

IMPLICATIONS OF *EUCALYPTUS* CULTIVATION ON FARMERS' CHOICE BEHAVIOR TO ADOPT STONE TERRACE IN THE ETHIOPIAN HIGHLANDS

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Deforestation, land degradation, and loss of biodiversity are major environmental challenges in developing countries. For instance, the Ethiopian Highlands lose about 302.8 million tons of soil per year. A range of land management interventions such as stone terracing has been introduced over the last couple of decades, but these interventions have not been successful. Instead, farmers have destroyed already constructed stone terraces and extensively cultivate eucalyptus on arable farmland. Through this present study, we explored the impact of eucalyptus cultivation on farmers' decisions concerning the adoption of a stone terrace in the Ethiopian Highlands. Three hundred respondents were sampled using a multi-stage probability sampling technique, and a probit model was employed in order to analyze the data. The results reveal that eucalyptus, plot distance, market distance, and off-farm income have negative impacts on farmers' decisions. Conversely, education, training, credit, tropical livestock unit, and farm income are found to influence farmers' decision positively. Policy implications are made based on the findings of this present study.