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Poverty and natural resource management in the Central Highlands of Eritrea

Araya Tesfamicael, Bereket

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Stellingen

Poverty and Natural Resource Management in the Central Highlands of Eritrea

Bereket Araya

1. We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors. We borrow it from our children. (David Brower, founder of Friends of the Earth)
2. At the heart of rural development is agricultural production. Whatever is done to promote rural development through non-agricultural investments, agriculture has to be the base of any rural strategy. (MOA, 2002)
3. Much of the environmental degradation in developing countries occurs in less-favored areas [such as the Central Highlands of Eritrea]. This degradation is intimately linked to low land productivity, poverty and food insecurity. (Ruben et al., 2003)
4. While population growth may induce a process of agricultural intensification, this process may fail to take place due to economic, institutional and policy conditions. (This thesis p. 13)
5. A thorough understanding of farmers' goals, their production practices and constraints is needed to ensure that technological and policy interventions are successful to generate the desired outcome. There are no short-cuts to this (Pandey, 2001).
6. Farmers in Eritrean Highlands are aware that the quality of their life highly depends on the quality of the natural resources. Thus an over use of the resources is not out of choice but out of necessity.
7. Ekhli ay kab baytan kab bayto, roughly translated as "good harvest is rather the result of good governance than of good land". (Old Eritrean Proverb)
8. Despite many criticisms the *diesa* system (communal land ownership) is still highly regarded by the farmers in the Central Highlands of Eritrea.
9. The *diesa* system has its own advantages and disadvantages. Changing the system immediately and entirely is neither practical nor desirable. Nevertheless, it is important that some improvements are made. (This thesis p. 213)
10. The relationships among the countries in the Horn of Africa are beset by political and military conflicts. Nevertheless, the welfare of the people and the development of the region are contingent on a peaceful coexistence and mutual cooperation of the countries.
11. A good bike lock is expensive in Groningen but it is worth the expenditure.