



**ASSAR East Africa (Ethiopia) Research – into – Use
(RiU) and Stakeholder Engagement (ShE) Event:
February 14 – 18, 2016**

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List of Acronyms

AAU	Addis Ababa University
ABA	Awash Basin Authority
ACCRA	Africa Climate Change Resilience Alliance
AfDB	African Development Bank
ASSAR	Adaptation at Scale in Semi-Arid Regions
ATA	Agricultural Transformation Agency
BHC	Basin High Commission
BRACED	Building Resilience and Adaptation to Climate Extremes and Disasters
CCC-E	Consortium of Climate Change – Ethiopia
CCF	Climate Change Forum
CCRDA	Consortium of Christian Relief and Development Associations
ChSA	Charity and Societies Agency
CSA	Central Statistical Agency
DFID	Department for International Development
EAIA	Ethiopian Agricultural Investment Agency
EDRI	Ethiopian Development Research Institute
EGS	Ethiopian Geological Survey
EHA	Ethiopian Horticulture Association
EIA	Ethiopian Investment Agency
EIAR	Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research
ENMA	Ethiopian National Meteorological Agency
ESC	Ethiopian Sugar Corporation
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GIZ	German International Cooperation
HEI	Higher Education Institute
HoAREC-N	Horn of Africa Regional Environment Center and Network
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IWMI	International Water Management Institute
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
MoANR	Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resource
MoE	Ministry of Education
MoEFCC	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
MoFPA	Ministry of Foreign and Pastoralist Affairs
MoH	Ministry of Health
MoLF	Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries
MoUD	Ministry of Urban Development
MoWIE	Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Electricity
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
NPC	National Planning Commission
PCDP	Pastoral Community Development Programme
PEF	Pastoralist Forum Ethiopia
PENHA	Pastoral Environment Network in the Horn of Africa
PRIME	Pastoralists’ Areas Resilience Improvement through Market Expansion
PSC/MP	Pastoralist Standing Committee of the Member of Parliament
PSNP	Productive Safety Net Programme
RiU	Research – into – Use
RRT	Regional Research Team
ShE	Stakeholder Engagement
TU	Tufts University
UEA	University of East Anglia

UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNHCR	United Nations for High Commission of Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children’s Emergency Fund
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WB	World Bank
WWDSE	Water Works Design and Supervision Enterprise

1. Introduction

The ASSAR East Africa research team (whose members are from the University of East Anglia (UEA), Addis Ababa University and Oxfam) held a two-day internal meeting followed by two one-day workshops on Research – into – Use (RiU) and Stakeholder Engagement (ShE) at national and local levels (in Addis Ababa and Awash respectively) in February 2016. In the pre-workshop meeting, the RRT planned the events, agreeing their objectives and discussed ‘net map’, the methodology to be used, as well as looking at expectations of the RiU outlook document, the benefits of stakeholder mapping and other related issues.

2. ASSAR internal meeting: Research-into-Use and Stakeholder Engagement workshop preparations

The following issues around RiU concepts and approaches were discussed:

- the need to engage stakeholders throughout the ASSAR project period
- the different aspects of RiU and what makes RiU different from other conventional research approaches in different organizations
- the contribution of RiU to ASSAR and other projects

The team also discussed the importance of the RiU strategies of ASSAR and the critical role stakeholder engagement plays in RiU. They also discussed an impact pathway for Ethiopia, trying to identify the outcome that the research should have an impact. It was decided that the workshop objectives would be to explore, with participants, issues concerning water resource access and use in times of increasing scarcity for vulnerable communities in drought-affected parts of semi arid regions of Ethiopia / the middle Awash Valley, Southern Afar (for workshops at national and local levels, respectively).

During the workshops, the team:

- Shared the main insights emerging from a comprehensive review of existing research, policy and practice;
- Outlined and discussed the plans and main thematic areas for upcoming ASSAR research activities (restricted to Southern Afar in the case of the local level workshop);
- Provided stakeholders an opportunity to deepen their understanding of climate change adaptation and development issues in semi-arid areas; and
- Promoted networking amongst stakeholders, with similar interests and remits, through participatory exercises.

3. Stakeholder engagement events and methodology

The national level workshop participants were from government (such as ENMA, ATA, EDRI and so on), national (like CCC-E) and international NGOs (like FARM Africa), and academia (like Tufts University) while those at the local level workshop (held at the case study site in Awash) were from the local community, local government, NGOs and research groups.

Net-Map toolbox was used for the stakeholder engagement exercises. This social network analysis tool, developed by Eva Schiffer, helps people understand, visualize, discuss and improve situations in which many different actors influence outcomes. Creating influence network maps enables individuals and groups to clarify their own view of a situation, fosters discussion, and helps participants to develop a strategic approach to their networking activities. More specifically, Net-Map helps players to determine which actors are involved in a given network, how they are linked, their level of influence and goals. Prior to the events, the ASSAR team identified key stakeholders relevant to water resource use and management for semi-arid regions of Ethiopia and Southern Afar regions, and provided a preliminary list of them on flip charts, as a starting point for the different focus groups who discussed their linkages in terms of flow of information, funding and lines of authority (formal and/or informal), using the net map method. It was also used to identify which stakeholders are perceived as most influential in water resources management.

3.1. Definition of issues to be discussed

The workshop seeks to explore with the participants issues concerning water resource access and use in times of increasing scarcity for vulnerable communities in drought-affected parts of semi-arid regions of Ethiopia. In line with the agreed workshop objective, the specific question that the participants were asked to answer was:

In times of increasing rainfall variability in semi-arid regions, **who and what influences** how water resource access and use can be equitably and sustainably managed for vulnerable communities?

Jesse DeMaria-Kinney (Programme Coordinator for ASSAR based at Oxfam) presented the question to the participants to confirm its relevance and to ensure that stakeholders supported the use of the question as the foundation for the workshop. He also presented the Net-Map toolbox and explained how it would work for the exercise.

3.2. The stakeholder mapping exercise

In both national and local workshops the stakeholders were divided into groups: in Addis there was a research group (comprising participants from academia and government institutions) and an NGO group (with international and national NGO's represented), while in Awash there were two government groups, an NGO group and one from the local community. A facilitator and note taker were assigned to the different groups to record the ideas and opinions of the participants, although in Awash it was not always possible to capture in depth discussions due to issues of language.

The overall objectives of the exercise were to identify the relevant stakeholders to our work in ASSAR in Ethiopia, understand their goals, how they interact with one another, influence decision making, and utilize (natural) resources, as well as gaining an insight into how they may contribute to the uptake of research findings (of ASSAR among others), through both policy and practice. The exercise also served to build or strengthen links and trust among stakeholders, whilst making them aware of the work ASSAR is undertaking.

All participants had an equal voice and were encouraged to share their opinions. The three steps to the exercise were:

- 1) Definition of stakeholders: participants discussed the key actors setting the agenda, adding to/deleting from existing lists created by the RRT based on group discussions, using a different colour. Stakeholder organisations to be discussed were grouped by sector – government, NGO, research and multilaterals (Addis only) and community organizations (Awash only). In the local workshop (based on experience from the national one), for greater simplicity the number of organizations was reduced; this enabled participants to add more local organisations of relevance.
- 2) Exploring relationships and linkages between stakeholders. Discussions focused on:
 - Flow of information, knowledge, services, advice
 - Flow of funding
 - Lines of authority (formal or informal)
- 3) Share results and discuss. Participants linked organizations on the flipcharts with colour coded lines, showing the direction of flow with arrow heads. (There were some double headed arrows, showing information flowing both ways between two organizations.)

Discussing overall levels of influence for each organization: following group discussion this was done by adding bottle tops (the more bottle tops, the greater the influence)

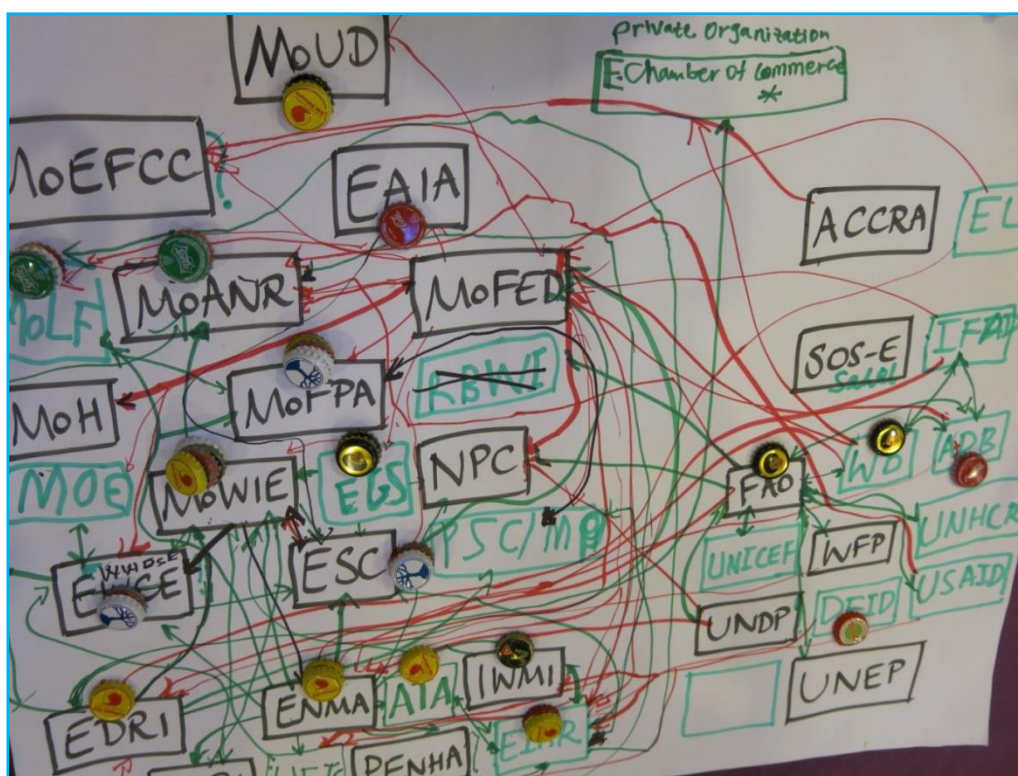


Figure: The final product of a research group discussion using net map methodology

4. National Stakeholder event

4.1. Plenary session

Following a welcome and introductions (of all present), an overview of ASSAR & research approaches was presented by the East Africa RRT (i.e. Ethiopia in this case), followed by a questions and answers session. Issues raised were around:

- Who would inform the local community about the research findings?
- How the two case study sites (Awash and Yabelo, already researched in detail) had been selected (given their different ecology, social and economic setups?)
- How to address grazing land management and accessibility (e.g. in conflict affected areas)
- Ensuring existing local and indigenous knowledge regarding adaptation is considered
- Mobility, agropastoral problems and invasive species (including its benefits, such as countering salinity) and practical research, e.g. on how to collect prosopis despite its thorns
- How to take account of uncertainty when dealing with climate change adaptation (CCA) issues
- Transnational aspect (with Isiolo, northern Kenya, linked to Yabelo), specifically LAPSET corridor through Kenya to Ethiopia and the need to understand river courses
- Information management to enable people to act on what they have seen. (Despite research reports, information doesn't always reach people.)

The research team gave their perspectives on the issues raised by the workshop participants and a discussion ensued. Having a variety of stakeholders present was very useful in terms of general information sharing for all actors, as well as informing ASSAR's RiU activities going forwards. Farm Africa have done practical research on prosopis management over the last 6 – 7 years with 12 control mechanisms and tried to apply techniques. However, prosopis is expanding rapidly even there are different management techniques are implemented by different organizations including Farm Africa.

The stakeholder mapping exercise methodology was then presented, and participants were split into two groups according to role: researcher and NGO

4.2. Stakeholders present.

The research group comprised representatives of:

- 4) Ethiopia Sugar Corporation (ESC),
- 5) Ethiopian National Meteorological Agency (ENMA),
- 6) Ethiopian Development Research Institute (EDRI),
- 7) Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research (EIAR) and
- 8) Tufts University (TU).

The NGO group comprised representatives of:

- 9) Farm Africa
- 10) Pastoral Environment Network in the Horn of Africa (PENHA)
- 11) Horn of Africa Regional Environment Centre and Network (HoAREC-N)
- 12) Consortium of Climate Change – Ethiopia (CCC-E)
- 13) Climate Change Forum (CCF).

4.3 Stakeholders to be discussed

The stakeholder exercises go through each of the three steps which are stated above. During the exercise each of the organization were categorized according to the three criteria. The three criteria are flow of information, knowledge, service or advice, flow of funding and line of authority (formal and/or informal).

Table: Organizations which are added by the NGOs and researchers groups

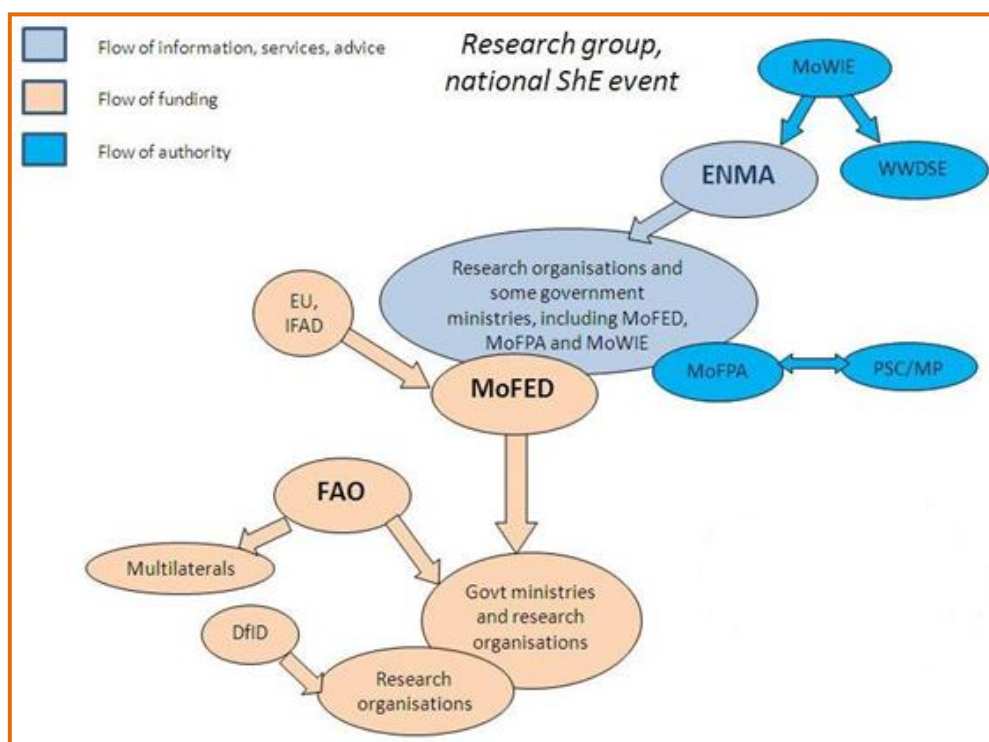
Originally proposed	Added by NGOs	Add by researchers
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	Y	
Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)	Y	Y
World Bank (WB)	Y	Y
United States Agency for International Development (USAID)	Y	Y
Africa Development Bank (AfDB)		Y
Department for International Development (DFID)	Y	Y
European Union (EU)	Y	
Ministry of Agriculture & Natural Resource (MoANR)	Y	Y
Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Electricity (MoWIE)	Y	Y
Ministry of Foreign and Pastoralist Affairs (MoFPA)	Y	Y
Ministry of Finance and Economic Cooperation (MoFEC)	Y	
Ethiopian Sugar Corporation (ESC)	Y	Y
Agricultural Transformation Agency (ATA)		Y
Ethiopian National Meteorological Agency (ENMA)	Y	Y
Water Works, Design and Supervision Enterprise (WWDSE)	Y	Y
Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries (MoLF)		Y
Ethiopian Geological Survey (EGS)		Y
Ethiopian Agriculture Investment Agency (EAIA)	Y	Y
Awash Basin Authority (ABA)	Y	
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)	Y	
Ministry of Health (MoH)	Y	
National Planning Commission (NPC)	Y	
Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research (EIAR)	Y	Y
Ethiopian Development Research Institute (EDRI)	Y	Y
International Water Management Institute (IWMI)	Y	Y
Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA)	Y	
German Development Cooperation (GIZ)	Y	
African Climate Change Resilience Alliance (ACCRA)	Y	
Pastoralist Forum Ethiopia (PFE)	Y	
CCRDA/WASH	Y	
WATER-AID	Y	
Higher Learning Institutes (HLIs)		Y
FARM Africa		Y
Ethiopian Horticulture Agency		Y

Reflecting on the list of stakeholders, the NGO group made the point that although policy at national level is framed by the ministries above, regional governments have their own constitution and can sometimes say no to federal government. Although it is not a national organization, ABA is important in water resource management in the Awash Basin, is federally managed and has responsibility to MoWIE.

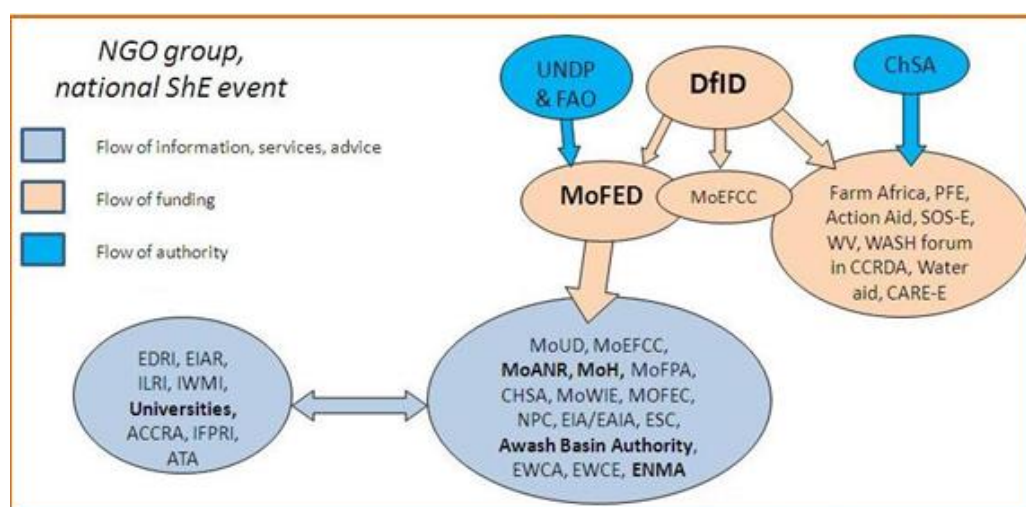
The group saw research organizations as providing important information to high level officials, rather than influencing policy and decision making processes. The Ethiopian Horticulture Agency (EHA) has a negative impact on water availability by using water from the Awash River for flower farms. The World Bank (WB) is an important donor, which supports water related projects in the country, and participates in building the capacity to repay through PSNP (Productive Safety Net Programme). USAID, IFAD, JICA and others directly or indirectly participate in supporting water related development projects.

4.4 Discussion findings and highlights

Flow of information, services, advice, flow of funding and flow of authority in each of the organizations identified by the participants.



a) Flow of information, services, advices, flow of funding and flow of authority identified by the research group



b) Flow of information, services, advice, flow of funding and flow of authority in different organization identified by NGO group

There were rich discussions amongst all groups in both workshops, providing important insights into the issues. The diagrams seek to show highlights only. In each case, organizations shown are those with the greatest number of links. While this is, of course, a good indicator of their importance, there are other factors that should be taken into account – e.g. all funding for government ministries goes through MoFEC but the amounts granted are smaller than those provided by multilaterals to NGOs.

Flow of information

ENMA is the only organization that distributes weather-related information. While the research group identified it as a key actor in providing information to research organizations and some government ministries, the NGO group saw more of a two way flow between government ministries and research institutions, discussed more broadly in groupings. Within these, the flow of information and services are particularly strong between ENMA (who provide information and services to MoANR and MoH in addition to those listed), universities and Awash Basin Authority.

The research group saw FAO playing an important role in the information flow between multilateral organizations with a mutual sharing of information and services between the ADB, WB and IFAD all of whom have double arrows. The only multilateral identified by the NGO group in linking to organizations in the flow of information was UNEP who provide services or advice to MoEFCC.

Flow of funding

MoFED is an organization where most of the funds pass through in Ethiopia but the groups had different ideas about how it was funded, researchers understanding it to be through the EU and IFAD, and the NGOs seeing it as being from DfID. Researchers identified FAO (like MoFED) also funding some government ministries and research organizations (as well as other multilaterals), with DfID funding only research organizations. The NGO group saw DfID funding a mixture of research organizations, NGOs and government ministries.

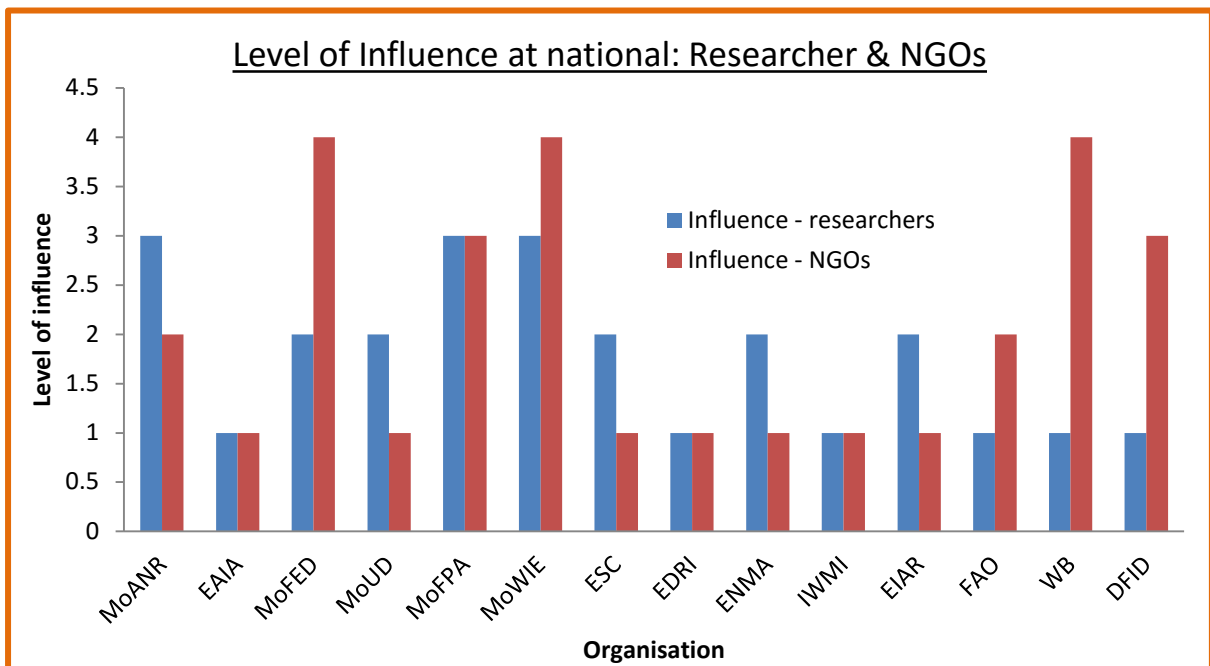
Flow of authority

Perceptions of authority were the area that differed most between the two groups; the researchers saw MoWIE having authority over WWDSE and authority both ways between MoFPA and PSC/MP. The most notable line of authority for the NGO group was ChSA (Charities and Societies Agency) having authority over the NGOs with UNDP and FAO having authority over MoFED. MoEFD and the Charity and Societies Agency (ChSA) approve the funds and work permits for NGOs.

In the case of mutually authoritative relationships, it could be interesting to delve further into the different types of authority (i.e. which aspects of the work of each organization are subject to authority by the other).

Overall influence

The graph below shows the most influential organizations according to research and NGO groups. (Note that the research group gave a maximum of 3, while NGOs gave up to 4.)



Interestingly, there was no overlap between actors both groups considered to be the most influential organizations, except in the case of MoFPA is considered to be influential by both group (as shown in the above graph) the researchers choosing all government ministries and the NGO group, a mixture of (other) government ministries and multilaterals.

Groups took a slightly different approach to levels of influence between the different organizations, the NGO group seeing all organizations as having some influence, due to being on the flip chart, with the research group considering any organizations with no caps at all as having no influence. Even MoFED, such an important funding body, was not considered by the research group to have any influence in terms of water access and use in the semi arid areas of Ethiopia. The NGO group gave highest levels of influence to MoWIE, for its role in decision making and controlling water-related activities from local to national level, MoFED, for funding, and World Bank and European Union for their influence in funding through their programmes ‘water for all’. They also understood multilaterals to have influence over issues related with water management and access. Both research and NGO groups perceived research institutes as having similar levels of influence and considered government to be very influential (awarding them 24 and 26 respectively) as most water-related projects are managed by government.

4.5 Group considerations and emerging issues

Following the ShE exercise, each group explained its thinking.

Researchers didn’t perceive MoEFCC to have any influence because it does not have a say in access and use of water, rather it provides advice, approval and develops strategies and policies on environmental issues, recommending appropriate technologies for climate change mitigation and adaptation. Ethiopian Agricultural Investment Agency (EAIA) allows and approves investment requests on agriculture and the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources gives or assigns investors land whenever there is enough water but their role ends there; it is up to the investor to assess whether the area is irrigable or not and whether enough water is available for irrigation uses. The EAIA can’t prohibit people from using water if there are other demands. The research group believes all ministries have varying degrees of influence around issues of water use and

management, e.g. the Ministry of Education needs water for school purposes, such as students and laboratories.



Figure: at the end of the group work each group was invited to present their result and open for discussion

Explanation by the research group (left) and NGO group (right) after the exercise. The NGO group identified NGOs as key stakeholders in water issues, to differing degrees. Links were drawn between climate change and resource degradation, hence the need to educate people around family planning. This was hotly debated by participants, some of whom saw it as an issue to be decided by individual households. The ASSAR research project can talk about population change, but cannot advocate for a change in its size. Local communities were not discussed in either group, as government ministries don't have a direct link to them.

Perhaps not directly linked to water, but one issue of interest is conditionality of aid from some multilaterals. Members of the NGO group noted that WFP, FAO and USAID tried to influence the government to accept GM food aid. WB asks MoFEC to focus on human rights and inclusion of LGBT Ethiopians with a grant of 7 bn USD (this is a suggestion from the participants). This is also true for development agencies of other countries, ensuring their own citizens are included in projects - e.g. JICA from Japan and GIZ from Germany. Perhaps this is a reminder of ASSAR's role as an impartial actor and the need for sensitivity to maximize take-up of information produced through its research activities.

The case of the EAIA is a reminder that money talks and development often comes at a high price to local people. However, there is information flow between universities and EAIA, so simply by producing research on wellbeing of people adapting to climate change, ASSAR could hope to have a positive impact on policies if it is in the public domain (as information management was one of the issues listed initially).

5. Local Stakeholder Event

The local stakeholder event was held at the Awash Basin Authority meeting hall in Werer on February 18, 2016. The workshop followed the same format as the one in Addis Ababa. The presentation was given partly in English, partly in Amharic and was all translated into Afar, so that everyone present could understand.

5.1 Plenary session

After the RRT's presentations and background on ASSAR's work in Southern Afar, there was a question and answer session, during which the following issues were raised:

- Water pollution - animal and human health
- Water scarcity - just rainfall?
- Social and economic wellbeing of local people
- Working culture of people
- Dynamics of environmental and social assessment
- Knowledge management and reliable weather information including how to assist dissemination
- Indigenous grazing and land management
- Climate change related information, increasing frequency of droughts (from every 15 years to every year or two now), types of research going on around early warning
- How research will be put into use in an already highly researched area
- Solutions to problems (drought, flood, health)
- Water quality considering the expansion of agriculture, commercial and domestic production
- Animal and human health
- How to improve the quality of the land which can't be used due to salinity
- Shortage of fuel to pump water boreholes which have been provided by the NGO community
- How to integrate grass/field production into project?

From the above it is evident that managing expectations is difficult given the long term nature of the project and huge and immediate needs; it wasn't possible to respond to each issue individually but the team responded to issues as a whole, emphasizing the RiU approach.

5.2 Stakeholders present

The workshop participants were representative of government, NGOs, and local community groups. They formed four discussion groups including two government groups (given the high number of government representatives):

Government group 1 – mainly from ABA

Government group 2 - with participants from Awash Fentale and Amibara Woreda Pastoral and Agro-pastoral office, Disaster Risk Reduction and Water and Irrigation offices

NGO group with participants from the Pastoral Community Development Project (PCDP), Farm Africa BRACED programme, and Halhadegi National Park and

The local community group with representatives from the women's association, local elders, political party (ANDP), youth and traditional leaders.



Figure 11: Meeting place of local stakeholder engagement event – Werer

The total number of participants for the local stakeholder event was 31, five of whom were women. As the total number of women are small and in the future ASSAR needs to engage with women in the next meeting and/or in the research data collection processes.

Question discussed by focus groups at the local stakeholder engagement workshop:

‘In the context of increasing rainfall variability in Southern Afar, **who** and **what** influences how water resource access and use can be equitably and sustainably managed for vulnerable communities’?



Figure: Local stakeholder workshop participants (at ABA meeting hall)

5.3 Stakeholders to be discussed

In the table below it shows the four groups and the name of organisations which are added by each group. As it is explained in the stakeholder exercise some organisations are listed and provided to the participants during the workshop. The participants have an option to delete the pre defined organisation and also add additional organisations which are important to answer the questions which are provided to the participants.

Name of Organisations	Added by Gov-1	Added by Gov-2	Added by NGO	Added by local community
Awash Basin Authority (ABA)	Y	Y		
Basin High Commission (BHC)	Y	Y		
AMREF	Y			
Kesem-Kebera sugar factory	Y			
Regional Water Bureau (Afar)	Y	Y		
Regional Pastoralist Bureau (Afar)	Y	Y		
Regional disaster and preparedness Bureau (Afar)	Y	Y		
Regional bureau of health (Afar)				Y
Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Electricity (MoWIE)	Y			Y
Werer Agricultural Research center	Y			Y
Gewane Agricultural College	Y			Y
Kesem sugar factory	Y			Y
Tendaho sugar factory	Y			Y
Ethiopian National Meteorological Agency (ENMA)		Y		
Water Users Association (irrigation)		Y		
Youth and women's group		Y		
Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources (MoANR)			Y	
Regional administration head (office of the regional state President)			Y	
Werer Agricultural College			Y	
Water Board			Y	
Water services			Y	
BRACED Project			Y	
Save the Children			Y	
CARE Ethiopia			Y	
Pastoralist Community Development Programme (PCDP)			Y	
Clan leaders, religious leaders		Y	Y	
Woreda office of health (Afar)				Y
Woreda office of water and irrigation (Afar)	Y	Y	Y	Y
Woreda office of pastoral and agro pastoral (Afar)	Y	Y	Y	Y
Femiata aba (local disciplinary committee)			Y	

Religious leaders, clan leaders and elders play an important role in mobilizing their community and can resolve conflict among the community at a local level. This is the tradition in Afar areas, local community gives some kind of respect for those people as well as these people are heard by the local community.

Clan leaders are responsible for overall management of water resources and have the capacity to distribute water fairly. In Afar '*femiata aba*', is a disciplinary committee which executes penalties if someone misuses resources. Federal level government sectors are responsible for ground water development especially water resource utilization for big projects and cities. Participants mentioned that the Awash Basin sugar cane plantations are major consumers of the available water resources from other sectors.

5.4 Discussion findings and highlights

It was clear from the discussions that in the Southern Afar region water is the most scarce resource and has a large influence on livelihoods and the socioeconomic development of the region. Participants stated that the problem becomes more severe as the country's development programs (e.g. sugar cane production) are expanded and intensified as several thousand hectares of land are turned to sugar cane cultivation. Very often this is productive grazing land so leads to grazing shortages for animals on top of current drought. Participants mentioned that the Awash River does not have enough water in its course and this is related to diversion of the river for irrigation expansion as well as the impact of current drought. Moreover, its water quality is very poor, because industries discharge their waste into the river. Hence it is hard to use the river water for domestic purposes as well as for livestock.



Figure: Local stakeholder mapping exercise discussion by government group - 1

a) Flow of information, knowledge, services and advice

Government group 1 saw information flows from MoWIE to ABA to the regional water bureau and on to woreda and kebele, as well as from the regional/local office to NGOs and multilateral organizations such as PRIME (a project funded by USAID). There is also two way flow of information from local communities to regional, woreda and local organisations, NGOs and multilaterals on water-related issues. Research and education centres offer short trainings and provide local people with water use guidelines.

Government group 2 saw information flowing from the ABA to the water bureau and back to the ABA and region and from Kebele to the local community and NGOs and vice versa. The Kebele water committee and Farm Africa have a strong relationship, as Farm Africa work closely with local community and regional government. The local community is also responsible for participating in clearing of the channels and other water management activities.

The NGO group saw information flowing from federal government (MoWIE), to regional administration (through the water bureau and office) to woreda water office. The regional bureau passes information and services to research institutes. There are two way flows of information and services between both research and the local community and NGOs and the woreda water and pastoralist office. The local community group identified that research groups pass information to the woreda.

Government and NGO groups saw the local community having very little voice in issues that affect them, and often being unaware of how funds are distributed and should reach the community to provide services such as water and schooling.

b) Flow of funding

Government group 1 saw MoWIE assigning budget to the regional water office (in the case of water), and possibly obtaining funding from multilateral organizations to develop water sources. The regional water bureau also assigns budget for water related activities.

Government group 2 saw ABA financing the regional water bureau to work on irrigation and development of water-related issues and the Regional Pastoralist Bureau providing funding to Woreda Water and Pastoralist offices. ABA's funds are from research institutions and the sugar corporation, which pays water fees according to its usage and a lump sum fee for maintenance of channels. The water users (irrigation) association also pays a water fee to ABA.

The NGO group saw funds flowing from national government (MoWIE) to the regional bureau and on to the woreda water and pastoralist offices, as well as from the FAO to the Regional and Woreda offices of Water and Pastoralist Development. The Pastoralist Community Development Programme (PCDP) also helps the local community with funding.

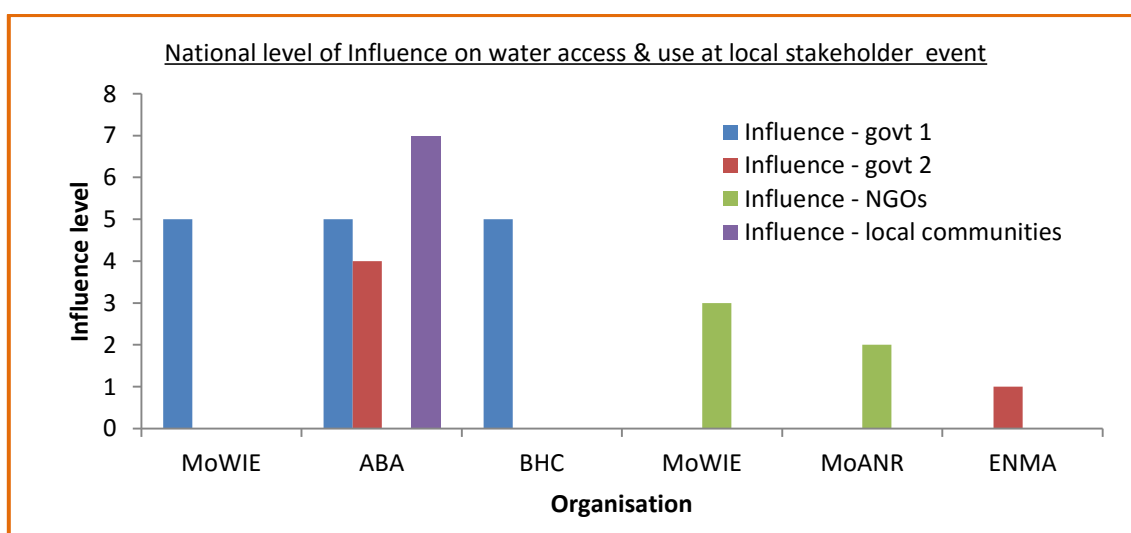
The local community group saw funds flowing from both government and NGOs.

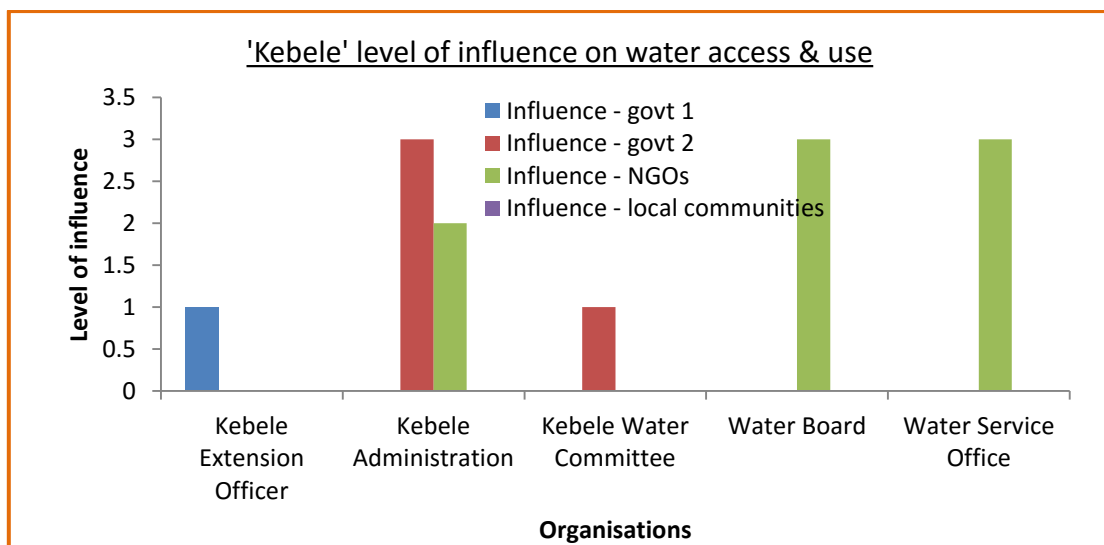
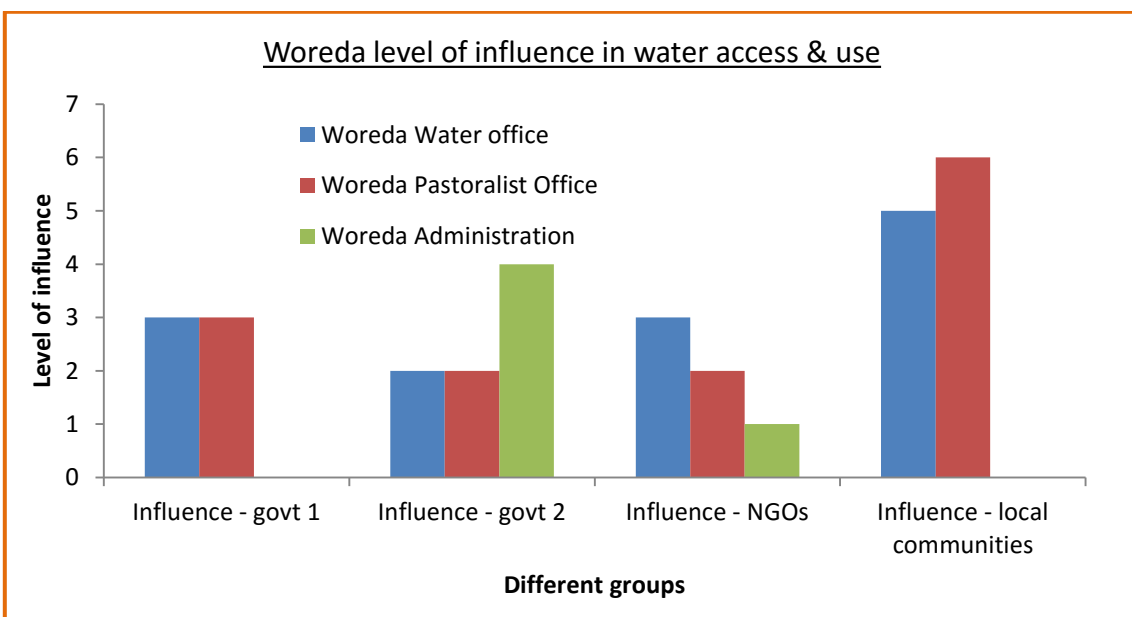
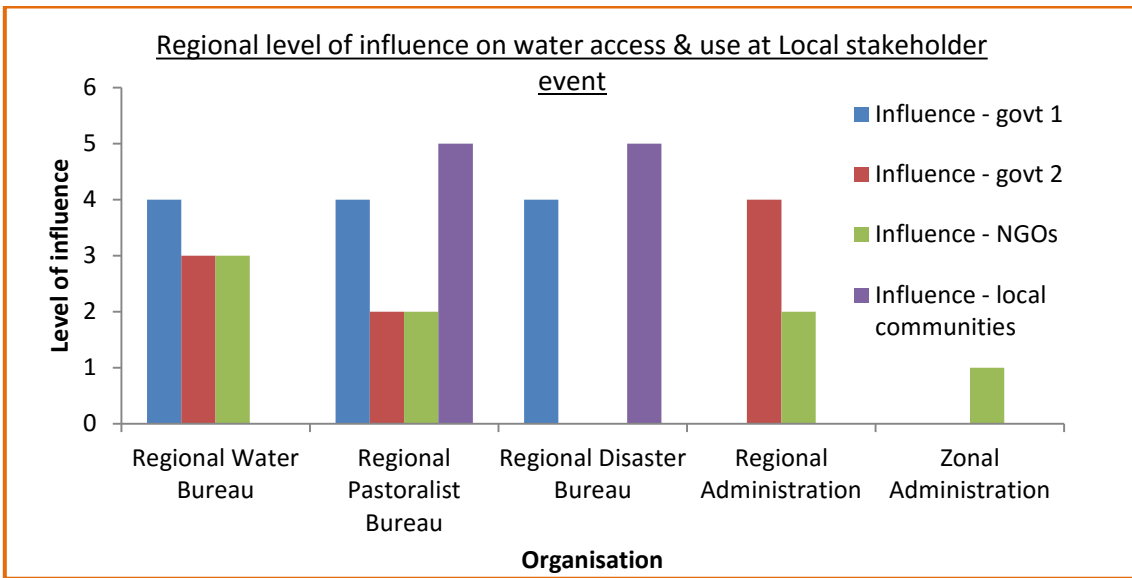
c) Lines of authority

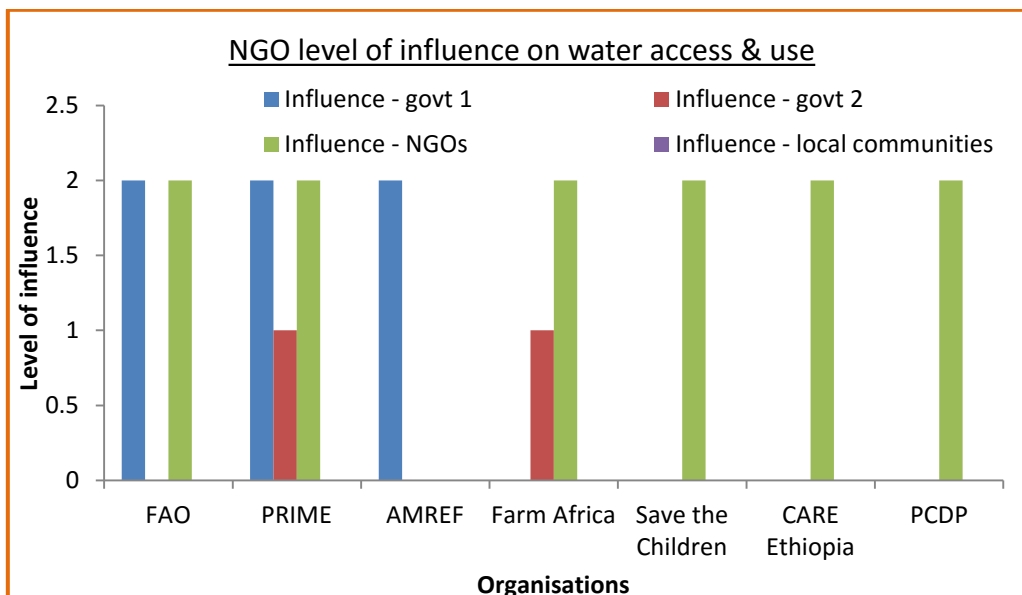
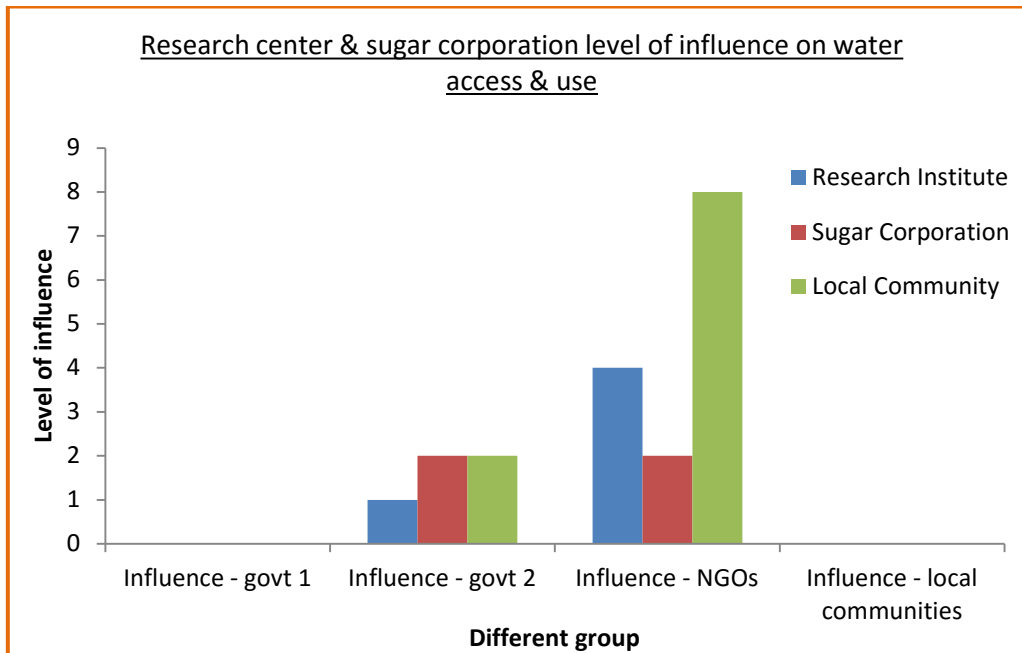
All four groups saw the lines of authority as top down (Federal → Regional → Woreda → Kebele → Local communities). MoWIE was mentioned by the NGO group as having authority through policies and strategies, to be adhered to by regional and woreda offices. Overall involvement of the local community in decision-making is minimal.

The local community group stated that ABA decides the amount of water to be used by different groups, such as sugar cane plantation, sugar factory and local people. According to this group, 80% of available water of Awash river is directed to sugar cane plantation.

d) Levels of influence

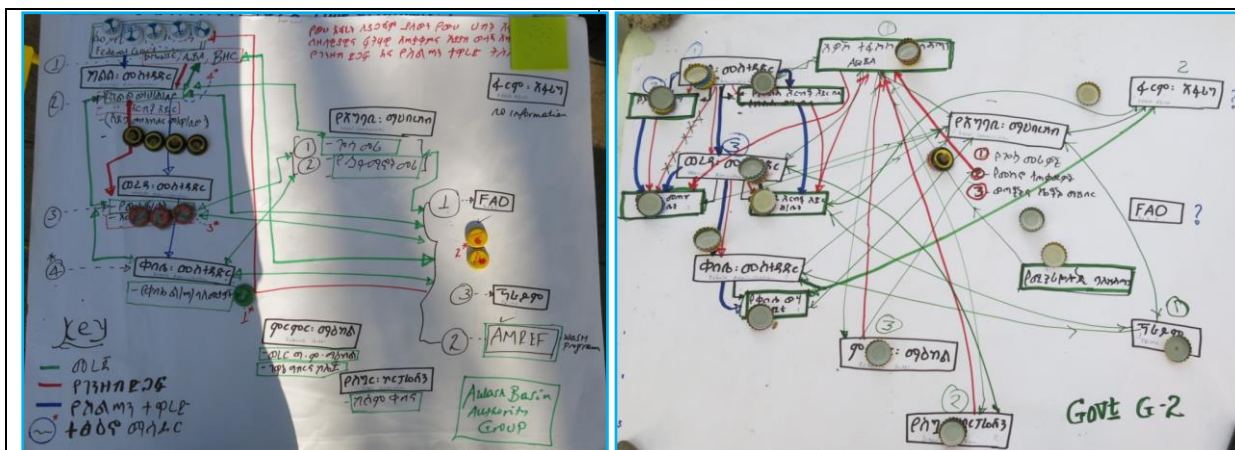






Interestingly the ABA was considered to be very influential by all groups except the NGOs, who found their own network very influential. (Could this point to strong peer-to-peer working and influencing or is it more closely related to the fact that different actors work on different aspects of water-related issues?) Government group 1 found MoWIE very influential together with BHC and ABA. MoWIE develops strategies, policies and management of water resources and is the ultimate decision maker in the country for issues around water resources management and development. Under the MoWIE the ABA is responsible for developing strategies and management of the water. However, the Basin High Commission (BHC) is responsible for resolving conflicts among users of the different regions which is relevant as most of the country's rivers cross more than one region. MoWIE didn't appear at all on Government group 2's list; the two groups were made up of people from different government agencies, the first being mainly from ABA and the second from various different agencies so this is perhaps linked to their different remits. ENMA is not considered to be as important as it was considered at national level, which is not a surprise given the focus on Southern Afar. Both government groups saw the region and woreda as having significant influence.

The local community group accorded significant influence to regional and woreda level; local level decisions on water use and management are made by woreda level water offices in collaboration with other woreda level sector offices.



Stakeholder mapping exercise (clockwise from top left) from government group 1, government group 2, NGOs and local community groups showing flow of information services, knowledge (green), funding (red), authority (blue) and overall influence (bottle tops).



The NGO group was the only one to include zonal administration (between regional and woreda level) as an important actor. NGOs consider local communities to be very important but local communities themselves see their participation as very restricted.

5.5 Emerging issues

Based on the results of the mapping exercise, ASSAR needs to engage with the woreda offices, have working relationships with religious and clan leaders to take into account decision making that happens at different levels (local, community and village).

6. Similarities and differences between stakeholder events, and overall conclusions

Stakeholders present at both events talked of a top down approach in terms of the issues discussed with funds managed centrally, very low community participation and no community involvement in decision making processes. The national workshop didn't consider local issues, however the local level workshop did mention national ministries. This is in line with the top down approach identified and the remit of the national workshop covering work in Ethiopia as a whole, not only Southern Afar.

Our analysis has to recognise that discussions are always restricted. Different actors have different roles to play; at woreda level, most people are still within the government system while at kebele level, some people have salaries, and others are volunteers, but still part of the political structure.

-The facilitation process –was easier in the second workshop with fewer organisations initially listed on flipcharts (for linking influences/assigning bottle tops).

Government people may be worried about criticism from NGOs at meetings - often government sector is the one that doesn't show up – an approach could be to build relationships with government on an ongoing basis to ensure they are more likely to attend in future

There was confusion around disaggregating between national and local level in terms of context setting and how things then get implemented (Jesse, this was in my notes but not entirely sure about it now – can you remember?)

–There were issues around language and translation in the local workshop which it would be good to resolve earlier for future events

More preparation would have been good (e.g. to walk through the whole process in the team in advance and also to ensure that all facilitators facilitated in same way - e.g. asking similar questions. It would be a good idea to try it the day before next time.)

Relating to the methodology and participation of those present, personalities play a big role, e.g. if the group is having a discussion around an organisation's level of influence, for example, then the natural leaders may tend to 'win' the point - actually the discussions themselves can be more important than what's on paper for using the research - not always easy to record this with multiple languages being used - next time, it would be worth recording discussions (with permission of those present) to listen back to afterwards.

The presentation of ASSAR in Awash, the local ShE workshop, was about its work nationally so there's a need to be clear on the level we are looking at, to avoid confusion

In the Addis events, there were too many stakeholders on maps so it was confusing for participants and not always manageable

- People debated a lot, and feedback took time. Participation and people's part in helping to generate data was great for a sense of ownership and finding solutions – it would be good to include such bigger events in future and as a way to energise people, (or event as a shorter exercise, not necessarily always as part of a big event). This is a forward-looking element of ASSAR - a way of easing people into becoming ever more analytical and critical through this process.

7. Implications for ASSAR's research: Stakeholder engagement and Research into Use (RiU) plans in Ethiopia

The stakeholder engagements conducted both at national and local levels give a clear idea to ASSAR with whom to work. The lessons drawn from these discussions are ASSAR needs to work at different spatial scales of decision making processes starting from federal through regional bureaus and local woreda and community leader/ organizations. It also needs to consider some NGOs which would be important key actors in water development and use. These could be as identified by the stakeholder workshops. Furthermore, ASSAR has to consider political, government and research groups in its research and RiU activities. As identified by workshop participants major lines of stakeholders from national level are: Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Electricity, Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources, and Pastoral Standing Committee of the parliament. At regional level Bureau of Water and Irrigation and Bureau of pastoral and agro-pastoral, Office of the president was identified. Woreda level water and irrigation, pastoral and agro-pastoral offices were also key actors around water use. Community and religious groups, youth and elder representatives and traditional associations and kebele administrations need to be engaged in the process of ASSAR research and implementation activities.

The process of putting knowledge into use is challenging because researchers, decision-makers and practitioners have their own experiences, perceptions and perspectives. As a researcher there is a need to ensure research findings are usable and used by the largest possible number of people. The exercise provided different stakeholders an opportunity to make their voices heard and helped the ASSAR team to understand who holds the power and thus plays an important role in processes related to both decision-making and implementation of water resources access and use in semi-arid areas of Ethiopia. The exercise also revealed to stakeholders the benefits of expanding their usual circle of interaction. For successful implementation of RiU, stakeholder engagement activities like this, can ensure continued dialogue between researchers, policy makers and practitioners, provide an opportunity for collaborative learning and increase the likelihood of research uptake. It would, therefore, be worth conducting ShE events in future, including key actors from ministries and local community representatives to build and maintain trust. It also gives a chance to create more of a shared vision, and increase commitment and motivation of key actors both at national and local level encouraging local engagement and increasing uptake of ASSAR research. Involvement of NGOs in the research processes and beyond with uptake is key as they are working at the grassroots level. Thus, the exercise gave an opportunity to identify stakeholders with whom to work and who is engaged at different stages of the process.

For future engagement processes, the research team needs to work very closely with local communities and different stakeholders at all levels. The continuous engagement process also gives an opportunity to identify the key drivers and enablers for the water resources management and use. After identifying the key actors ASSAR research findings can be used to engage with decision makers and strategy developers.

It would be worth repeating the exercise at regular intervals to understand any changes in power relations between different organizations so that future research can be applied where it is most helpful and in future, to broaden the stakeholder base to include national government and local stakeholders to facilitate dialogue. It might also be worth looking at a venue other than the Awash Basin Authority, if this could encourage a more diverse mix of participants, helpful to disseminate

messages (in line with information management being a goal, as cited by groups at the national workshop) and link national ministries and NGOs. It could be worth looking at experience from other countries to see how this has worked.

Annex – 1: Feedback and reflection

Some feedback and reflections from participants and national and local level stakeholder engagement events:

- This was the first ASSAR event participants had attended
- Most of the participants concluded the workshop was very important and unique in its approach, and were interested in translating research into policy and practice. They believe this experience could inform other stakeholders about how to scale research outputs out to policy
- The stakeholder mapping exercise and group interaction was interesting in terms of exchange of new information
- It would be better to include the government in the next workshop. (Invited (and expected?) government representatives didn't attend the Addis event)
- Most participants found themselves or their organizations within the stakeholder mapping, linking, influential relationships
- ASSAR research methods also inspired some of the participants according to the survey
- Recommendation to include people from the regional institute of agriculture and natural resource research
- Some of the participants found Net-map tool useful in determining stakeholders and their influence on a project
- Need more time for discussion and reflection on the workshop and the Net-Map exercise
- Good exercise for RiU as the researcher and participants discuss the outcome of the exercise directly (face-to-face)
- Reflection and feedback from the groups provided an opportunity for the participants to reflect and compare their perceptions with other stakeholder groups

Annex – 2: List of stakeholder workshop participants

a) List of Participants: National Stakeholder Engagement Event

No	Name	E-mail	Organization
1.	Zelege Teshome	zeleketeshome@gmail.com	Sugar Corporation
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5.	Taffese mesfin	tafmes@gmail.com	PENHA
6.	G/Medhin Birega	gbdagaga@gmail.com	CCC-Ethiopia
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24.	Evans Kituyi	ekituyi@idrc.ca	IDRC

b) List of participants: Local Stakeholder Engagement Event

No	Name	E-mail	Organization
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3.	Etabezhu Alemu		PADO
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5.	Guyato Mohammed		Pastoralist
6.	Ebrahim Adawa		Pastoralist
7.	Ibrahim Sagid		
8.	Reshid Mohammed		Water Resource
9.	Abdo Ali		Afar Office
10.	Asefa Ayele		
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30.	Momina Hassen		Women Association
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38.	Lucia Scodanibbio	Lucia.scodanibbio@uct.ac.za	UCT