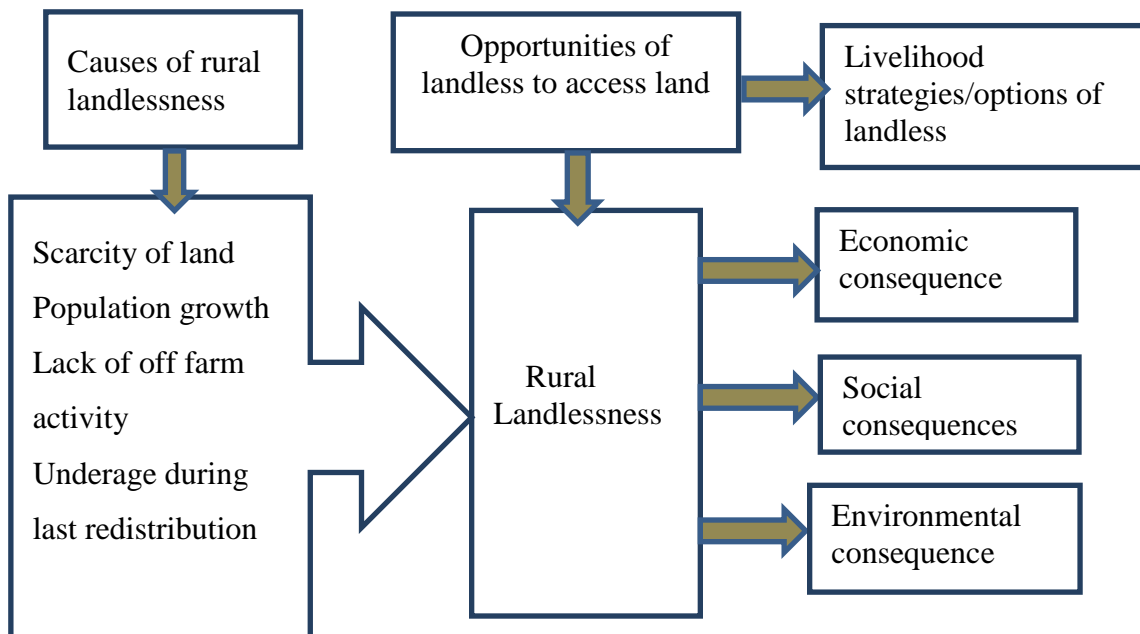


Figure 2. 1 Conceptual frame work of the study

Source; own constructed (2022)

CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This chapter mainly focused on the overall research methodology used for the preparation of the paper. Specifically it includes: - Description of the study area, justification for selection of the study area, research methods. Research method includes: -research approach and design, target population, sampling techniques, data sources and type, data collection techniques and method of data analysis and presentation.

3.2 Description of the Study Area

3.2.1 Location

Gubalafto Woreda is one of the 11 woredas of North Wollo Zone in Amhara Regional State, and administrative town is Woldia. The woreda is bounded by Gidan woreda in the north, to the south by South wollo Zone, to the Northwest by Meket; to the northeast by Kobo, to the east Afar regional state, to the south east by Habru district and to the west Dawunt and Delanta woreda. Gubalafto woreda is located between $39^{\circ}6'9''$ and $39^{\circ}45'58''$ East of longitude and $11^{\circ}34'54''$ and $11^{\circ}58'59''$ North of latitude (Figure 3.1). The district has 34 rural kebeles. In addition, Hara and Sanka are the only two small towns found in the district which serve as the main market centre in addition to Woldia town.

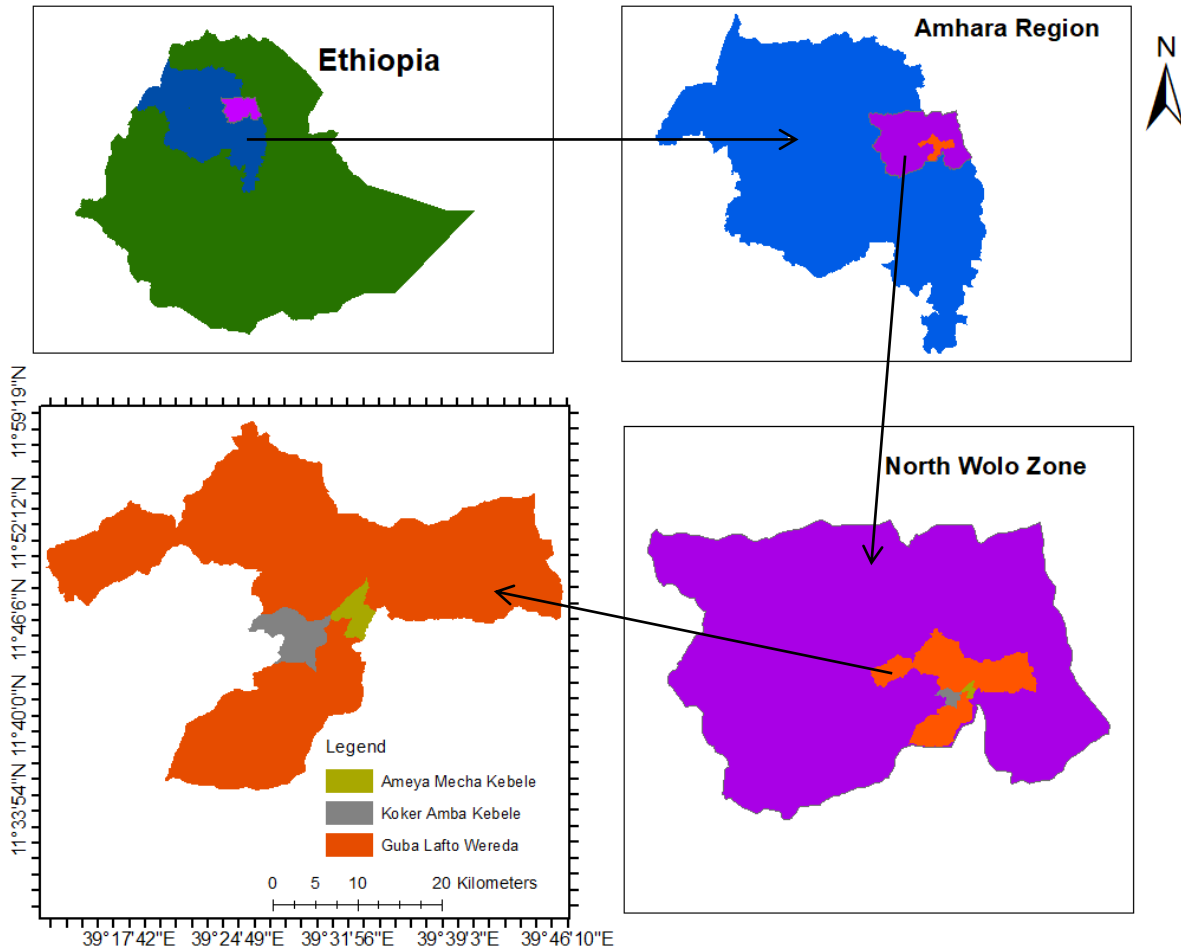


Figure 3.1 Location map of the study area with respect to Ethiopia

3.2.2 Topography

According to the district agriculture office (2012), Gubalafto has a mountainous landscape, hills and valleys and varied latitudes ranging from 1300 to 3900 m.a.s.l. The district's topography is distinguished by 35% of mountains, 30% of undulations, 20% of flat land, and 15% of gorges or valleys. The area like most of Wollo has a rough topography and is lies in the watershed boundary of Abbay, Awash, Tekeze, and Golina rivers (Damene et.al, 2013). Gubalafto Woreda is divided into three agro-ecological zones: lowland (Kolla), which is located between 1379 and 1500 meters above sea level; midland (Woinadega), which is located between 1500 and 2300 meters above sea level; and highland (Dega), which is located between 2300 and 3200 meters above sea level. Most residents of this district clustered in the highland areas (Alemu, 2011).

3.2.3 Population and Economic Activities

Based on the national census conducted by the Central Statistical Agency of Ethiopia (CSA), Gubalafto Woreda has a total population of 172,818, of which 87,027 are men and 85,791 are women (CSA, 2022). Also, the district has an area of 900.5km². Agriculture is predominantly source of livelihood in the study area. It is characterized by both crop production and livestock rearing systems. The main crops growing are teff, sorghum, wheat, barley, bean, maize and chickpea. So, their life is highly dominated with the land.

3.2.4 Justification for Selection of the Study Area

The rural land holdings in Gubalafto woreda are typically small, and most farmers engage in subsistence farming. Agricultural productivity per ha is low and much of the production is used for household subsistence needs, grazing and woodland resources have become drastically reduced and lack management inputs, water harvesting and irrigation agriculture is limited. The local governments in the woreda annually mobilize the rural community for natural resource development and efforts are being made to construct soil conservation and water harvesting structures to check soil loss and enhance ground water recharge. Most of the rural population is settled on the highlands and plateaus.

As Holden and Bezu (2013) showed land scarcity affects Ethiopia in areas of the highlands where farm sizes are very small and population density are very high. Landlessness is therefore a significant issue in the nation. Similarly as most rural population is settled on the highlands and plateaus in Gubalafto woreda, there is scarcity of farm land and problem of landlessness in rural areas. Additionally, no sufficient research has been done to accurately depict the extent of rural landlessness, access to land, and available livelihood opportunities in this woreda. These factors led to choice Gubalafto woreda as the study area.

To do these, two rural sample kebeles, namely Amaye mecha and Koker amba, were purposely chosen for this study. The criteria were the high prevalence of landlessness and their proximity to urban centers. In both study kebeles there is high prevalence of rural landlessness. In addition, distance to town determines landless livelihood strategies (Winters et al., 2009). Hence considering this Koker Amba kebele which is 30 kilometers far from Woldia town and Amaye Mecha kebele is located 5 kilometers away from Woldia town are used for the study.

3.3 Research Methods

3.3.1 Research Approach

The nature of the research topic, the unique characteristics of the research problem, and the specific information sources used should always be taken into consideration while choosing any research approach (Walliman and Baiche, 2001). In fact, it is often appropriate to decide on the type of analysis—quantitative or qualitative—needed to study the research problem before deciding on the kinds of data to be gathered in order to make that analysis (Yin, 2003). Thus, the data collection and analysis methods employed in this research were selected after careful consideration of the sources and availability of the required data. Accordingly, it was determined to use the mixed-method research approach. So, the research has been conducted by using both qualitative and quantitative approach considering that, mixed methods allow multiple forms of data drawing on all possibilities and also enable statistical and text analysis of the data.

3.3.2 Research Design

As the research examines the perceptions, values and attitude of different segments of the local community and government offices, a cross sectional research design was used to generate appropriate data. According to Bryman (2001) a cross sectional design requires the collection of data on many cases and at a single point in time in order to gather a body of quantitative and qualitative data in connection with two or more variables, which are then examined to find out patterns or associations.

3.3.3 Sampling Technique

The study requires a wide variety of information that will help to meet the objectives of the study. For this study, the researcher used both probability and non-probability sampling method. From the probability sampling, the researcher used simple random sampling technique to select sample landless whereas from the non-probability sampling techniques, purposive sampling method was used. According to PadillaDíaz (2015), Purposive sampling is characterized by incorporating specific criteria met by participants at the moment of selection. It gives the researcher freedom to determine what needs to be known and sets out to find people who can and are willing to provide the information by knowledge or experience. For this study two Kebeles were selected purposely. The researcher also used purposive sampling method to select key informants and participants in FDG.

3.3.4 Target Population

A target population is a group of individuals (or a group of organizations) with some common defining characteristic that the researcher can identify and study (Creswell, 2012). The target populations of this study were landless peoples in two kebeles. As the data obtained from Kebele administration office, there are 341 landless in Koker amba kebele, from these 226 are single landless youth and 115 are landless households. And also in Amaye mecha kebele, there are 176 landless of which 114 are landless youth (single) and 62 landless households.

3.3.5 Sample Size Determination

In this study, to determine sample size, different factors have been taken into consideration to establish representative sample for the target population. These are research cost, time, and human resources. To determine the desired sample size for the study, the sample size for landless households and the sample size for landless youth were calculated separately. That means when the researcher calculate the desired sample for landless households, the summation of landless households in two sample kebeles were used as total population (N1). And also, when the researcher calculate the desired sample for landless youth, the summation of landless youth in two sample kebeles were used as total population (N2). To do these the researcher used scientific formula derived by (Kothari, 2004) as indicated below.

$$n = \frac{z^2 \times p \times q \times N}{e^2(N - 1) + z^2 \times p \times q}$$

Where; N= total population size, n= sample size, q=1-p, p= sample population estimated to characteristics being measured (sample of proportion of successes). It was assumed a 95% confidence level of the target population, e= acceptable error (e=0.05, since the estimate should be 5% of the true value), and Z= the standard normal deviate at the required confidence level=1.96 and then;

Based on the data obtained, the total numbers of landless households and the total number of landless youth in those two kebeles were 177 and 340. That is N1=177(total landless households) and N2=340(total landless youth).Taking this information into account and 90% proportion for success. i.e., p=0.9 and q= 1-0.9= 0.1. Then the required sample size has been determined as follows:

- Desired sample size for landless households (n1)

$$n1 = \frac{z^2 \times p \times q \times N1}{e^2(N1 - 1) + z^2 \times p \times q}$$

$$= \frac{(1.96)^2 \times (0.9) \times (0.1) \times (177)}{(0.05)^2 \times ((177-1) + (1.96)^2 \times (0.9) \times (0.1))}$$

$$= 77.5 \approx \underline{78}$$

Thus, the researcher used 78 landless households as a representative of the total landless households in two kebeles.

- Desired sample size for landless youth (n2)

$$n1 = \frac{z^2 \times p \times q \times N2}{e^2(N2 - 1) + z^2 \times p \times q}$$

$$= \frac{(1.96)^2 \times (0.9) \times (0.1) \times (340)}{(0.05)^2 \times ((340-1) + (1.96)^2 \times (0.9) \times (0.1))} = 98.8 \approx \underline{99}$$

This also implies the researcher used 99 landless youth as a representative of the total landless youth in two kebeles.

Therefore, the desired sample size for the study is the sum of desired sample size of landless household and desired sample size of landless youth. That means $n1+n2=78+99=177$. Then, 177 sample landless respondents were selected from the total target population or landless population (517). And also, these sample landless respondents were selected from the two sample kebeles (koker Amba and Amaye mecha kebele) based on their proportion as it is showed in the following table (Table 3.1). To select these sample respondents, the researcher used simple random sampling technique by using lottery method.

Table 3.1 Target population and proportionate sample size of landless

No	Sample Kebele	Number of landless in kebele			Proportion sample size		
		Landless household	Landless youth	Total	Landless household	Landless youth	Total
1	Koker amba	115	226	341	51	66	117
2	Amaye mecha	62	114	176	27	33	60
	Total	177	340	517	78	99	177

3.3.6 Data Sources and Type

To obtain necessary data that is relevant for maintaining the stated objective of the study; both primary and secondary data sources were used. The primary data were generated from the selected landless peoples, households having land, woreda and kebele rural land administration experts. In addition to this, the researcher also used an intensive review (document analysis) of secondary data from previous related journal articles, published and unpublished materials, reports and proclamations.

3.3.7 Data Collection Tools

Collecting data through different tools leads to obtain accurate research findings. In this study to collect reliable and effective data, different data collection techniques were employed. The data collection tools were survey questionnaire, Focus group discussion (FGD) and Key Informant Interview (KII). The description of each data collection method is indicated below in detail.

Questionnaire

Survey administration represents a relatively cost-effective means of collecting data from a large sample in a short period (King, 2001). It is the most appropriate tool to obtain reliable information. In this study, the questionnaire was constructed with great care to increase responses and avoid uncertainty. The questionnaire contained both open-ended and closed-ended questions were distributed to 177 landless respondents to collect relevant primary data. The stated questionnaire were addressed various questions such as demographic information of landless, strategies followed by rural landless to get access land and their livelihood options, and social, economic, and environmental problems related to rural landlessness.

Key Informant Interviews (KII)

Key informant interviews entail speaking with experts who are most likely to have the knowledge, ideas, and insights needed on a given subject (Kumar, 1989). Key informant interviews were conducted to gather the various perspectives of the study subjects. The key informants were given open-ended questions without time or information constraints on their opinions. According to Gray (2004) open-ended questions have advantages in providing rich information. In this study these tools were used to collect the relevant information about the trends of landlessness with its implications and also, institutional remedies for landlessness.

Key informants who can give better information were selected purposely by purposive sampling technique. Therefore, one Key informant from woreda land administration offices, one key

informant from Technical and job creation office, two landless youth, two kebele land administration office, two kebele administrators were interviewed using a check list of semi structured interview guides containing issues related to the landless.

Focus Group Discussion (FGD)

Focus group discussion implies a conversation chaired by a leader or researcher in an informal setting and approach with the purpose data on desired topics will be gathered. FGD allows group interaction such that participants are able to build on each other ideas and comments to provide in depth views which are not attainable from individual setting and unexpected comments and new perspective could be explored easily during the discussion (Krueger, 1994). In this study issues like the socioeconomic implications of landlessness, opportunities of accessing land by landless and their livelihood options of landless and also institutional arrangements to handle rural landlessness were addressed.

To collect better information using this instrument, FGDs were carried out with the landless group and farm households having land. Accordingly two focus group discussions were held in each study kebeles (Koker amba and Amaye mecha kebele). The participants in each FGD were seven (mean that seven landless and seven framers having land are participated separately in each FGD in both kebeles) and they were purposively selected considering their knowledge of their Kebele landlessness and efforts made to solve the problem. A check list of questions was prepared for the FGD and to avoid language barriers, the FGDs were carried out sing the local language, which is Amharic, and lastly translated to English for analysis and interpretation.

3.3.8 Methods of Data Analysis and Presentation

Data analysis is systematically analyzing responses in any type of communication. It is described as a method that starts at the nexus of qualitative and quantitative approaches and a method that permits a qualitative analysis of data that initially appears to be qualitative (Kondracki et al., 2002). The qualitative data collected from farm households, key informants and FGD discussants was subject to thematic analysis. Literature shows that thematic analysis looks at patterns of meaning in data set, for example, a set of interviews or focus group transcripts. A thematic analysis takes bodies of data (which are often quite large) and groups them according to similarities – in other words, themes. These themes help us make sense of the content and derive meaning from it (Belotto, 2018).

The quantitative data from the household survey were summarized and analyzed using descriptive statistics such as percentages to explain the different socio-economic characteristics of the sample respondents and their views on the variables. To do this, Microsoft excel was used. The responses coming from different data sources were triangulated to check convergent and divergent views coming from the different sources (Bryman, 2012). The results were presented in tables, figures and texts.

3.3.9 Validity of the Instrument

The idea of validity is concerned with the degree to which the questionnaire measures what it is supposed to assess, and is sometimes referred to as truth or accuracy. It also refers to how well an experience measure represents the actual meaning of the subject under investigation. However, if an instrument is unexpected, inconsistent, and incorrect, it cannot measure the property of interest. According to Haber and LoBiondo-Wood (2006), there are three types of validity: content validity, criterion-related validity, and construct validity. Face-to-face communication, criterion-related, and construct (linking the idea of woreda land administration higher official and the idea of landlessness and land owner farmers) validity were utilized to examine the instrument's validity in this study. Items obtained from literature were included in the instrument and this enhanced content validity.

In addition, the study ensured that valid questions were asked. Before the questionnaires, interviews and FDGs questions were distributed to the informants; the researcher used pilot study and these questions were modified repeatedly and then distributed for the respondents.

3.3.10 Ethical Consideration

The researcher informed the respondents that the study is conducted solely to fulfill an academic requirement and for no other reason. Respondents were not obliged to write their names on the questionnaires, and the questionnaires were kept confidential. Primary respondents' information gathered from the company is kept confidential in this case and will be destroyed after a reasonable period of time. During data collection, a good relationship was established with all the respondents and interviewees by making clear why the research is conducted. The interviews and FDGs were arranged with the consent of each key informant and FGD participant. The same work is done for the questionnaires survey. The interviews were recorded using different formats with the permission of all key informants.

CHAPTER FOUR: RESULT AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Introduction

This chapter includes two main parts. The first part presents demographic characteristics of respondents and the second part includes the detailed presentation and analysis of data collected from the respondents in the form of questionnaires, interviews and FGDs. The demographic variables discussed include age, sex, education level, and marital status. Also, in the second part main issues like trends of landless, strategies followed by landless to access land and their livelihood options, socioeconomic implications of landlessness, and institutional arrangements to handle the problem of landless to sustain their life were addressed.

4.2 Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

The demographic characteristics of the respondents include sex, Age, educational status, and marital status of the respondents. This aspect of the analysis dealt with the personal data on the respondents of the questionnaires given to them. It is important to know the profile of the respondents. It also, allows us to determine whether or not we are actually reaching our target audience and gathering the information we need. In general the relevance of categorizing respondents in their demographical backgrounds is to get different information from various sections of societies and to address which sections of the societies were victims by the problems in the study area (Table 4.1).

Table 4.1 Demographic characteristics of the respondent

Variables		Sample landless	
		Number	Percentage
Sex of respondent	Male	147	83
	Female	30	17
	Total	177	100
Age of respondent	18-25	61	34.5
	26-35	81	45.8
	36-45	27	15.2
	>46	8	4.5
	Total	177	100

Marital status	Married	67	37.9
	Single	96	54.2
	Divorced	10	5.6
	Widowed	4	2.3
	Total	177	100
Educational level	Illiterate	28	15.8
	Only read and write	32	18.1
	Elementary school	83	46.9
	Secondary school	30	16.9
	College and above	4	2.3
	Total	177	100

Source: survey result, 2022

4.1.1 Sex and Marital Status of Respondents

In order to get different ideas and information from various sections of society, categories of sex and marital status of respondent is crucial. The study used 177 sample landless assumed to be representative of the population in the study area. As presented in Table 4.1, out of the total 177 sample landless respondents 147(83%) were male and the remaining 30(17%) were female. According to FGD participants, the low proportion of women landlessness is related to chances for marriage and the migration to urban centers in search of domestic jobs.

With regard to the marital status of respondents, a majority of landless respondents (54.2%) were single and 37.9% of them were married. while, the remaining 7.9% of the sample respondents were divorced and widowed. This indicates majority of landless respondents were single. This may imply that, landlessness is an obstacle to make marriage relations.

4.1.2 Age of Respondents

As indicated in table 4.1, the age data shows that, the majority of landless respondents (80.3%) are within the age group of between 18-35 years old. According to African Youth Charter, the people who are aged between 15 to 35 years old are called youth (UN, 2014). They are also the most productive age group of the society. Therefore majority of landless in the study area are youth.

The great number of a young population in the study area implies that population density will increase at a very fast rate and may pose stress on the available land resource. Also, landlessness in productive age slows down agricultural productivity in rural areas. On the positive side,

mobilizing this immense work force for productive activities can bring tremendous development. In a situation where there is farm land shortage, this is a big challenge that requires an aggressive population policy intervention that will slow down the fertility of women and also push factors to non-farming sectors must be sought to stabilize or reduce rural land demand by the landless.

4.1.3 Educational Level of Respondent

As indicated in Table 4.1, majority of respondents (66.1%) are literate. And, they have attended formal school. However, it was found out during the FGD that the majority of respondents lack any skill that enables them to start microenterprises. This suggests the necessity of making bold efforts to raise the knowledge and technical skills of rural landless people through functional literacy and, where possible, formal education. According to academics, raising the degree of functional literacy in the farming community will help farmers find and use better agricultural technologies, grow as entrepreneurs, and manage their household income effectively. It is also reported that higher levels of education in rural areas encourage people to engage in non-farm work and lead to improved employment opportunities (Maharjan and Chhetri, 2006).

Education is one of the major demographic factors that influence behavior of individuals and their living conditions. Also, it brings information about opportunities outside of one's immediate surrounding and raises expectation for better life there by encouraging landless to explore new opportunities (Holden and Bezu, 2013, USAID, 2006). This entails the need to improve the literacy level and skills of rural landless.

4.2 Trends of Landlessness in the Study Area

There is agreement by respondents regarding the presence of landless people in both study kebeles. Concerning the trends, an assessment of the data on the perception of the farm households about the magnitude of the landless over the last decades indicated that, the number is increasing from year to year. In this regard key informant interviewees also witnessed similar idea. Therefore, it is clarified that the trend of landless in the study area is increasing with respect to time.

The data obtained from kebele administration office shows that, currently there are 517 landless peoples in the sampled Kebeles. Out of these 86 are female landless. However, due to poor data recording system, there is no well-organized data about the landless people for many consecutive

years. Thus, the researcher has got only the recorded data for the year of 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2022 at the Kebele Administration (Figure 4.1).

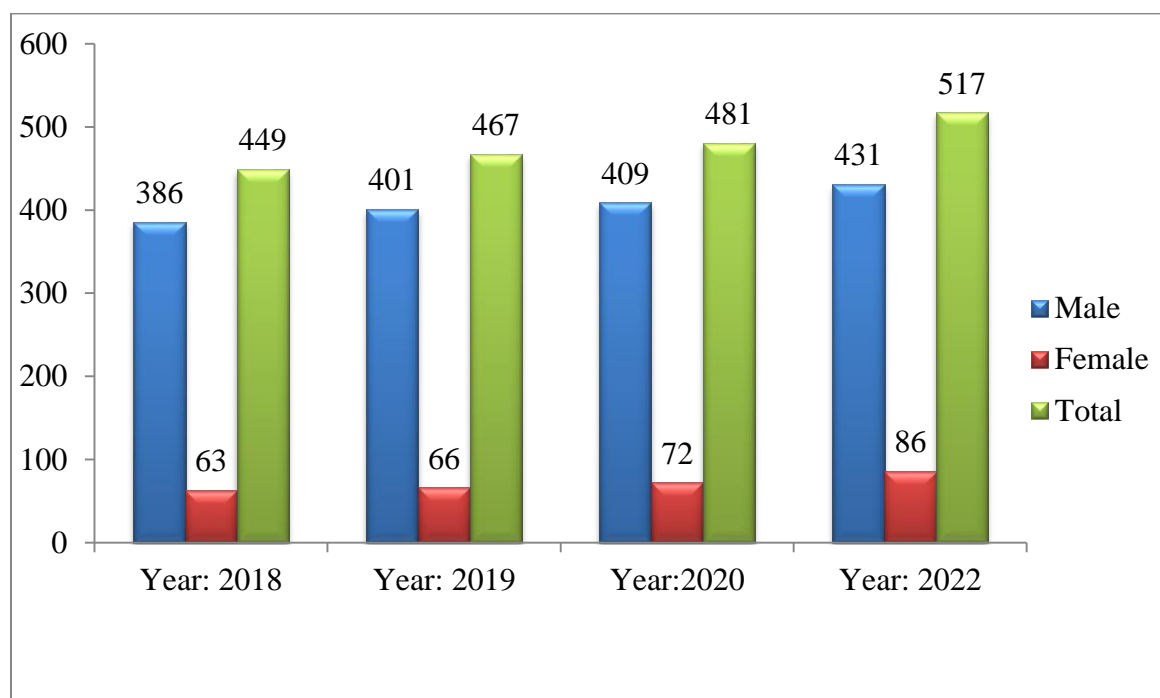


Figure 4.1 Trends of landlessness in the study Kebeles

As shown in Figure 4.1, the general trend shows the figure is raising from the year 2018 G.C to 2022 G.C. This implies landlessness increases from time to time in the study area. During focus group discussion it was pointed out that, there are many rural landless who have left their kebele for searching job in other areas. They also indicated there are a number of landless females who are migrating to other countries such as Saudi and Dubai as home workers/domestic servants.

Despite the presence of many landless people in the study kebeles, the FGD participants and Key informants stated that there is no systematic data keeping about the number of landless. Even how many landless have got access to land is not properly recorded. The views of key informants and landless youth in FGDs further indicated that absence of a well-organized data on the status of landless people is an obstacle to give a fair and transparent decision on individuals who should first get a piece of land in accordance with the weight of their problem and the length of the year they were landless. The landless consider this as a serious problem leading to poor governance in the Kebele administration.

4.3.1 Reasons for Increasing Landlessness

Regarding to the reasons for the increasing number of landless people in the study area from time to time, landless respondents replied that, lack of land, population growth, being underage during the last land redistribution, lack of alternative employment opportunities, unwillingness of parents to apportion part of their land and failure of land administration offices to make available free land. Some of those reasons are consistent with the findings of Milkessa and Matebu (2021). FGDs in both study kebeles have emphasized the shortage of land as a key problem followed by unwillingness of the rural youth, particularly those who have attended school to get engaged in farming. Many of the landless were against the claim that the landless youth are not willing to get engaged in farming. They rather reiterated that for the rural landless to get engaged in any economic activity, they need to be provided with microenterprises that are well suited and potentially profitable and complemented by close technical support, provision of credit services and market connectivity. In addition, Key informants in both the study's kebeles emphasized the need for model microbusiness activities in each kebele that may operate as a teaching tool and inspire the youth who are landless to follow in their footsteps.

Generally, lack of land, population growth, being underage during the last land redistribution, lack of alternative employment opportunities, unwillingness of parents to apportion part of their land, lack of successful off farm activities and failure of land administration offices to make available free land are reasons for increasing number of landless in the study area.

4.3 Strategies of Landless to Get Access to Land

4.3.1 Opportunities of Accessing Land for Landless

There are different ways of accessing land for landless in rural areas. According to the Revised Rural Land Administration and Use Determination Proclamation, Proc. no 252/2009 of Amhara Region State, a person above the age of 18 years may claim land for agricultural activities, and want to engage in agriculture shall have the right to get and use land. It also describes rural land can be acquired through distribution, rent, inheritance and donation. However, due to population growth the law falls to enable the landless get land free of charge. If so, the opportunities of landless to access land in the study kebeles are described and summarized in Figure 4.2.

4.3.1.1 Accessing Land from Parents

Traditionally children inherit land from their parents and also get land in the formation of donation. When they got land through gift from parents or relatives or elders who have no child, they cultivate the land for undefined period but they can't possess the landholder right nor do they have the right to operate the land as they want (meaning, the land use system is dictated by the landholders). And in order to continuously use the land for production, the landless are expected to take care of and feed the landholders. In most cases, if those temporal operators (the landless) fail to discharge their responsibilities, the landholders revoke or retract the land use right from those temporal operators. The landless have a chance to access land through inheritance when the parents become old or pass away. The survey result indicates only 23.7% of landless have got access to land from parents (Figure 4.2). However, most landless stated that the area of land inherited is small in many cases as the land holding of parents is small and divided amongst many siblings in most cases. As the land they may obtain from their parent is too small the landless have faced difficulty to lead independent life.

4.3.1.2 Sharecropping

Share-cropping is another kind of land access arrangement available for landless in the study area. In this arrangement, landless households access land in agreement from land holders and undertake agricultural activities with their own capital to pay for expenses required from land preparation to harvesting. In the study kebeles the share of the production in most cases is equal. The landholders participate in the agricultural production only by availing the land they held for cultivation by the landless. Share cropping is mostly practiced by farmers having a small plot of land and plowing oxen. Despite the higher share, farm households who participated in the FGDs stated that there is high competition to secure land for share cropping. The landless appreciating the availability of land for share cropping underlined that even though land may be available, shortage of other resources such as plowing oxen, and lack of money to buy chemical fertilizer and improved seed makes it difficult to consider the option.

The survey however indicated that about 15.8% of landless access land through sharecropping (Figure 4.2) and those practicing this either use their parents oxen for plowing or they exchange labour for oxen. The overall finding indicates that the landless interest to enter share cropping is constrained by the high share of the product division between the land lord and the tenant and the

lack of finance to secure farm inputs including plowing oxen. The landless suggested the government enables to get credit from banks so that they could at least buy ox and share it with others having one ox.

4.3.1.3 Renting In Land and Government Allocation

Renting in agricultural land is another mode in which landless access land to undertake agricultural activities. Focus Group Discussions (FGD) participants and Key Informant Interviewees (KII) revealed that accessing land through renting-in has become increasingly competitive. The competition is manifested by the rent price per a given parcel of land and other in-kind services provided to the landowners as a warranty to use the land continuously. The competition is further intensified due to renting in of land by households that hold some amount of land and having other farm inputs to maximize their production. In land renting system, the landless undertake all the activities required on that land from land preparation to harvesting at their own expenses and take all the produce accruing from that land.

According to the landless, lack of money to pay in advance and fear of risks in the crop production is hampering renting of land. Due to such reasons the renting in of land is low in the study area and the survey indicated that this type of arrangement is less in the study area and accounts only 1.7% of respondents. Also some respondents (6.7%) stated that they obtained land through government allocation (Figure 4.2). FDG participates and Key informants disclosed that opportunity to get land from the government is rare as there is no extra land that could be used for cultivation in the study areas.

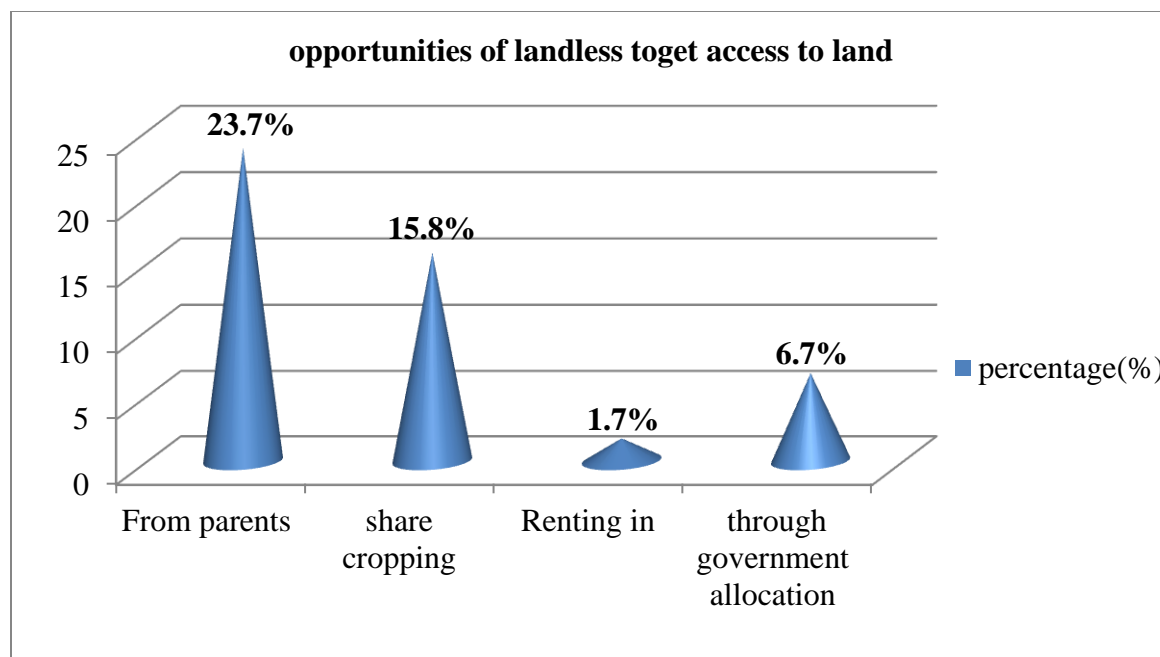


Figure 4.2 Opportunities of landless to get access to land

As shown in Figure 4.2, accessing land from parents and sharecropping arrangement is better than other mechanisms. This suggests the need for enhancing the production system so that more landless could be motivated to get engaged in farming. Also, farmers having land in FGD revealed that there is a pushing from the local government to allocate part of the communal land for the landless and this is creating a good governance problem due to lack of transparent land allocation system to the landless. The information gathered from FGDs, KIIs and the survey questionnaire in general signals the opportunities of landless to access land in the study area is generally low. Hence, off-farm employment options should be focus areas of stake holders handling the landlessness problems.

4.3.2 Willingness of Parents to Apportion their Land to their Landless Children

As land cannot be bought or sold in Ethiopia and there are also restrictions on land rental markets, particularly on long-term rentals, inheritance and donations from parents have become the main source of land access for the new generation (Bezu and Holden, 2014). In fact parents in rural areas recognize that their farm is the main source of land access for their children and believe that they need to hand down at least part of their farm before they die. Therefore, parental willingness is crucial to get access to land to the landless. However in rural areas, the time preferred by parents to give the land to their children was indicated to be when the children get married. Having this, the general willingness of parents to apportion their land to their

children in the study area indicated that, only 14.1% of the landless respondents' parents are willing to apportion their land to landless children.

This indicates that, the overall willingness of parents to give land to their children is low. In other ways farmers having land in FGD disclosed that, farmers holding somewhat adequate land and having landless children usually want to give land without discrimination to both male and female children. Nevertheless in most of the time the opportunity to get land from parents inclined to the first born member of the family to enable him or her gets engaged in agriculture and subsist their life. Also, most of farmers having land in FDG extremely stated that it is difficult to transfer a portion of their holdings due to their tiny landholdings. They instead prefer that their children work together with their parents. Their children on the other hand aspire to lead independent life though they lack the necessary resources. The landless also disclosed that because the land size is small, they prefer to rent out this land to others and look for other employment opportunities elsewhere.

4.3.3 Source of Land for the Government to Allocate Land for the Landless

The landless respondents pointed out land allocation as one method of access to land for the landless. The system is done by taking land held by civil servants and the deceased land without a successor to the landless. They also indicated that, the opportunity of accessing land through the government allocation system is a remote possibility as extra farm land is not available in the study area. When it is available, like farm households, they stated that the way of allocating the available land is unfair. Most (98%) of the landless stated that the possibility to get land from the government allocation is low.

The participants of FDG and key informant interviewers also reported that the presence of land reallocation in both kebeles as one method of access to land for the landless. But the opportunity is very narrow due to the absence of more farm land banking in the study area that will be allocated to the landless. As the interview with the kebele leadership showed that about 22 rural landless were given a piece of land. The allocation shows that three landless were given land for crop cultivation, four landless for tree planting and forage production, 15 landless for tea and coffee selling. The maximum sizes of the plots were a quarter of a hectare given for crop production and the minimum was 500 m² for tea and coffee selling. The low rate of land allocation by the government leads to alarming increase of landless in the study area.

4.4 Livelihood Options of Landless in the Study Area

4.4.1 Available Livelihood Options to Landless in the Study Area

Peoples in rural area are predominantly subsistence farmers engaged in agriculture. However, due to scarcity of land, farming only does not enable the landless to sustain their living. Hence, the majority of them simultaneously diversify their livelihood into both farming and nonfarm livelihood strategies. In this case, Chambers and Conway (1992) argued that, resource-poor farmers perform different and complex activities to earn a living. In the study area, some of the landless respondents are engaged in subsistence farming though what they produce is not adequate to satisfy their need. As a result depending on asset endowments and skills developed, few landless supplement their income by engaging in off-farm activities such as petty trade, wage labor and seasonal migration, engaging in enterprises (tea and coffee selling and running pool house)(Table 4.2).

Table 4.2 Livelihood options of landless respondents

No	Livelihood options of respondents	frequency	percentage
1	Farming with sharecropping	40	22.6
2	Farming with parents	102	57.6
3	Petty trade	16	9.6
4	engaging in micro enterprises	8	4.5
5	Seasonal migration and wage labor	11	6.2

Source: survey result, 2022

As indicated in Table 4.2, the livelihood option of majority of landless respondents (57.6%) is farming with parents followed by sharecropping (22.6%). also, the rest 20.3% of landless are engaged in Petty trade, engaging in micro enterprises, seasonal migration and wage labor. During the FGDs with the landless participants stressed that farming with parents is a better option as parents need farm labour to produce more and as member of the family and being landless parents wish to see their children become independent and encourage them to become self-

sufficient. Although the landless considered share cropping as an option to access land, they are not keen to enter share cropping due to the exploitative nature of the arrangement and lack of resources to get engaged in share cropping.

The landless also commented that low level of the landless engagement in off-farm activities is primarily attributed to lack of proper well studied and profitable business organization. Moreover, they underlined the need for identifying potential microenterprises that could be profitably administered by the respective stakeholders. Further it was mentioned that even those landless who have started microenterprises were not provided trainings on how to manage enterprises. The landless in general claimed that livelihood options other than farming are not attractive businesses; hence, they prefer to migrate to other areas or engaged wage labour. Although these options seem plausible, the landless are not provided information on where to migrate and also any advice what skill they should develop to provide effective service and earn better wage.

Farmers having land also indicated that, most landless are living and farming with parents because there is no effective livelihood options to the landless specially the youth. The farmers further indicated that they encourage their landless children to get engaged in small businesses like selling of firewood and where feasible producing charcoal for market; buying grain, sheep, goat or chicken where the price is cheap and sell it to markets where they could get better profit. In general the overall response shows even if landless are engaged in the above livelihood options, they are not satisfied to sustain their life.

4.4.2 Willingness of Landless to Engage in Agriculture

In fact the willingness to engage in a certain livelihood options emanates from availability of inputs and developed attitudes.

Regarding to willingness of the landless to engage in agriculture, majority of sample landless respondents (88%) confirmed that they are unwilling to engage in agriculture due to lack of adequate land at fair rent or share cropping and also lack of resources such as plowing oxen and finance to purchase farm inputs. Whereas the remaining 12% of the landless showed an interest to get engaged in agriculture provided that they are given the required support. During the FGD the landless have expressed an idea in that they don't have an interest to engage in agriculture, rather they prefer to start their own business and engage in different off-farm activities. Their

principal reason is that due to the lack of adequate land, they are not able to produce enough for their family and this will not change their life to the better.

Also, the interest of the landless to farm as a share cropper was found to be very low. Most of them are not happy with the current share cropping arrangement. Almost all expressed that they cannot operate as tenants; and hence they rather opt to get engaged in daily labour. This sentiment of the landless was also well expressed during FGDs by farmers having land. A study by Bezu and Holden (2014) have also found that youth in rural south Ethiopia have limited access to agricultural land and showed very low interest in agricultural livelihood. According to their finding, only 9% of the rural youth plan to pursue agriculture as their livelihood.

4.4.3 Challenges of Landless to Engaged in Off-Farm Activities

It is evident that the role of off-farm activities in supplementing farm household income and reducing vulnerability to shocks is substantially high. As described earlier most landless are interested to engage in off-farm activities like livestock fattening, petty trade, Poultry farming etc. However, the general trend in the study kebeles shows very limited activities are being practiced. Most landless respondents stated they face many challenges to get engaged in these activities. The challenges include lack of finance, lack of skills, lack of profitable business plan, lack of shared vision by group members and lack of technical support. Similarly participants of FGD revealed that, initiations of the government in giving training and other financial support to landless to engage in off-farm activities is low. Key informant interviewees explained that there is a start by TVET to give training in recent months. However, there is no much work done so far. It seems that all the above problems should be given due consideration to motivate the landless to get engaged in income generating activities.

4.5 Social, Economic and Environmental Consequences of Rural Landlessness

As agriculture is the main livelihood activities, and availability of rural land is scarce in study area, there are different social, economic and environmental problems that are very much connected with rural landlessness. These socio economic problems affect the landless themselves and the society as a whole. Therefore socioeconomic and environmental problems that exist in the sampled kebeles are discussed follows.

4.5.1 Social Consequences of Rural Landlessness

Landlessness causes different social problems to the landless themselves and to the society. The landless were transparent in expressing that they attempt to grab part of grazing land for farming, they lack respect from the society due to some malpractices committed by few landless, and they show low motivation to participate in community development activities. They also explain the community observes the landless as inferior and it is difficult for them to establish marriage relations with the children's of farmers having land.

On the other hand farmers having land revealed that, there are different social problems created by rural landless. These problems are theft (of livestock, and burglary), disturbing peace and security of the society, dispute with the community leaders on land use and committing physical attack due to over drinking, conflict with the family members, parents and relatives and begging. Key informants also put similar idea. A study by Hiruy (2012) also showed that a person who doesn't have land is difficult to establish a family. The situation was commented to be a potential source of very serious social problems in the foreseeable future.

4.5.2 Economic Consequences of Rural Landlessness

Economic problem of landlessness is mostly related with lack of finance of landless. Landless respondents reported that landlessness creates different economic problems that affect the life of the landless in the study area. The low income of the landless exposes them to hunger, those having children face difficulty to provide good clothing and sending their children to school and they cannot have health service. They also lack the capacity to purchase farming resources such as oxen and fertilizer, unable to afford health service and incapable to engage in off-farm activity. Efforts made by the local administration to give them a piece of land to exercise off-farm activities were limited. Most landless were unhappy because they sit idle most of the time.

The rural landless can lead better life if they develop some knowledge and skills in different off-farm activities such as livestock fattening, poultry farming, handicrafts, carpentry, weaving, driving, etc. However, Assessment of knowledge and skill of the rural landless in the above mentioned activities in the study area indicated that, the great majority of landless lack the required knowledge and skill (Table 4.3).

Table 4.3 Landless knowledge and skill on off farm activities

	Possible answers	Number	percent
Do you have knowledge and skill on off farm activities (livestock fattening, Poultry framing, handicrafts, peaty trade, Carpentry, driving etc.)	Yes	32	18.1
	No	145	81.9
	total	177	100

Source: survey result, 2022

As indicated in Table 4.3, majority of landless lack knowledge and skill that helps them to engaged in alternative employment opportunities. The rural landless wish to pursue alternate off-farm living options when there is shortage of land. But they cannot take training by themselves because of lack of finance. So, rural landless people who are eager to participate in training should receive it for free because they lack the financial means to do so. But, discussions with the rural landless on this issue revealed that there is no sufficient training given in both Kebeles by any external agency or the experts working in the kebele.

On other hand, farmers having land also explained that, the landlessness is highly connected with unemployment. This makes the landless children prefer migrating to other areas and they leave their villages without being provided with information where to migrate, when to migrate so that they can earn a better income. They also pointed that; landless people's inability to participate in local development activities can hamper economic development of the society. A study by Rahman and Manprasert (2006) on landlessness and its impact on economic development shows negative relationship between landlessness and the level of income. Likewise Nzinga and Tsegay (2012) have asserted that the ability of the landless to engage in productive activities has economic consequences. In addition, a study by Hiruy (2012), on the effects of rural youth unemployment and landlessness in Ethiopia showed that the landless youth and their family are exposed to starvation and landlessness can seriously affect the country's economy.

4.5.3 Environmental Problems Induced by Rural Landless

Landlessness has also its own environmental impact in the study area. As FGD with farmers having land pointed that, deforestation, encroachment on communal woodland, encroachment on

grazing land are environmental problems caused by the landless. They have also underlined that lack of alternative sources of income has tempted the landless to violate the local laws causing frequent conflict between landless and the kebele leadership. In addition small size of farmland of a family gets more fragmented into very small pieces of land when the landless children inherit land from their parents. As a result, fragmentation exposes the land for land degradation which is an impediment to increasing yield and further leads to poverty and food insecurity. The summary of problems of landlessness across study kebeles is shown in Table 4.4.

Table 4.4 Summary of social, economic and environmental problems of rural landlessness

Economic problems	Social problems	Environmental problems
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ Poverty ☞ starvation ☞ Food insecurity ☞ Low income ☞ unemployment ☞ unable to purchase farming resources ☞ Un able to send children to school ☞ Un able to cloth the children ☞ Difficult to afford health service ☞ Incapable to engage in off-farm activity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ Un able to make marriage relation ☞ Sense of inferiority in the community ☞ Lack of respect and Low motivation to participate in rural development activities ☞ Theft ☞ Dispute with in parents, within the community and local leaders ☞ Migration, parents are left without tutor ☞ disturbing peace and security of the society ☞ physical attack due to over drinking ☞ Begging. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ Deforestation ☞ Encroaching in to communal woodland ☞ Encroaching in to encroachment on grazing land ☞ land fragmentation

Source: survey result, 2022

4.6 Existing Institutional Arrangements Put in Place to Assist Rural Landless

4.6.1 Stakeholders Responsible to Tackle the Problems of Rural Landlessness

The Regional government has already established institutions such as Youth, Women and Children Affairs and Technical and Vocational Enterprise Development that are closely supported by District Cabinets to handle youth affairs. Task forces comprising of the above intuitions and the offices of Agriculture, Land Administration and Use, and some other sectors are established in all woreda to register, organize, train, identify alternative micro enterprises and deploy the landless to enable them generate income and improve their livelihoods.

Landless respondents and key informant interviewees also indicate that local administration, youth affairs, woreda administration and micro enterprise office are the main stakeholder institutions to the issue of rural landlessness. These institutions together with agriculture office, micro finances offices and other non-governmental organizations are trying to enhance the development of micro enterprises and other interested organization that could enable the landless to generate income for their livelihoods and to reduce their problems. One of the major problems stated by Key informants is that there is no strong coordination among these above institutions and the issue of accountability and follow up and monitoring of the landless engagement in economic activities such as micro enterprises are poorly organized.

4.6.2 Providing Access to Credits, Technical Training, and Market Connection

According to Abdi (2019) in rural area of developing countries in general and in Ethiopian in particular the micro credit support and micro-enterprise have not expanded to reach most rural landless. The number of banks that are providing credit to support rural landless are limited. These conditions discourage rural landless youth to engage in self-employment. In general access to credit with technical training and market connections for landless is a better solution to tackle the problems of landlessness. To assess the presence of access to credits, technical training, and market connection in the study area, the sampled landless were asked whether or not the stakeholder institutions provide access to credits, technical training, and market connections to landless. The response of landless respondents is shown in the Table 4.5.

Table 4.5 Access to credits, technical training, and market connection to landless

Variables	Possible answers	frequency	Percentage
Access to credits	Yes	17	9.6
	No	160	90.4
	Total	177	100
Access to technical training	Yes	13	7.4
	No	164	92.6
	Total	177	100
Access to market connection	Yes	8	4.5
	No	169	95.5
	Total	177	100

Source: survey result, 2022

As indicated in Table 4.5, responses of landless respondents on accessibility of credits, technical trainings and market connections, majority of respondents replied that, there is no enough accessibility of credit, technical trainings and market connection provided by the responsible body. Landless in FGD and key informant interviewee also indicate the existing accessibilities as follows.

Regarding to credit access; in 2017 the government bought five Bajaj for five landless and the credit to be paid within five years. This access was given to those who have driving license. But the opportunity is limited due to limited number of microfinance institutions. The key informants also indicate that there is lack of confidence and fear to risk taking to borrow loan by landless.

Concerning to technical training and market connection, the key informants explained that, there is no adequate training and market connection created before. The respondents also indicate, 500m² of land given by micro-enterprise to fifteen landless for running indoor games, selling coffee and tea. Also, trainings of livestock fattening and poultry farming were given for ten landless youth though their performance is weak and some did not yet start the business. In general this finding indicates there is weak institutional supports or incentives to give access to credits, technical training, and market connection to landless to engage in off-farm activities.

4.6.3 Institutional Coordination and Accountability, Planned Activities

The success of institutional efforts to support rural landless largely depends on availability of strong and functional institutional arrangements characterized by high integration and coordination. There should be strong strategic plans that could be implemented at local level and also there must be strong local level associations of the landless with the government. In this regard, Rasmussen and Meinzen (2001) argue that compared to central government institutions, local organizations are better placed to respond to community needs; they also play major role in building trust between local people and government institutions, can enhance access to resources, capacity building and skill development by drawing resources from external agencies.

Having this, discussion made with the landless and the institutions in charge of the landless issues has revealed mixed responses. The landless asserted that the support given by government institutions is weak. And to organizing in micro enterprises needs collateral and this is not easy for the landless. They further noted that there is no transparent discussion with government institutions and the activities they do lacks coordination. On the other hand, government institutions expressed their concern is that many of the landless are not showing high motivation to be part of the solution. There is a tendency of sitting idle and waiting for support coming from the government. From the responses of both the landless and government institutions, it can be argued that the institutional arrangement to handle the landless issue in rural areas lacks integration. Also, about the presence of special arrangement to support landless women, experts respond there is no any special arrangements put in place or planned for women. However they planned to engaged the landless in different off-farm activities and start technical training.

4.6.4 Landless Data Handling, Transparent Criteria for Allocating Land, Awareness Creation and Arranging Visits to Model Off-Farm Activities

Although the researcher expected that the land administration offices keep up-to-date record of the landless and initiate important policy directions on how to give access to land to the landless, in this regard none of them has full and up-to-date information. The data recording system regarding to landless in the study kebeles is low. The landless expressed that institutions are very poor in setting transparent criteria for allocating land and arranging engagements of the landless in off-farm activities and there is rather a sign of corruption to favour some. Landless respondents revealed that, there is no arrangements made for the landless to visit model off farm

activities and awareness creation is low. Concerning monitoring and evaluation, it there are problems of follow up, technical support and evaluation of performances of the micro enterprises.

The overall scenario in general shows that there are no clear guidelines or planned activities to be followed by each institution on how they should handle landless issues and the low institutional efforts to support landlessness in the study area tends to further exacerbate the problems of the landless.

4.6.5 Level of Satisfaction in Institutional Treatments Given to Rural Landless

It is difficult to measure the overall satisfaction level using direct indicators because customer satisfaction is measured at the individual level. Due to this fact, the researcher asked sample respondents to express their overall opinion regarding their satisfaction about treatments they received from the relevant stakeholders. To get an aggregate satisfaction level, the responses are grouped in four ranks such as strongly satisfied, satisfied, dissatisfied and strongly dissatisfied as indicated in Table 4.6.

Table 4. 6 Level of satisfaction in institutional treatments of rural landless

Level of satisfaction	Frequency	Percent (%)
Satisfied	8	4.5
Highly Satisfied	-	-
Dissatisfied	87	49.2
Highly dissatisfied	82	46.3
Total	177	100

Source: survey result, 2022

As shown in Table 4.6, the majority of respondents were dissatisfied and highly dissatisfied with the institutional activities to reduce the problem of rural landlessness in the study area. Surprisingly, only 4.5% of respondents were satisfied. The high dissatisfaction on the institutional support tends to damage the motivation of the landless to get engaged in economic activities that could enable them generate income for their livelihoods.

CHAPTER FIVE: CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

5.1 Conclusion

This study was mainly aimed at assessing rural landlessness, access to land and livelihood options in Gubalafto woreda. In view of the objectives of this study, the finding from the perception, feeling and experiences of the respondents on the issue of rural landlessness in Gubalafto Woreda is concluded as follow:

Access to land and carrying out productive agricultural activities are critical factors to ensure or assure food security. Access to land is a fundamental asset or basic resource for economic development, and poverty reduction of the rural people and the country at large. However, the reality in the study area indicated that, land is becoming severely scarce and landlessness has become an increasing problem from time to time. A combination of factors such as scarcity of land, population growth, lack of alternative employment opportunities, and lack of successful off- farm activities have aggravated the problem of landlessness.

The study has revealed that the opportunity for accessing land through the government allocation is a remote possibility as spare farm land is not available in the study areas. And the fact that parents' land holdings are small, the chance to access land from parents is difficult. In addition, due to high competition in accessing land through sharecropping and renting, the possibility of accessing land through these mechanisms are not widely available in the study area. Due to this only a fraction of the rural landless has got land from parents, sharecropping, government allocation and rent. In general the study indicates opportunity of landless to have access to land to in the study area is low.

Regarding livelihood options of landless, the result showed that due to the problem of access to land in the study area, the majority of landless faced difficulty to lead independent life. In this case, except few landless households engaged in farming using sharecropping of land most landless prefer to get engaged in off-farm activities. However, the, majority of landless in the study area are farming with parents as other options are scarce. Despite the presence of huge productive force in the study kebeles the limited options to get self-employment is creating hindrance to the landless to lead independent and sustainable life.

Rural landlessness has different socio-economic and environmental problems. The finding shows low income, poverty, unemployment and food insecurity are the main economic problems that existed in the study area. Also, social problems such as theft, migration, social unrest, sense of inferiority in society and difficulty to establish marriage relations with farmers having land are prevalent in the study area. In addition, environmental problems such as deforestation, land fragmentation and encroaching on grazing land are ecological problem in the study area induced by the landless.

Rural landlessness has become a serious problem that should be solved in each and every rural village. Thus the problem requires active, integrated and accountable institutions that clearly study the objective realities in line with the policy and strategy to enable the landless get engaged in income generating activities. Although there are attempts by the local government to assist the landless to start economic activities, the institutions in charge of handling the rural landless in terms of providing credit, technical training and market connections as well as in facilitating provision of inputs required are not in a position to provide effective services. The overall scenario in general leads to conclude that the rural landless issue is not handled with clear guidelines or planned activities that are jointly prepared and implemented by the relevant institution in charge of the landless issue. This institutional weakness prevailing in the study area is likely to weaken the motivation of the landless to get out of poverty.

5.2 Recommendation

Based on the findings and conclusions of the study, the following recommendations are forwarded to stakeholder institutions to tackle the problem of the landless.

- ☞ The problem of landlessness in the study area and elsewhere is a serious problem. Therefore to reduce this problem, the local government should redistribute the land of large landholders to landless peoples.
- ☞ Local government should actively monitor the land owned by illegal successor, the land owned by civil servant, and idle (unused) cultivable land in the community and allocate to landless peoples.
- ☞ As landlessness is showing an increasing trend and access to land become a narrow possibility for the rural landless, it is essential to encourage the landless to generate income from diverse activities. To this effect a variety of vocational training packages

must be designed and provided to the landless and also profitable business plans should be provided to them.

- ☞ The rural landless people are required financial incentives, skill and knowledge, and market connection to engage in different off-farm activities. Therefore, it is essential to arrange affordable credit services and provision of technical trainings and well as market connection.
- ☞ Rural landlessness is a cross cutting issue that requires involvement of a multitude of stakeholders including the land administration and agriculture offices, micro enterprise development, and the financial institutions, marketing and cooperative offices and the woreda administration. These stakeholders should integrate their efforts to enhance alternative employment opportunities for the landless and enable them to improve their livelihoods.
- ☞ Efforts must be made by the local authorities to motivate the landless to be an integral part of the society by involving them in local development affairs.
- ☞ The government should develop strategies, policies and laws that clearly address the problem of rural landlessness.

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Appendixes
Bahir Dar University
Institute of land administration
Graduate Program in Land Administration and Management
Appendix I: Survey Questionnaire for Landless Respondents

Dear respondents, this questionnaire survey are purposely designed to collect data regarding to a thesis titled on: -assessment of rural landlessness, access to land and livelihood options: the case of Gubalafto Woreda for the partial fulfillment of Masters of Science in Land Administration and Management. Your genuine response for the following questions is extremely important for the completion of this work. The study is only for academic purpose and cannot affect you in any case. I kindly request you to spare some of your precious time for filling this questionnaire.

Thank you in advance!

Date of interview

Name of Enumerator Signature

- General instruction: Put a tick (√) that appropriately represents your response in multiple choice questions. For open-ended questions, please put your response on space provided.

PART I: Personal Information

1. Sex: 1) Male 2) Female
2. Age.....
3. Marital Status: 1). Married 2) Single 3) Divorced 4) Widowed
4. Literacy level of the respondent: 1) Illiterate 2) Only read and write
3) Elementary school 4) Secondary school 6) College and above

PART II: Questions Related to Rural Landlessness

1. What do you think are the major causes of landlessness?
 - 1) Population growth 2) being underage during the last land redistribution
 - 3) Lack of interest to work on land 4) Unable to engage in off-farm activities
 - 5) Specify if other_____

2. Do you think that the number of landless is increasing in the Kebele?
1) Yes 2) No
3. If your answer is yes for question number 2, what are the reasons?
_____.
4. How do you get opportunity to have access to land:
1) From parents 2) From government allocation
3) Through share Cropping 4) Renting 5) other
5. Are your parents willing to apportion part of their land to you?
1) Yes 2) No
6. If your answer is No for question 5, please specify your
reason:_____.
7. Are you willing to get engaged in farming?
1) Yes 2) No
8. If your answer is “No” for question number 7, what is your reason?
_____.
9. What livelihood activities do you engaged to lead your life here in the Kebele?
1) Farming sharecropping land 2) Farming by renting land 3) Framing on parents land
4) Engaged in wage labour 5) Engaged in micro enterprise 6) petty trade
7) Specify if others Other
10. Are you engaged in off farm activities?
1) Yes 2) No
11. If yes, in which off farm activities you engaged?
12. If No, give reason: _____.
13. Dou you have skills and knowledge to engage in off farm activities?
1) Yes 2) no
14. If your answer is no, what are the challenges to engaged in those activities?
_____.
15. What are Economic and social problems do you faced due to landlessness?
A, Economic problem:
_____.
- B, Social problem:

16. How does the community you are living in feel about the landless behaviors?

17. Is there any government support to landless to engage in off farm and farm activities?

Do they give good service? And in what way they support?

18. Are their Incentives such as credits, technical training, and market connection created by the government to landless?

1) Yes 2) No

19. If your answer is yes for question number 18, which institutions are involved?

20. Are you engaged in micro enterprise (livestock fattening, petty trade, etc) with the support of the government?

1) Yes 2) No

21. If your answer is yes for question number 20, in which activity you are engaged? How you are effective?

22. If your answer is “No” for question number 20, why?

23. Did you get land from the Kebele for your micro enterprise?

1) Yes 2) No

24. If the answer is yes for question number 23, to what purpose you used?

25. If you are participating in micro enterprises supported by the government, how do you evaluate the profitability or satisfaction?

1) Satisfied 2) highly satisfied 3) unsatisfied 4) highly unsatisfied

26. What supports do you get from government offices such as land administration, youth affairs office, micro finance offices and others to engaged in agriculture and off farm activities?

27. What support should be given to landless to start effective off farm and farm activities?

28. Any other idea you would like to express:

Appendix II: Focus Group Discussion Questions for Landless

1. What are the opportunities of the rural landless to have access to rural land?
2. Do the rural landless have good motivation to get engaged in off farm activities and agriculture?
3. Are there micro enterprises established by the landless with the support of the government?
4. Are parents willing to give part of their land holdings to their children?
5. What problems are faced due to the landless?
6. What activities are carried out to support the landless to engage in off farm and farm activities? How do you evaluate it?
7. Is there model off farm activities conducted by landless?
8. What support should the landless be given to start effective off farm and farm activities?
9. Is there good integration, coordination, accountability, transparent criteria, effective monitoring and evaluation of planed activities with the stakeholders regarding to rural landlessness?
10. What are socio economic problems faced due to landlessness?

Appendix III: Focus Group Discussion for Households Having Land

Date

Name of Enumerator Signature

Location: Name of Kebele

1. Are there landless in your kebele? What seams the trends?
2. How they access to land and what livelihood options they follow to lead their life?
3. Are you willing to apportion your land to landless?
4. What social, economic and environmental problems exist related to rural landlessness?
5. What are the strategies are followed by the government to tackle the problem of landlessness?
6. What seems like effectiveness of stakeholders in addressing this problem?
7. What should be done for the future to reduce the problem of landlessness?

Appendix IV: Key Informants Interview Questions for Kebele Administration Office

1. How many landless are there in your kebele?
2. Do you think that the landless people are increasing in the Kebele?
3. If the landless peoples are increasing, what are the reasons?
4. Is there land reallocation to landless in the Kebele?
5. If yes, what method of reallocation practiced?
6. Is kebele land administration creates Awareness about engagements in off farm activities.
7. How kebele land administration institution treats rural landless to engaged in off farm activities?
8. Is there a special arrangement to support landless women? How?
9. Is there any institutional coordination with stakeholders dealing with the landless peoples? What are they? What they do?
10. Is the government allowed landless people get access like credits, technical training, and market connection to fulfill their livelihood?

Appendix V: Key Informants Interview Questions for Woreda Land Administration office and job creation office

1. What looks like the trends of rural landlessness in last decades?
2. As woreda, what activities done to enable rural landless become self-sufficient?
3. What are social, economic, and environmental problems faced due to landlessness in this woreda?
4. Is there a special arrangement to support landless women? How?
5. Are the following activities carried out by government institutions to enhance rural landless engagement in off farm activities?
 - Providing the landless people get access like credits, technical training, and market connection.
 - Arranging visits to model off farm activities conducted by the landless
 - Institutional coordination, accountability, preparation of business plan
 - Awareness creation on engagements in off farm activities.
 - Monitoring and evaluation of planned activities
 - Landless data handling, setting transparent criteria for allocating land and engagements in off farm activities.