Policies, plans and programs are instrumental for the implementation of activities, such as agroforestry, at different levels of institutional structure. In Ethiopia, planning for economic and social development dates back to the late 1950’s. It was in 1957 that the First Five Years Plan was issued by the Imperial Government of Ethiopia. Since then several plans, programs and policies were formulated (Table 7.1).

Prior to 1995, agroforestry and/or farm forestry have never been policy objectives in the country (EFAP 1994). However, agroforestry activities were considered as a means of soil conservation and rehabilitation of degraded lands. Only biological conservation methods like tree plantations in degraded areas were emphasized during this period.

Agroforestry was given better attention in the post 1991 period. It has been addressed in policies and programs of the country either directly or indirectly. Good examples of such policies and programs are: the Ethiopian Forestry Action Program (1994), Environmental policy (1997), Biodiversity policy (1998), Sustainable Development and Poverty Reduction Program (2002) and Rural Development Policies, Strategies and Instruments (2002).

At zonal level, annual plans are prepared by the concerned offices for the implementation of policies and programs set nation wide. This was the case also in Gedeo Zone.

**Economic Development Plans Prior to 1991**

The history of economic policy in Ethiopia was the reflection of the ideological structure of the country. Prior to 1974 was the Feudal System, 1974-1991 the Socialist System and 1991 till present the Democratic System.

During the feudal system land was owned by the state and few landlords from the ruling class. This was true specially in the southern part of the country where Gedeo is located. There was no such well-defined economic policy direction, except sectoral programs and development plans (Table 7.1). Between 1945-1957 sectoral programs such as
agriculture, telecommunication, water resources, etc., were formulated by experts from USA, Yugoslavia and FAO.

The First Five Year Development Plan (1957-1962) focused on infrastructure development, particularly on transport construction and communication to link different regions. However, forestry development in general and agroforestry in particular were not addressed in the plan. In the Second Five Years Development plan period (1963-1967) the major consideration was on the diversification of agricultural production and river basin development projects such as Awash, Blue Nile and Wabi Shebele. In the forestry sector the major emphasis was on controlled management and utilization of timber.

The Third Five Year Development Plan (1968-1973) emphasized on river basin development projects, particularly on Awash valley. It also focused on agricultural intensification development through package programs, such as Chillalo Agriculture Development Unit (CADU) later known as Arsi Rural Development Unit (ARDU), Wolaita Agriculture Development Unit (WADU), and Adda District Development Project (ADDP), etc. The plan also targeted areas to be designated, surveyed and demarcated as state, community and private plantation forest.

Between 1974-1977 the Socialist system was engaged with the nationalization of the major means of production, such as land financial institutions, big industries, etc. The Central Planning Commission, which was established in 1977, launched a series of annual development campaign programs between 1978-1984. The Ten Years Perspective Plan (1984-1993) was put in practice with the objectives of improving the unbalanced distribution of economic and social infrastructures and services among regions, fostering regional development specialization according to the specific resource endowments of the regions, strengthening environmental protection and management, etc. The Socialist Government was expelled from power before the end of the plan period.

As observed in the sectoral programs (1945-1957) and different plan periods, 1957-1991, there was no planned program to promote Farm Forestry / Agroforestry in the country.
Between 1945-1957 various projects in agriculture, forestry and animal husbandry were coordinated with the cooperation of experts seconded from FAO and US operations mission to Ethiopia (Point Four).

Extensive research and studies were undertaken related to the various branches of the economy in the fields of agriculture, telecommunication, exploitation of water resources in L. Tana and Blue Nile basin, harbour development of Asab port and a ten years expansion program of Education.

This plan sought to develop strong infrastructure, particularly transport construction and telecommunication to link region. The plan aimed also to accelerate agricultural development by promoting commercial farming and export crops. However, forestry development in general and agroforestry in particular were not well addressed in the plan.

The plan gave major consideration to diversification of production in agriculture and basin development projects such as the Awash basin, Blue Nile basin and Wabi-shebele basin. In the forestry sector the major emphasis was on controlled management and utilization of timber.

In connection to forestry, the plan targeted areas to be designated, surveyed and demarcated as state, community and other plantation forests.

The Ethiopian socialist revolution erupted in 1974 and the major means of production, such as land, financial institutions, big industries, etc. were socialized.

The central Planning Commission Office was established in 1977.

A series of annual development campaign programs were launched with the national Revolutionary Development campaign and Central Planning Supreme Council (NRDC&CPSC). The NRDC & CPSC had been successful in coordinating sectoral activities. In 1982 the NRDC & CPSC executive committee created seven regional planning offices.

The perspective plan was drafted to be implemented from 1984- 1993, but due to political change it ended in 1990.

Major objectives were to improve balanced interregional distribution of economic and social infrastructures and services, foster regional development specialization according to the specific resource endowments of the regions, strengthen environmental protection and management, correct gradually the unbalanced regional distribution of population, initiate planned development of urban centers, increase interregional economic and social integration of the country especially between the border and the center regions, etc.
Economic Development Policies, Plans and Programs Since 1991

OVERALL POLICY DIRECTION

The national economic policy is known as the Agricultural Development-Led Industrialization (ADLI). The policy aims at transferring the national economy from command economy to market economy.

Based on this framework several sectoral policies such as Population policy, Educational policy, Health policy, Investment policy, Agricultural policy, Environmental policy, Biodiversity policy, etc. and programs such as Sustainable Development and Poverty Reduction Program, Road Sector Development Program, Education Sector Development Program, HIV/AIDS Program, Ethiopian Forest Action Program, etc. have been issued in the country.

The policies and programs related to agriculture, forestry and natural resource development and conservation were: the Ethiopian Forestry Action Program; the Environmental Policy; the Rural Development Policies, Strategies and Instruments; the Sustainable Development and Food Security Strategy.

ETHIOPIAN FORESTRY ACTION PROGRAM (EFAP)

The Ethiopian Forestry Action Program was put in place in 1994. Following this, regional forestry action programs (Amhara, Tigray, Oromiya, Afar, Somalia, etc.) have been approved (Mitiku, 2004). The program was intended to address the whole range of forestry issues and formulate an integrated multi-disciplinary and multi-sectoral strategy and plan for the development, conservation and rational utilization of the forest resources of Ethiopia. One of the areas of emphasis of EFAP was farm forestry/Agroforestry.

The objectives of Farm Forestry Program were: (i) to promote the integration of trees into farms to produce fuel wood, poles and fodders, (ii) to promote sound arable land management, and (iii) to increase total agricultural production.

The strategies sought to address the objectives of farm forestry were: (i) establish secure land and tree tenure for the farmers; (ii) establishing an effective, integrated and
participatory extension service supported by research to adopt appropriate farm forestry practices and development of new practices; (iii) target input subsidies to support the adaptation of farm forestry practices that are financially unattractive to farmers, but economically advantageous to the country; (iv) secure an adequate supply of seedlings from government operated nurseries until farmers or communities produce seedlings; and (v) collaborate with local organizations, development associations, elders and religious leaders where appropriate.

EFAP (1994) has also recommended appropriate farm forestry technologies to the farmers. These technologies were: (i) homestead tree planting, (ii) field tree planting, (iii) farm woodlots, (iv) farm boundary tree planting, (v) road side tree planting, (vi) woody legume planting (fodder blocks and strips) and (viii) wind break.

i) Homestead tree planting is common in almost all rural areas. Farmers plant trees, the common one being eucalyptus trees. These trees are fast growing and very important for fuel wood, construction, pole, etc. They also sale it, so it is also source of cash.

ii) Field tree planting is the proper agroforestry activity. In this case trees are grown deliberately for different purposes, such as shade, enriching soil fertility, conserving the soil from erosion, etc. But, this is common only in coffee growing areas of southern Ethiopia, such as Gedeo, Sidamo, etc.

iii) Farm woodlots refer to the growing of trees only for the purpose of fuel wood, construction, sale, etc. by individual farmers. This is not proper agroforestry practice; rather it is a kind of farm forestry. This is common in the cereal producing areas.

iv) Farm boundary tree planting is the growing of multistorey trees along the boundaries of farmlands. In this case, trees serve as demarcations of individual farms, as sheds for animals, protection of soil from erosion, etc. This type of tree planting activity is common in the cereal producing areas of Bule highlands in Gedeo.
v) Road side tree planting is the planting of trees along road sides. In this case trees may be planted along road sides in order to avoid crop damage by animals bypassing the road, etc. It also gives access to the selling of tree products.

vi) Woody legume planting (fodder blocks and strips) is the planting of trees for fodder. Trees are harvested regularly for fodder through lopping or pollarding. Fuel wood could be a by-product and fences will be an integral part of the technology.

vii) Wind break is the planting of trees to minimize the damage of crops by strong winds. The trees may have additional significance, such as fuel wood, poles, construction, etc.

The first three technologies are fairly widely practiced in the country. The farm boundary technology is most restricted to the high potential perennial areas (like the study area), and road side planting has been limited. Fodder blocks have been promoted by the Fourth Livestock Development Project, and fodder strips in the form of alley cropping are now being tested. Wind break may well be a promising technology.

The implementation of the Ethiopian Forest Action Program was not much visible in Gedeo. Still farmers follow the traditional agroforestry practice. The proposed Farm forestry/Agroforestry technologies are also more applicable to places where agroforestry is not practiced at all or to lesser extent.

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

The environmental policy which was approved in 1997 focuses largely on soil, water, forest, wildlife and biodiversity conservation and development. Moreover, several sectoral environmental policies and strategies were issued which have direct or indirect link with environment policies like: Soil, cropland and animal husbandry for sustainable agricultural development; Forest, woodland and tree resource management; Genetic, species and ecosystem biodiversity conservation and management; Rangelands management and pastoral development; Energy resource development and management; etc.

Regarding the Conservation Policy on Soil, Cropland and Animal Husbandry, the emphasis was on soil conservation methods using physical and biological soil
conservation systems, such as terracing, check dams, soil bunding, afforestation, agroforestry, etc. and the use of indigenous soil management systems, such as agroforestry, terracing, etc. for increasing the fertility of soils using organic fertilizers (Table 7.2).

The Policy on the Conservation of Forest Woodland and Tree focuses on private sector development of industrial plantations, and farmers and community investment in farm forestry, hillside protection forestry, woodlots and peri-urban fuel wood plantations (Table 7.3). Thus, this policy emphasizes agroforestry as a means of promoting tree plantation in farm fields.

Genetic Species and Ecosystem Biodiversity Policy also promotes the *in situ* conservation of wild and domestic biological diversity (Table 7.3). This refers to the conservation of crops and trees in their natural environment. Therefore, it considers agroforestry as a key element in the conservation of biodiversity and agroecology.

**Biodiversity Policy**

The Biodiversity Conservation Policy of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia was issued on April 24, 1998. The National Policy on Biodiversity Conservation and Development is formulated based on the rationale that the conservation of biodiversity is one of the conditions of the overall socioeconomic development and sustainable environmental goals. Hence, because of its vital importance in the socioeconomic well being of Ethiopian people, the conservation, proper management and the use of biodiversity needs to be supported by policy, legislation and national capacity building.

Some of the objectives of the National Policy for Biodiversity Conservation and Research are to: (i) ensure that Ethiopia’s plant, animal and microbial genetic resources and essential ecosystems as a whole are conserved, managed and sustainability utilized; (ii) enrich the genetic resources of the country through introduction (from abroad and within the country) repatriation and restoration in accordance with the laws and regulations of the country and according to the bilateral and/or multilateral agreements the country has made; (iii) build national scientific capacities, and capabilities to explore, collect, conserve, characterize, evaluate and utilize the biodiversity of the country; (iv) recognize,
Table 7.2
Ethiopia: Sectoral Policy on Sustainable Agriculture and Soil Husbandries, 1997

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sectoral policy</th>
<th>Policy Statement/guiding principle</th>
<th>Strategy</th>
<th>Instrument</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sustainable Agriculture and Soil Husbandries</td>
<td>To promote the use of appropriate organic matter and nutrient management for improving soil structure, nutrient status and microbiology in improving soil conservation and land husbandry;</td>
<td>Build indigenous systems of soil management for increasing the fertility of soils using organic fertilizers;</td>
<td>Agroforestry land use practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>To safeguard the integrity of the soil and to protect its physical and biological properties</td>
<td>Apply efficient physical and biological soil conservation systems</td>
<td>Terracing, soil and stone bunding, check dam, afforestation, reafforestation, agroforestry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>To promote effective ground cover as one of the most important factors in soil erosion control, taking advantage of the wide range of sustainable agronomic, pastoral and silvicultural approaches</td>
<td>Develop forestry on the farm, around the homestead and on eroded and / or eroded hillsides by developing agroforestry practices;</td>
<td>Agroforestry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>To ensure that agricultural research and extension have a stronger focus on farming and land use systems and support an immediate strengthening of effective traditional land management systems;</td>
<td>Enhance and strengthen a holistic approach to research, extension and training of farmers, extension workers and researchers in land husbandry</td>
<td>Afforestation, re-afforestation, area closure, Agroforestry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>To institute the stall feeding of domesticated animals through a combination of providing agricultural residues, on-farm produced forage and fodder as well as the cutting and carrying of grass and browse from meadows and hillsides in order to encourage revegetation of grazing lands and the reduction of soil erosion;</td>
<td>Protection of natural resource and agroforestry activities are expected to enable to produce production of feed and forage for animals (flowers for bees, also)</td>
<td>Agroforestry land use system for fodder production</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>To shift the emphasis in crop breeding from single line plant varieties and animal breeds to multiple lines involving as many different but adapted lines as possible in order to increase both plasticity in adapting to environmental variations, and resistance to pests and diseases;</td>
<td>Combining diversification and specialization of production</td>
<td>Multiple cropping (of which agroforestry is part)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>To use biological and cultural methods as well as resistant or tolerant varieties or breeds, pheromones or sterile male techniques in an integrated manner as a pest and disease management method in preference to chemical controls.</td>
<td>Agroforestry is one of the methods for controlling pest and disease</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Compiled from Environmental Protection Authority, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, 1997.
Table 7.3
Ethiopia: Sectoral Policy on Forest, Woodland and Tree Resources, 1997

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sectoral policy</th>
<th>Policy Statement/guiding principle</th>
<th>Strategy</th>
<th>Instrument</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Forest, Woodland and Tree Resources</td>
<td>-To ensure that forestry development strategies integrate the development, management and conservation of forest resources with those of land and water resources, energy resources, ecosystems and genetic resources, as well as with crop and livestock production; -The trees to be planted should have some kinds of real economic advantages to the people of the area. It should be an agro-forestry activity.</td>
<td>-To ensure a rapid build up of seedling supplies by initially expanding the capacity of the State by running nurseries and increasingly promote farmer/community production of seedlings; -To establish incentives that promote private sector development of industrial plantations, and farmers and community investment in farm forestry, hillside protection forestry, woodlots and peri-urban fuel wood plantations; -Strength forestry research and extension to ensure effective integration of agroforestry practices with land management and farming systems;</td>
<td>Tree nurseries, farm forestry/ agroforestry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genetic, Species and Ecosystem Biodiversity</td>
<td>-To promote in situ systems (i.e. conservation in a nature reserve, farmer’s fields, etc.) as the primary target for conserving both wild and domesticated biological diversity; but also promote ex situ systems (i.e. conservation outside the original or natural habitat) in gene banks, farms, botanical gardens, ranches and zoos as supplementary to in situ conservation; -To promote in situ conservation of crop and domestic animal biological diversity as well as other human made and managed ecosystems through the conscious conservation of samples of such ecosystems, even when change as a whole is taking place; -To ensure that the conservation of biological diversity outside the protected area system be integrated with strategic land use plans, local level plans and sustainable agricultural and pastoral production strategies;</td>
<td>-Support local communities to institute in situ conservation of samples of their agricultural systems in the face of change -Coordinate sectoral institutions concerned with the conservation of biological diversity; -Enhance public awareness in the area of biodiversity conservation at all levels as part of the broad environmental education strategy, etc.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

foster and augment the indigenous knowledge and methods relevant to the conservation, development and sustainable use of biodiversity, and promote and encourage the development and putting into practice of new and emerging technologies such as biotechnology; (v) encourage the participation and support of local communities in biodiversity conservation, development and utilization. Furthermore, ensure that they share the benefits accrued as a result of using indigenous knowledge and/or germplasms; and (vi) create a functional and efficient organizational structure to ensure inter-linkage and coordination in biodiversity conservation and utilization;

The above policy objectives promote the *in situ* conservation of trees in farm lands which supports agroforestry land use system.

The Institute of Biodiversity Conservation and Research (IBCR), previously known as Plant Genetic Resources Centre/ Ethiopia (PGRC/E) established in 1976 is the responsible body for the implementation of this policy. The general objective of the institute is to undertake conservation, study, research and promote the development and sustainable utilization of the country’s biodiversity. (http://www.telecom.net.et/~ibcr/).

**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY REDUCTION PROGRAM (SDPRP)**

A five year food security strategy, sustainable development and poverty reduction program, issued on July 2002, outlines the fundamental development objectives of the government of Ethiopia to build a free-market economic system that enables the economy to develop rapidly, and the country to extricate itself from poverty and dependence on food aid, where the poor people are the main beneficiaries of the economic growth.

The program recognizes the importance of environmental protection as a prerequisite for sustainable development and treats it as crosscutting issue. Accordingly, the priority areas for action were: (i) effective natural resource management: planting useful trees on farm, soil and water conservation, soil fertility management and afforestation and regeneration of vegetation through closure; (ii) integrated watershed management emphasizing both socio-economic (i.e. social mobilization) and bio-physical factors and development of forest plantation for fuel wood; (iii) crop diversification and agricultural intensification including shift to high value crops (horticulture crops, fruit trees, cash crops, etc); (iv)
water harvesting and moisture conservation including productive use of rain water and surface run-off and (v) provision of livestock feed through backyard fodder plantations and livestock extensions.

In this regard, agroforestry is a key component of SDPRP to enhance food and income security and environmental protection. Agroforestry activities include biological soil conservation, dissemination of agroforestry information and establishment of nurseries that are common or group managed to enhance the prevalence of trees and shrubs in the ecosystem.

The above program is coordinated and implemented at different levels, national, regional, zonal, Woreda and Farmers’ Association. Besides the government bodies, NGO’s also take part in this program. Similar to other areas, in Gedeo, this program is implemented by the concerned bodies, such as Zonal Bureaus for Agriculture and Rural Development, Finance and Economic Development Planning, Education, Health, etc. Gedeo Zone Agriculture and Rural development Bureau is the major actor of implementing this program related to agroforestry activities.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT POLICIES, STRATEGIES AND INSTRUMENTS
One of the policies formulated to address agricultural development of the country was the Rural Development policies, Strategies and Instruments approved in 2002. Table 7.4 shows the overall priority areas of actions in agriculture and rural development policy.

One of the areas of emphasis was the design and introduction of menu based agricultural extension packages that take into account agroecological diversity and opportunities for specialization. It also emphasizes the importance of agricultural research to generate appropriate technologies to underpin productivity improvement and sustainability.

In the area of training, the focus was on conducting extensive technical and vocational training in agriculture for development agents so as to provide effective extension services. Moreover, it also aims in conducting extensive vocational training in agriculture for farmers with some level of primary education to create critical mass of smallholder commercial farmers through time. To operationalize this, Farmers’ Training Centers at
Farmers’ Associations will be established and 3-4 Agricultural Development Agents will be assigned to train farmers.

Table 7.4
Ethiopia: Rural Development Policies, Strategies and Instruments, 2002

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority Areas</th>
<th>Strategies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Extension Packages</td>
<td>Design and introduce to the farmer menu based agricultural extension packages that takes into account agroecological diversity, opportunities for specialization, and likely market demand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training</td>
<td>Conduct extensive technical and vocational training in agriculture for development agents so as to provide effective extension services. Conduct extensive vocational training in agriculture for farmers with some level of primary education to create critical mass of small holder commercial farmers through time; to effect this operationalize Farmers’ Training Centers at Peasant Associations (local) level and assign 3-4 development agents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research</td>
<td>Strengthen agricultural research to generate appropriate technologies underpin productivity improvement and sustainability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marketing System</td>
<td>Strengthening private sector in agricultural marketing especially supporting its market-based interface with service cooperatives and its participation in commodity exchange</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Micro Finance</td>
<td>Support to micro-finance institutions to improve rural finance services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Livestock Development</td>
<td>Strengthen livestock development through forage development, improved breed, veterinary services and livestock marketing with the view to improve livelihoods, diversify income, insure food security, and strengthen export</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service Cooperatives</td>
<td>Support the expansion of service cooperatives, which are critical for providing input/output marketing services, rural financial services and off-farm employment and income through setting up small agro-processing enterprises</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irrigation and water harvest</td>
<td>Support to water harvesting and expansion of small-scale irrigation to mitigate impact of rainfall variability/shortage/absence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural Land Management</td>
<td>Improve rural land management to ensure tenure security, encourage out-grower scheme between the smallholder farmer and the private sector especially in the case of high value crops; facilitate by working out appropriate legal and procedural framework for private sectors who wish to rent land from farmers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Improve agricultural marketing system through: support to expansion of autonomous service cooperatives; study and when found feasible introduce warehouse receipt scheme and commodity exchange; developing and introducing crop quality standards; improving the supply of market information, and strengthening private sector in agricultural
marketing especially supporting its market-based interface with service cooperatives and its participation in commodity exchange are also the focal areas. It also emphasizes on supporting micro-finance institutions to improve rural financial services.

The policy also considers livestock development through forage development, improved breed, veterinary services and livestock marketing with the view to improve livelihoods, diversify income, insure food security, and strengthen export.

Supporting service cooperatives, which are critical for providing input/output marketing services, rural financial services and off-farm employment and income through setting up small agro-processing enterprises was also emphasized. Water harvesting and expansion of small-scale irrigation to mitigate impact of rainfall variability/shortage/absence was one of the areas of consideration.

In connection with agroforestry practices, the policy emphasizes the importance of agroforestry as a land use system in addition to its land management use. It states that the activity of forestry should not be done blindly in the name of forestry development. The trees to be planted should have some kinds of real economic advantages to the people of the area. It should be an agroforestry activity. The farmers, without devastating the forest, could make use of it by selling products gathered from the forest. By selling wood products and products of tree plants and different fruits, farmers can earn income and be benefited.

The policy statement on livestock resources also emphasizes that if animals do not get enough forage and feed they cannot increase in terms of productivity and number. Because of this, attention should be given to improve the production of feed and forage for animals. Protection of natural resource and agroforestry activities are expected to enable the production of feed and fodder for animals (flowers for bees also).

Therefore, the rural development policy has very much emphasized on agroforestry as a means of natural resource conservation, as a source of fodder for animals, as land use system for the diversification of production as well as the production of high value crops like coffee, spices, etc.
PLANNING AGROFORESTRY ACTIVITIES IN GEDEO ZONE

Kippie (2002) emphasized that several development interventions in Gedeo failed despite the misunderstanding of farmers land use system. During the Socialist System (1974-1991) the lowland and highland agroecological areas were encouraged to focus on annual crops as sources of cash, such as maize, teff, and wheat in the lowlands and barely horse bean, chick pea and vegetables (garlic, leaf cabbage, onion) in the highlands. On the other hand, in the midlands farmers were advised to concentrate on coffee production. To promote coffee production the Coffee Improvement Project (CIP) was initiated by the Socialist Government. This project gave more emphasis to coffee and neglected enset and indigenous multipurpose trees that normally accompany coffee.

There is a tradition of preparing annual or strategic plan by the Agricultural and Rural development Office of Gedeo. Desks and units are expected to prepare plans for implementation. The plans prepared by the concerned Desks, Units and Woreda Agricultural and Rural development Offices are compiled and documented by the planning section at zone level. The plans are assumed to guide yearly activities of the office in general and the concerned sub-sections in particular.

Table 7.5 shows a three years strategic plan (2004-2006) of forestry and agroforestry for Gedeo Zone. The activities of agroforestry sub unit are tree plantations, area closure of hilly areas, rehabilitation of degraded areas, training of farmers and Agricultural Agents on natural resource conservation, etc.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Plan period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tree Plantation</td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>703514</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Area Closure of Hilly Areas</td>
<td>Hectare</td>
<td>233</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training Farmers on Natural Resource Conservation</td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>305</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Finance and Economic Development Planning Office on its part also gathers information on the activities performed by various offices in the Zone. It compiles annual activities of different offices in statistical abstract.

**CONSTRAINTS IN POLICY ISSUES**

From the above discussion it is clear that at present Ethiopia has no separate agroforestry land use policy like the other land use systems and sectors of the economy. However, the policy environment of the present government is conducive to the promotion of agroforestry practices. This being the case, still there are unresolved policy issues such as:

1. Absence of proper Agroforestry Development Policy. Rather it is considered as a subsidiary to other sectors. Therefore, there is a need to have a policy on agroforestry land use system; Policy related with research and extension. Agroforestry research and extension are not treated in the policy documents. Actions to strengthen agroforestry research and extension should form part of the policy;

2. Lack of Institution. Forestry and agroforestry does not have a specific institution in Ethiopia. There is a need to promote and model the institutionalization of agroforestry in the country;

3. Lack of inter disciplinary approach in agroforestry. There has to be a coordinated work between professionals of different field towards agroforestry research and extension. For example, professionals of soil, water, forestry, etc. have to work together;

4. Lack of emphasis to the traditional agroforestry practices. The development of farm forestry extension and research programs require a better understanding of traditional agroforestry practices;

5. Land tenure system. Although the constitution guarantees ownership of land to the farmers, the redistribution of land in few areas, the continues shrinkage of land due to population pressure, the investment policy and other issues have created a sense of insecurity on the part of farmers. Therefore, security of land and tree tenure is a fundamental prerequisite for tree planting by the farmers;

6. Uncontrolled grazing. The other challenge in forestry and agroforestry is unchecked grazing of animals as their movements are uncontrolled. This has a districiting effect on trees n crop fields.
Conclusions
From the foregoing discussion on policies, plans and programs related to agroforestry, the following are the derivations:

- Agroforestry has never been a policy objective before 1996. Thus, there was no planned program to promote Farm Forestry / Agroforestry in the country up to this period. Since then it has been addressed in policies and programs of the country.

- Ethiopian Forestry Action Program (EFAP) was approved at national level in 1994 and afterwards by the regional states. One of the emphases of this program was Farm Forestry Program to promote the integration of trees into farms to produce fuel wood, poles and fodders and to increase total agricultural production. However, the implementation of the Ethiopian Forest Action Program was not much visible in Gedeo.

- The environmental policy, which was approved in 1997, also emphasizes the in situ conservation of biodiversity. The Conservation Policies on Soil, Cropland and Animal Husbandry; Forest, Woodland and Tree; Genetic Species and Ecosystem Biodiversity consider agroforestry as important instrument for implementation.

- The Biodiversity Conservation Policy which was approved in 1998 was focusing on the promotion of the in situ conservation of trees on farmlands. This policy also emphasizes the importance of agroforestry for biodiversity conservation.

- The Sustainable Development and Poverty Reduction Program (SDPRP) of 2002 emphasizes agroforestry activities like tree plantations on farm lands, biological soil conservation and establishment of nurseries.

- The Rural Development Policies, Strategies and Instruments of 2002 gave much emphasis on agroforestry as a means of natural resource conservation, as a source of fodder for animals, as a land use system for the diversification of production as well as the production of high value crops like coffee, spices, etc.

- In Gedeo planned activities of agroforestry include tree planting, running tree nurseries, training farmers in the field of natural resource conservation and area closure for the regeneration of degraded lands.

- The major policy issues which need attention are: absence of Agroforestry Development Policy, lack of land and tree tenure, lack of independent agroforestry institution, lack of emphasis on the traditional agroforestry practices and uncontrolled grazing that damages trees in farmlands.