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INFLUENCE OF LAND RELATED FACTORS ON SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT IN THE ETHIOPIAN HIGHLANDS

Akalu Teshome (1,2), Jan de Graaff (2), and Coen Ritsema (2)

(1) Amhara Regional Agricultural Research Institute, Bahir Dar, Ethiopia (akalu_firew@yahoo.com), (2) Soil Physics and Land Management Group, Wageningen Univerisity, The Netherlands

Land is a scarce resource in the highlands of Ethiopia. Its sustainable use is highly affected among other factors by bio-physical and institutional aspects of land. The purpose of this research is to investigate the influence of land quality, land fragmentation and tenure systems on interrelated sustainable land management (SLM) investments in the North Western Ethiopian Highlands. A multivariate probit regression model is used to analyse interdependent investment decisions of SLM practices using a multiple parcel-level observations. The analysis indicates that farmers invest a combination of practices at parcels levels by considering substitution and complementarity effects of the practices. The results also reveal that land quality (e.g. slope and soil fertility status), land fragmentation (parcel size and distance of parcel from homestead) and tenure arrangements influence farmers' investments in SLM practices. The overall results indicate that farm land attributes promote or hinder investments, and tenure systems regulate the decisions about investments. Policy makers should take into consideration these various land related factors in designing and implementing SLM policies and programmes.

Key words: Land quality, land fragmentation, tenure arrangements, sustainable land management, multivariate probit