ThinkTank
Initiative

SUMMARY

Migration, Remittances and Forest Dependence in Ethiopia

Proposed by the Ethiopian Economic Association (EEA-EEPRI), Center for International Forestry Research – Ethiopia (CIFOR- Ethiopia)

INTRODUCTION

In Ethiopia, 85% of the population is dependent on agriculture and natural resources for their livelihoods. Many households rely on generating their income through collecting and marketing forest products. While many community members migrate in hopes of seeking better incomes, the relationship between labour migration and the extraction of forest products is not well understood.

WHAT THEY WILL DO

The Ethiopian Economics Association (EEA), in collaboration with the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), will conduct a 3-year research project to better understand the relationship between forest-dependence and migration in Ethiopia. Their research will specifically focus on the impacts of migration patterns on gender equality and relations, forest use and management, and on food security at the places of the migrants' origin. The research will therefore examine the nexus between migration, forest dependence, and gender in rural Ethiopia.

HOW THEY WILL DO IT

This study will use a multi-stage sampling procedure. A purposive sample will include the three regions in Ethiopia with the highest origin of internal and international migrants. Each region will be mapped for its main sources of migrants, which will be superimposed on forest cover maps. Eight districts will be selected for more in-depth analysis based on a probability proportionate to the number of rural out-migrants in each region. A random sample will be chosen from these districts, where community and household survey questionnaires will be delivered. These surveys will be conducted in two rounds, first in fall 2015 and again in fall 2017. The questionnaires will be aligned to build a panel dataset on variables of interest including migration, gender equality, food security, and forest dependence.

EXPECTED RESULTS

The research aims to inform policy and decision-makers in Ethiopia and abroad. This project aims to improve gender equity, better development and conservation planning by governments, and enhanced forest cover and quality. Anticipated outputs include peer-reviewed journal articles and working papers.