One of the objectives of this study was “to evaluate the role of institutions in promoting agroforestry practices across the region.” Thus, this chapter examines the types of institutions involved in agroforestry activities as well as their strengths and weaknesses.

It is known that a well established institutional framework is needed to coordinate agroforestry programs. Prior to 1996 there was no responsible government body to carry out agroforestry activities at all levels of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. Only research institutions and aid organizations were practicing tree plantations to rehabilitate degraded lands in the drought affected areas of northern Ethiopia since 1970’s.

It was in 1996 that agroforestry was included in the organizational structure of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural development. Since then it has got better attention by the Ministry. Moreover, many research and educational institutions also gave special emphasis to the field. But, still the support given to the farmers is not adequate. It is limited only to the provision of tree seedlings.

Organizational Structure of Agroforestry

Prior to 1996 Agroforestry and/ or Farm Forestry were not considered as a priority area for development works in the country. Farmers in different parts of the country were practicing different traditional agroforestry activities without much support from the government. One of such agroforestry practices was the Gedeo zone traditional agroforestry activities.

Table 6.1 shows departments and units responsible for forestry and agroforestry activities at different hierarchies of the then Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Natural Resource Development and Environment Protection and the current Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. In 1979, the Forestry and Wildlife Conservation and Development Authority (FaWCDA) was created. A separate Community Forestry Department (CFD) was also established in the same year within the FaWCDA and it did until 1985. The
The objective of CFD was to mobilize and serve Farmers’ Associations to establish nurseries, demonstration plantations and training grounds (Karamchandani, 1989). However, the main focus was on tree plantations on communal land rather than individual farms.

The CFD showed a very impressive result in the initial four years (1980-1983). The promotional and campaign approaches awakened the farmers, about 500,000 of whom were trained in nursery establishment and tree planting techniques. Over 500 schools and demonstration nurseries were established with over 52 million seedlings raised and planted on 45,000 ha of land. All these were done without any incentives to the farmers, such as the food for work program (Karamchandani, 1989).

Table 6.1
Ethiopia: Departments and Units Involved in Forestry and Agroforestry Activities, 1979 till 2007

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Department/ Unit</th>
<th>Responsibility</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1979</td>
<td>Community Forestry Department (CFD)</td>
<td>To mobilize and serve Farmers Associations to establish nurseries, demonstration plantations and training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981</td>
<td>Soil and Water Conservation Development Department (SWCDD)</td>
<td>Coordinate afforestation, including agroforestry and silviculture, propagation of improved grasses and legumes and hill side closures for natural regeneration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1985</td>
<td>Community Forestry and Soil Conservation Development Department (CFSCDD)</td>
<td>Establishing and administrating nurseries and raising seedlings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1992</td>
<td>Forestry Conservation Unit</td>
<td>Tree plantations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996 till 2007</td>
<td>Agroforestry sub-unit</td>
<td>Coordination of agroforestry activities, such as the running of tree nurseries, distribution of seedlings to farmers, plantation of trees on communal lands, rehabilitation of degraded areas, etc.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Compiled from IAR, 1988; Karamchandar, 1989; EFAP, 1991; EFAP, 1994

The Soil and Water Conservation Development Department (SWCDD), which was established in 1981, was another responsible department for tree plantation under the Ministry of Agriculture. The SWCDD was involved in afforestation, including agroforestry and silviculture, propagation of improved grasses and legumes and hill side closure for natural regeneration (EFAP, 1991).
The SWCD and CFD were merged in 1985 and formed the Community Forestry and Soil Conservation Development Department (CFSCDD). Thus, CFSCDD played an active role in establishing and administrating nurseries and raising seedlings. The CFSCDD also took charge of the coordination of key donor supported activities such as Swiss-UNU supported SCRP/FAO projects, SIDA’s support to community forestry and soil conservation development, the Food for Work Program and other similar programs (IAR, 1988).

In 1992 the CFSCDD was merged with Land Use Project and Regulatory Department (LUPRD) and formed into the Watershed Development and Land Use Department (WDLUD) under the Ministry of Natural Resources Development & Environment Protection (MoNRDEP) (EFAP, 1994). The Forestry Conservation Unit under the LUPRD was the responsible body for tree plantations at all levels of the structure of the MoNRDEP, From the Ministry down to Woreda.

In 1996 agroforestry was included in the organizational structure of the Ministry of Agriculture. It was given the status of sub-unit under the Natural Resources Conservation and Management Unit. Experts were assigned at different levels from the Ministry up to Woreda levels to run this activity. This shows the emphasis given by the government these days.

Fig 6.1 shows the organizational structure of Woreda Agricultural and Rural Development Office. Thus, agroforestry as a sub-unit was included in the structure of Woreda Agriculture and Rural Development Offices of Gedeo since 1996. At Farmers’ Association level, graduates of the Natural Resources Development Department of the Agricultural Technical and Vocational Education Training (ATVET) were assigned to handle agroforestry works since 2004. However, currently the agricultural Agents dealing with natural resources of the Zone and thus with agroforestry were 92 in number in 2006. This makes the ratio of natural resources expert to farmers to be 1: 7218.

This number is quite high for an Agricultural Agent and it becomes increasingly difficult to reach all the farmers as required compared to the 600-700 farmers as indicated in the agricultural extension system of the country.
Agroforestry Education and Research

AGROFORESTRY EDUCATION AND TRAINING

A national agroforestry workshop held in 1988 came up with a recommendation of including agroforestry courses in B.Sc programs of agriculture and forestry, opening of M.Sc program in the field and specialization at postgraduate level (IAR, 1988). Based on these recommendations, several higher learning institutions have included the course in their curriculum and have been teaching at different levels starting from Diploma to M.Sc
programs. In some institutions agroforestry is offered as a course and in others as a specialized area of training (Table 6.2).

Table 6.2
Ethiopia: Agroforestry Programs in Higher Learning Institutions, 2004

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Type of Program</th>
<th>Institutional strength</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alemaya University</td>
<td>Agroforestry is treated as a course at BSc level</td>
<td>Has the required institutional strength</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Agroforestry is treated as a means of soil and water conservation at post graduate level</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mekele University</td>
<td>Agroforestry is treated as a course at BSc level</td>
<td>Strong , but teaching staffs and laboratory facilities needs to be up-graded</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Agroforestry is treated as area of specialty at MSc level</td>
<td>Has connection to ICRAF and has established an agroforestry demonstration plots</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Hawassa</td>
<td>Agroforestry is treated as a course at BSc level</td>
<td>Strong , but teaching staff and laboratory facilities need to be up-graded</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Agroforestry is taught at MSc level of training</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wondo Genet College of Forestry</td>
<td>Agroforestry is an area of specialization from Diploma to MSc level</td>
<td>Strong, but teaching staff and laboratory facilities need to be up-graded</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Has connection to ICRAF and has established agroforestry demonstration plots</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jimma University</td>
<td>Agroforestry is a course under agriculture and horticulture for Diploma program, but now at BSc level</td>
<td>Has connection to ICRAF and has established an agroforestry demonstration plots</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ATVET * Colleges</td>
<td>There are 25 Agri-TVET in the country and Agroforestry given as a course for all students</td>
<td>Mainly theoretical with less or no practical training</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Agricultural Technical Vocational Education and Training

Source: Compiled from ICRAF- Ethiopia Country Strategic Planning and Stakeholder Workshop report, 2004

The newly established ATVET colleges in 2001 also offer agroforestry as a course for students specializing in natural resources. Fortunately, out of the 25 ATVET colleges in the country, one is located at Dilla, capital of Gedeo zone. So, it is hoped that the college will benefit the area both in undertaking research and disseminating agroforestry technologies.
In Gedeo, the experts assigned to agroforestry at Woreda and Zonal levels are graduates from Forestry, General Agriculture, Plant Science or Soil Sciences. These experts are doing their level best to promote agroforestry activities in the area with major emphasis on running nursery sites, distributing seedlings to farmers as well as rehabilitating degraded areas. However, much needs to be done to improve the traditional practices through research and extension.

AGROFORESTRY RESEARCH

Research in agroforestry has started in the country before the first national workshop on agroforestry took place in 1988 (IAR, 1988). Different institutions were involved with multipurpose trees trials aimed at various objectives; such as IAR/EARO, MoA (FRC, CFSCDD, ADD), Higher Institutions (AU, AAU, WCF, AJAC/ DU, JJAC/JU), and NGO’s (ILCA/ILRI). This workshop has also paved the ground for a further research work by research institutions, higher institutions of learning as well as NGO’s.

Table 6.3 shows the major institutions involved in agroforestry research in the country. The major areas of research by the above institutions were: (i) Species screening for alley cropping and soil improvement, (ii) Species elimination for fodder production, (iii) Alley cropping, (iv) Homestead gardening, etc.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Research Institutions</th>
<th>Higher Learning Institutions</th>
<th>NGO’s</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ethiopian Agriculture Research Organization (EARO)</td>
<td>Alemeya University, currently known as Haramaya University</td>
<td>CARE-Ethiopia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forest Research Center (FRC)</td>
<td>Debub University, currently known as Hawassa University</td>
<td>Centro Internacional de Agricultura Tropica</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institute of Biodiversity Conservation and Research (IBCR)</td>
<td>Jimma University</td>
<td>International Center for Research in Agroforestry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mekele University</td>
<td>International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wondogenet College of Forestry</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Compiled from Hoekstra, 1990; EFAP, 1994; Annah Njui, 2004

Gedeo is famous in traditional agroforestry activities in the country. Students of higher institution taking agroforestry courses used to visit this area for practical training. But, so far there is no research center related to agroforestry in the area. However, the ATVET
College at Dilla could take the initiative to focus on research on the traditional agroforestry practices of Gedeo in order to supplement/overcome the problems of the traditional agroforestry practices.

**Agroforestry Extension and Development**

Extension is an instrument for the dissemination of technologies to farmers obtained through research and experience. Agricultural extension service in Ethiopia is relatively a recent phenomenon. This service begins with the foundation of Jimma Agricultural and Technical School and Alemaya College of Agriculture earlier known as Imperial Ethiopian College of Agriculture and Mechanical Arts in 1952 when the Ethiopian government and the USA first established the Point Four Program (http://www.alemaya.edu.et/pages/aboutus.html). These colleges were established with the collaboration of the Oklahoma Agriculture and Mechanical College. These colleges were established with the objectives of training professionals who coordinate agricultural development works.

Agroforestry extension has never been a policy objective prior to 1996. However, institutions such as the Ministry of Coffee and Tea Development (MCTD), Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC) currently known as Relief Preparedness Commission (RPC), Ministry of State Farms Development (MSFD), Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), the 4th Livestock Development project, and NGO’s (CARE Ethiopia, Ethiopian Red Cross Society (ERCS), Agri-service Ethiopia, CONCERN, Catholic Relief, Ethiopian Orthodox Church, Mekane Yesus Church, Men for Men, Self-help, Radda Barna, WUSC, Lutheran Church and the Tana Beles Development Project) were involved in agroforestry development before the first agroforestry workshop took place in 1988 (IAR, 1988).

During this period Farm forestry/agroforestry remained separate from agricultural extension. The Community Forestry and Soil Conservation Development Department (CFSCDD) was using different agroforestry models to conserve soil and water resources in the degraded areas. These models were the planting of trees along soil conservation structures.
The Extension Department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development has recently developed an agroforestry extension intervention package (Million, 2004). The technical package is based on technologies developed by EARO. The objectives of the agroforestry extension package are: (i) promote tree-based land use system for ecological services where trees are made an integral part of the land use and (ii) Reduce the pressure on the remaining forests by creating alternative sources of income and energy and minimize increasing dependence on dung and agricultural residues (ICRAF, 2004).

The extension implementation strategies designed by the extension Department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural development are: (i) establish and renovate village nurseries managed by local self-help groups for the production and dissemination of tree seedlings for on-farm planting; (ii) encourage small woodlot plantations as a source of fuel and construction wood; (iii) training and demonstration of agroforestry technologies and practices at development and provision of seedlings; (iv) exchange visits and traveling seminars for farmers for experience exchange and lesson sharing; (v) training to regional and zonal level experts and Woreda extension workers and development agents (DA’s) and (vi) generation of a wide range of agroforestry options and building capacity of community-based organizations through training and networking.

CHALLENGES IN AGROFORESTRY EXTENSION

Three major areas of constraints were identified in the implementation of agroforestry in the Country: (i) Social/ political, (ii) Technical and (iii) Institutional/ Managerial (Table 6.4).

(i) The technical constraints relates to lack of appropriate agroforestry technology, inadequate supply of seedlings and lack of inputs and credit facilities. There is lack of appropriate agroforestry technology for different agro-ecological areas, such as spatial arrangement of trees species mixed in the crop fields. There is ongoing research by different research organizations, Higher Education Institutions and NGO’s (Table 6.1), but the findings have not been channeled to the farmers (EFAP, 1994; Mitiku, 2004; Million, 2004).

In the traditional agroforestry areas like Gedeo, farmers mix different types of trees with crops. Though farmers may know which tree to mix with which crop from experience,
this has to be supported with research in order to avoid negative impact on production. Moreover, the average number of trees per hectare in specific crop fields is not well known.

There is also inadequate supply of seedlings of multipurpose trees for the farmers (Million, 2004). This holds true also in Gedeo. The existing state nursery sites are few in number and are unable to provide the required number of seedlings to all farmers and Farmers’ Associations. Community nursery sites have to be established in every Farmers’ Association in order to solve the problem.

Farmers need support to raise trees. Some of these are inputs, planting materials, etc. Unless farmers are provided with such kind of support, it is difficult to expect agroforestry activities to take place as required. Above all, much attention should be given to the awareness creation through short term training programs, establishment of demonstration sites, etc.

| Table 6.4 | Ethiopia: Major Constraints in the Implementation of Agroforestry Activities |
|---|---|---|
| **Technical** | **Institutional/ Managerial** | **Social/ political** |
| Lack of inputs and credit facilities for agroforestry package implementation especially in areas where NGO’s do not exist. | Lack of skilled manpower at the grass roots level in areas of agroforestry. | Insecure access to land and tree. Farmers are uncertain of the rights of ownership of the trees. |
| Lack of appropriate and reliable Agroforestry technology such as spatial arrangement of trees and species mix in crop fields in different farming fields. | Lack of documentation and dissemination of successful agroforestry technologies and best practices. | Lack of incentive mechanisms to encourage the subsistence farmers to grow trees with agricultural crops. |
| Inadequate supply of seedlings of multipurpose trees and planting materials. | Low farmer to DA ratio for effective extension communication. | Free movement of livestock in the farm fields for grazing especially after harvest create problem on the survival of tree seedlings planted in farm fields. |
| Inadequate training and supervision of technical staff | | The transfer of technology is not demand-led and problem solving rather top - down technology transfer. |

Source: Compiled from EFAP, 1994 and Million, 2004
(ii) Institutional/ Managerial Constraint relates to lack of skilled professionals in agroforestry field, lack of documentation and dissemination of successful agroforestry technologies and best practices and low farmer to DA ratio for effective extension communication in this field.

There was lack of skilled manpower in agroforestry profession at all levels of the hierarchy from the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural development up to Farmers' Association. This is because, agroforestry is given due attention since 1996. As a result, there are few trained professionals in this field. Currently, the experts in agroforestry at different hierarchy are professionals from Forestry and/ or Agronomy.

The capacity of higher learning institutions for training large number of professionals in this field is limited. Graduates of Natural Resources Development and Conservation from the ATVET centers are supposed to work with farmers in this field. But, their number is so small that the ratio of these professionals to farmers is very high.

There is also lack of documentation and dissemination of successful agroforestry technologies and best practices leading to farmers. Different institutions (Research, Higher Learning and NGO's) are undertaking research activities in agroforestry independently. There is no coordinated work to avoid redundancy in the research works. Moreover, there is no responsible body to coordinate the research activities of the above institutions in order to disseminate the results to the farmers.

(iii) Social/ political constraint relates to uncertainty of land and tree tenure/ ownership, free movement of livestock in farm fields, lack of incentive mechanisms, etc. According to the Ethiopian Constitution, land is public property. Land can not be sold, but it can be leased. So, farmers are uncertain of their land and tree ownership. As a result they are not motivated to plant trees on their farm land (EFAP, 1994; Mitiku, 2004; Million, 2004). This demands a policy for the rights of ownership of the trees by the farmers.

In most of the rural areas, there is free movement of livestock in the farm fields specially after harvest. There fore, it is difficult to plant tree seedlings in farm lands because of damage by the livestock (Mitiku, 2004; Million, 2004)
There are no incentive mechanisms to encourage the subsistence farmers to motivate them to grow trees with agricultural crops.

In Gedeo there is no full-fledged agroforestry extension service given by the government or the NGO’s. It is only the supply of seedlings to the farmers that is taking place. Therefore, the concerned bodies should support the ongoing traditional agroforestry practices through extension packages.

INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS (NGO’s)

International NGO’s are the major partners of natural resource conservation activities in the country, specially since the drought and famine problem of the country in 1970’s (www.crdaethiopia.org/Documents/How%20to%20Establish%20an%20NGO%20in%20Ethiopia.pdf). Their increasing involvement grew from relief work offered during the 1984/5 drought and famine (EFAP, 1994). As the severity of the emergency support subsided they focused on soil and water conservation and afforestation programs to find lasting solution to famine and poverty.

Prior to 1985 NGO’s activities were governed by formal agreements between NGO and the MoA or the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission or both. But, since 1985 an NGO Liaison office functioned in the MoA to facilitate NGO activities.

International NGO’s such as FARM AFRICA, Food for the Hunger International, Society of International Missionaries, World Vision International, CARE, and others have been supporting community forestry, reforestation and agroforestry activities (EFAP, 1994). The most important feature of their work was the strong local contact and emphasis on a consultative role within local communities.

In Gedeo there are three international NGO’s, the Kale Hiwot church, Mechane Yesus church and Don Bosco dealing with health, family planning and education. There were no NGO’s involved in natural resource management in general and agroforestry activities in particular.
ICRAF-COUNTRY PROGRAM
The first national workshop on agroforestry was conducted on November 1988 through the collaborative effort of IAR, the present EARO, and ICRAF that took place in Awassa College of Agriculture, the present University of Hawassa. The workshop recommended an interim national committee for agroforestry coordination (IAR, 1988).

ICRAF has currently established a country program office in Ethiopia based on the ILRI center and is in the process of designing a national agroforestry strategy plan (ICRAF, 2004).

Hypothesis Testing
It was hypothesized that “the role of different institutions in promoting agroforestry activities is very much limited and as a result there is a technical and financial constraint in agroforestry activities in the area.”

As has been discussed earlier, it was found out that agroforestry is included in the organizational structure of the zonal and Woreda agriculture and Rural Development as a sub-unit. The sub-unit is also run by one expert. However, the experts are engaged only in running nurseries, distribution of seedlings to farmers and planting trees on degraded areas. So a full-fledged agroforestry activity is not being carried out by this sub-unit due to shortage of experts and other technical constraints.

With regard to research and education, there was no research activities related to agroforestry in the area. There is of-course, an ATVET College in Dilla town which trains agricultural agents in the field of Natural Resources, Plant Science and Animal Science. The trainees are offered one agroforestry course, which is not sufficient to support the full potential of the farmers. Moreover, the ratio of agricultural agents to farmers is so high that it is difficult for them to assist the farmers. The experts at zonal and Woreda levels are from Forestry, Plant Science, General Agriculture and Soil Sciences. So there are no proper agroforestry experts. Therefore, there is a gap in the research and education in the area.
Extension service in agroforestry is almost absent. There are no new agroforestry technologies introduced in the area to improve the traditional one. Moreover, there is no support by NGO’s to enhance agroforestry activity in the area. Therefore, it can be concluded that the traditional agroforestry practice in the area is having institutional, technical and financial problems and support mechanisms.

Hence, the hypothesis stating that “the role of different institutions in promoting agroforestry activities is very much limited and as a result there is a technical and financial constraint in agroforestry activities in the area.” is validated.

Conclusions
From the foregoing discussion on agroforestry institutions it can be concluded that:

• Prior to 1996 different units, sections and departments of the Ministry of Agriculture were involved in the distribution of tree seedlings to farmers and tree plantations in degraded areas. Similarly, in Gedeo, these activities were handled by Community Forestry and Soil Development Unit.

• In 1996 agroforestry was included in the zonal and Woreda structures of the Agriculture and Rural Development Offices of Gedeo as sub-unit. Experts were deputed at zonal and Woreda levels. The major emphasis of the unit was on tree nursery establishments, distribution of seedlings and tree plantations in degraded areas.

• Many higher learning institutions have included agroforestry course in their curriculum and have been teaching at different levels starting from Diploma to M.Sc programs after the 1988 agroforestry workshop held in the country. The newly established ATVET colleges in 2001 also offer agroforestry as a course for students specializing in Natural Resources Development and Conservation. One of these colleges is located at Dilla, capital of Gedeo zone. So, it is hoped that the college will benefit the area both in undertaking research and dissemination agroforestry technologies.

• In Gedeo, the experts assigned in agroforestry at Woreda and Zonal levels are graduates from Forestry, General Agriculture, Plant Science or Soil Sciences. These experts are doing their level best to promote agroforestry activities in the area with major emphasis on running nursery sites, distributing seedlings to farmers as well as
rehabilitating degraded areas. However, much needs to be done to improve the traditional practices through research and extension.

- Several Research Institutions and Government bodies such as IAR/EARO, MoA (FRC, CFSCDD, ADD, etc), Higher Learning Institutions, (AU, AAU, WCF, AJAC/DU, JJAC/JU) and NGO’s (ILCA/ILRI) are involved in agroforestry research activities focusing on species screening for alley cropping and soil improvement; species elimination for fodder production; alley cropping and homestead gardening; etc.

- Gedeo is famous in traditional agroforestry activities in the country. Students of higher learning institutions, taking agroforestry courses, used to visit this area for practical training. But, so far there is no research center related to agroforestry in the area. However, the ATVET College at Dilla could take the initiative to focus on research on the traditional agroforestry practices of Gedeo in order to supplement/overcome the problems of the traditional agroforestry practices.

- Some of the weakness of agroforestry research and education were: lack of studying traditional agroforestry systems and their indigenous knowledge; lack of public awareness raising and information dissemination, specially lack of means to bring to the farmers and the public the findings of research missions.

- The Extension Department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development is currently trying to disseminate agroforestry technologies/packages in the country. However, so far there is no new agroforestry technology/package being implemented in Gedeo. The only activities under implementation are the establishment of nursery sites, distribution of seedlings to farmers and rehabilitating degraded areas through tree plantation. There is little or no agroforestry activity taking place to assist the traditional agroforestry system in the area.

- The agroforestry extension service is generally very weak in the country as well as in the study area. Some of the constraints identified for the implementation of agroforestry extension in the country were: insecure access of the farmers to land and tree tenure, lack of proper agroforestry technologies for different areas, lack of trained personnels in the field, lack of fund, etc.

- International NGO’s like FARM AFRICA, Food for the Hunger International, Society of International Missionaries, World Vision International, CARE, and others have been supporting community forestry, reforestation and agroforestry activities in
the country. In Gedeo there are three international NGO’s, the Kalehiwot church, Mechaneyesus church and Don Bosco dealing with health, family planning and education. There were no NGO’s involved in natural resource management in general and agroforestry activities in particular.

- ICRAF has currently established a country program office in Ethiopia based on the ILRI center and is in the process of designing a national agroforestry strategy plan.

- It was hypothesized that “the role of different institutions in promoting agroforestry activities is very much limited and as a result there is a technical and financial constraint in agroforestry activities in the area.” It was found out that agroforestry is included in the organizational structure of the zonal and Woreda agriculture and Rural Development Office as a sub-unit. The sub-unit is also run by one expert. However, the experts are engaged only in running nurseries, distribution of seedlings to farmers and planting trees on degraded areas. So a full-fledged agroforestry activity is not being carried out by this sub-unit due to shortage of experts and other technical constraints. With regards to research and education, there was no research activities related to agroforestry in the area. There is of-course, an ATVET College in Dilla town which trains agricultural agents in the field of Natural Resources, Plant Science and Animal Science. The trainees are offered with one agroforestry course, which is not sufficient to support farmers with their full potential. Moreover, the ratio of agricultural agents to farmers is so high that it is difficult for them to assist the farmers. The experts at zonal and Woreda levels are from Forestry, Plant Science, General Agriculture and Soil Sciences. So there are no proper agroforestry experts. Therefore, there is a gap in the research and education in the area. Extension service in agroforestry is almost absent. There are no new agroforestry technologies introduced in the area to improve the traditional one. Moreover, there is no support by NGO’s to enhance agroforestry activity in the area. Therefore, it can be concluded that the traditional agroforestry practice in the area is having institutional, technical and financial problems and support mechanisms.

- Hence, the hypothesis stating that “the role of different institutions in promoting agroforestry activities is very much limited and as a result there is a technical and financial constraint in agroforestry activities in the area.” is validated.