Forest incomes and poverty alleviation in a participatory forest management arrangement in the Bale Highlands, Southern Ethiopia

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Technical Session H-03: Global comparative analysis of local incomes from the forests

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Background

- Ethiopia experience poverty and forest loss (3.4%)
- Is collaborative forest management a solution?
- What is the role of forest income under collaborative management?
  - Contribution of forests to household income?
  - Are there seasonal patterns?
  - What is the importance of forests to different socioeconomic groups ?

Co-Management in Dodola

- In Dodola woreda
- Bale zone, Ethiopian highlands
- Participatory forest project since 2001
- Forest User Groups, WAJIB:s
- Maximum 30 households per WAJIB
- Protection , management activities, forest rent, user rights – all regulated in by-laws



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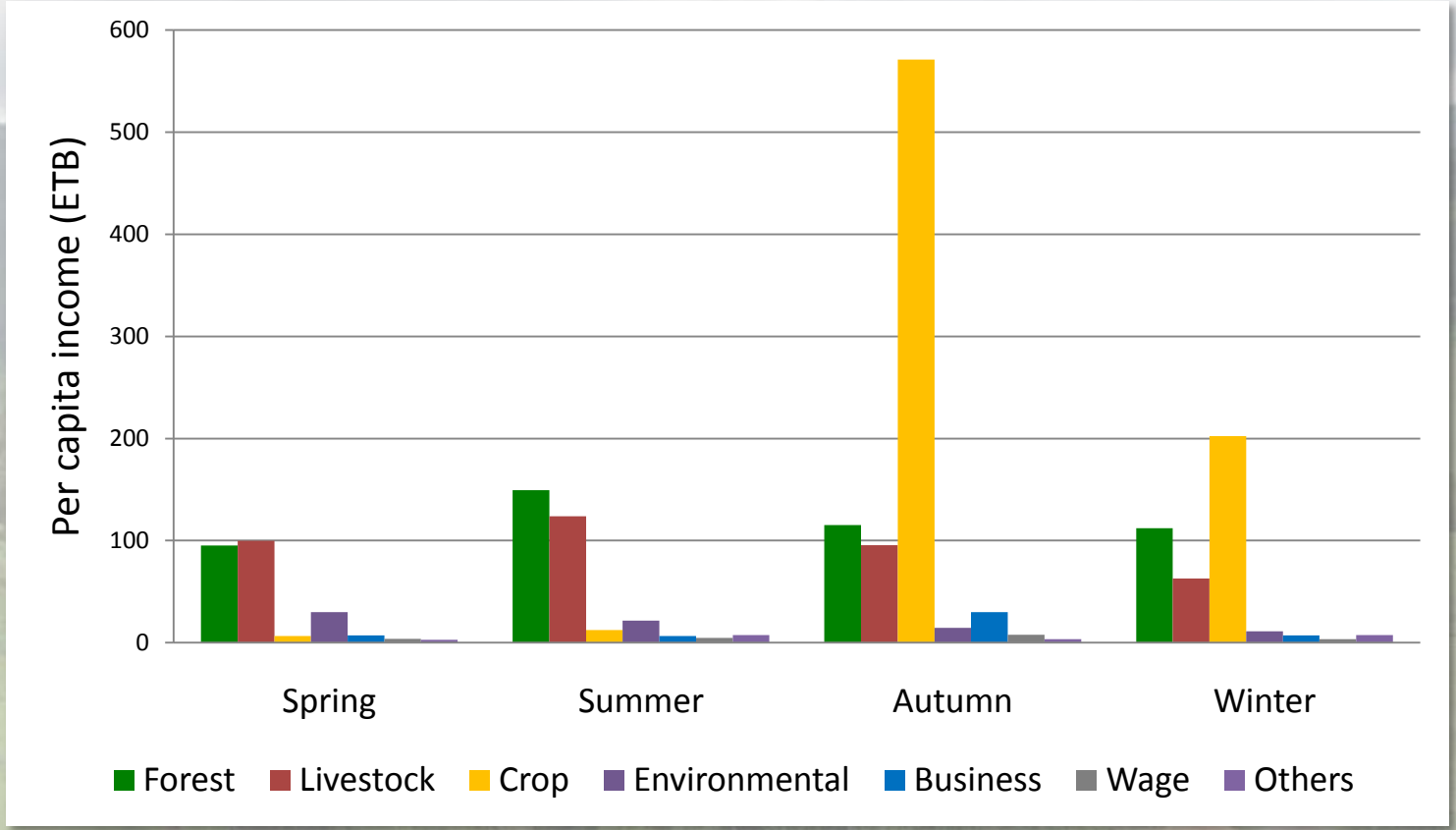
Research approach

- Sampling
  - 22 WAJIBs/FUGs out of 32were sampled
  - 350 households (60%)
- Data collection
  - Group discussions, interviews
  - Annual and quarterly surveys
- Survey questions
  - Income
  - Activities
  - Vulnerability, Risk



Seasonal differences 1

Quarterly distribution of total per capita income from main sources

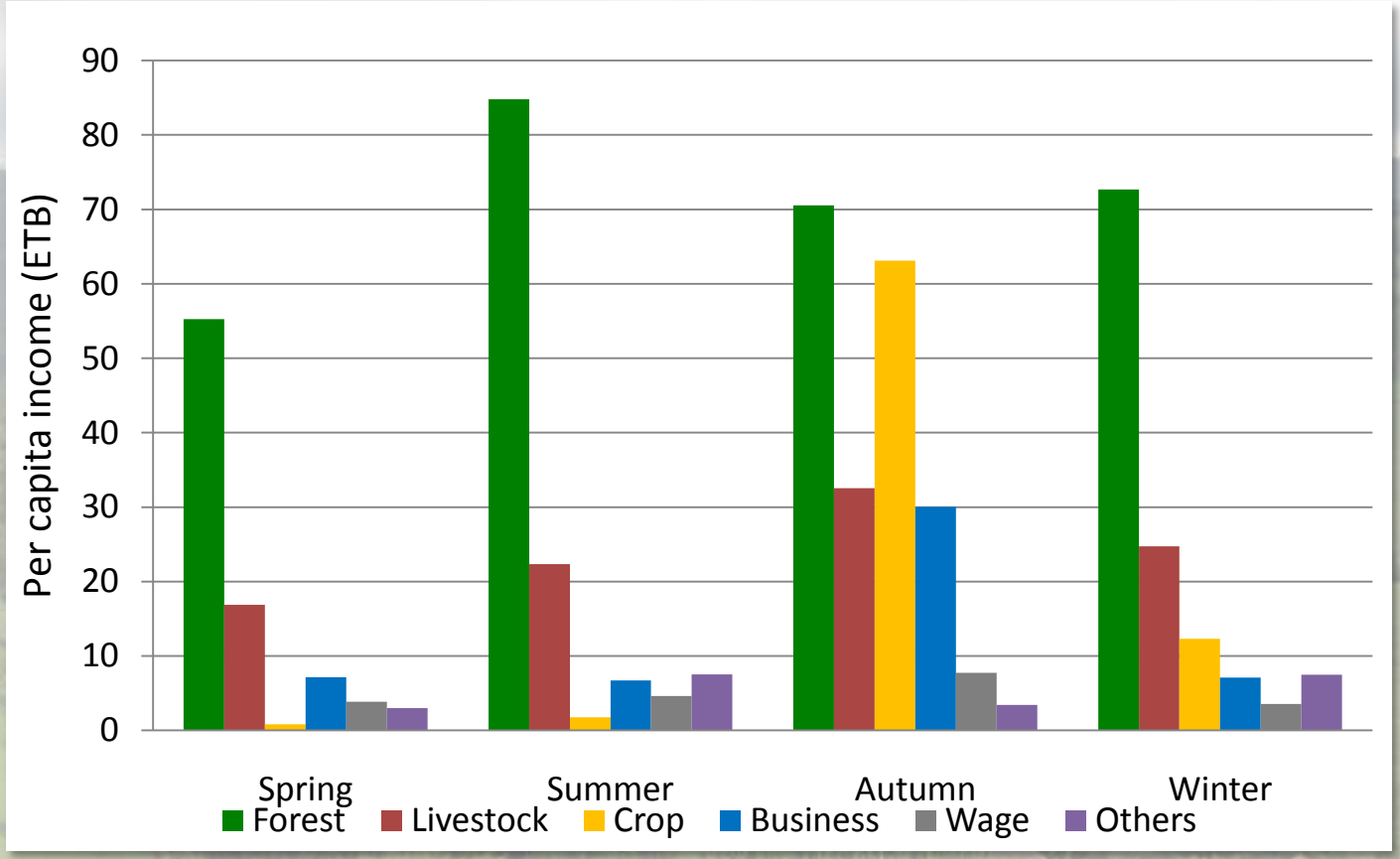


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Seasonal differences 2

Quarterly distribution of net cash per capita income from main sources

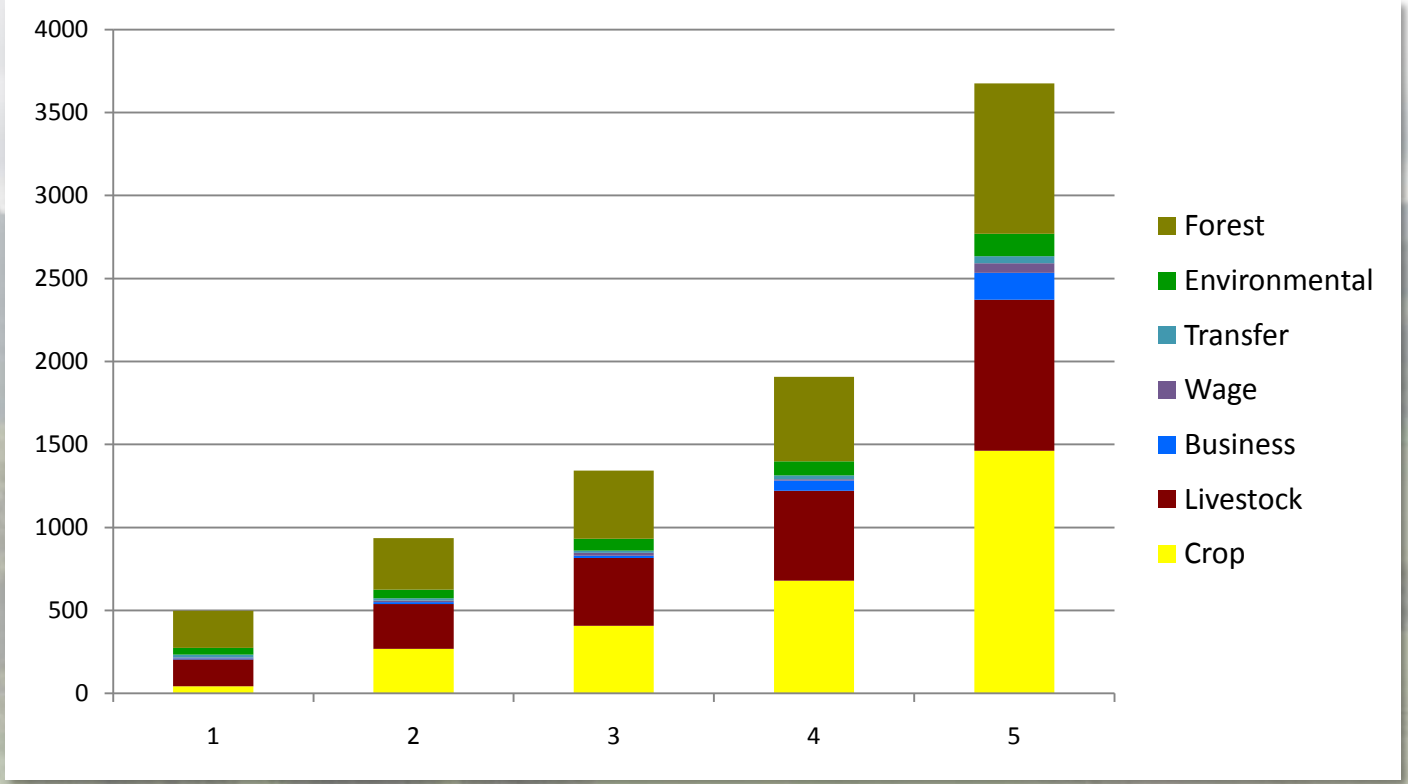


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Income differences/Forest income

Income sources across quintile classes



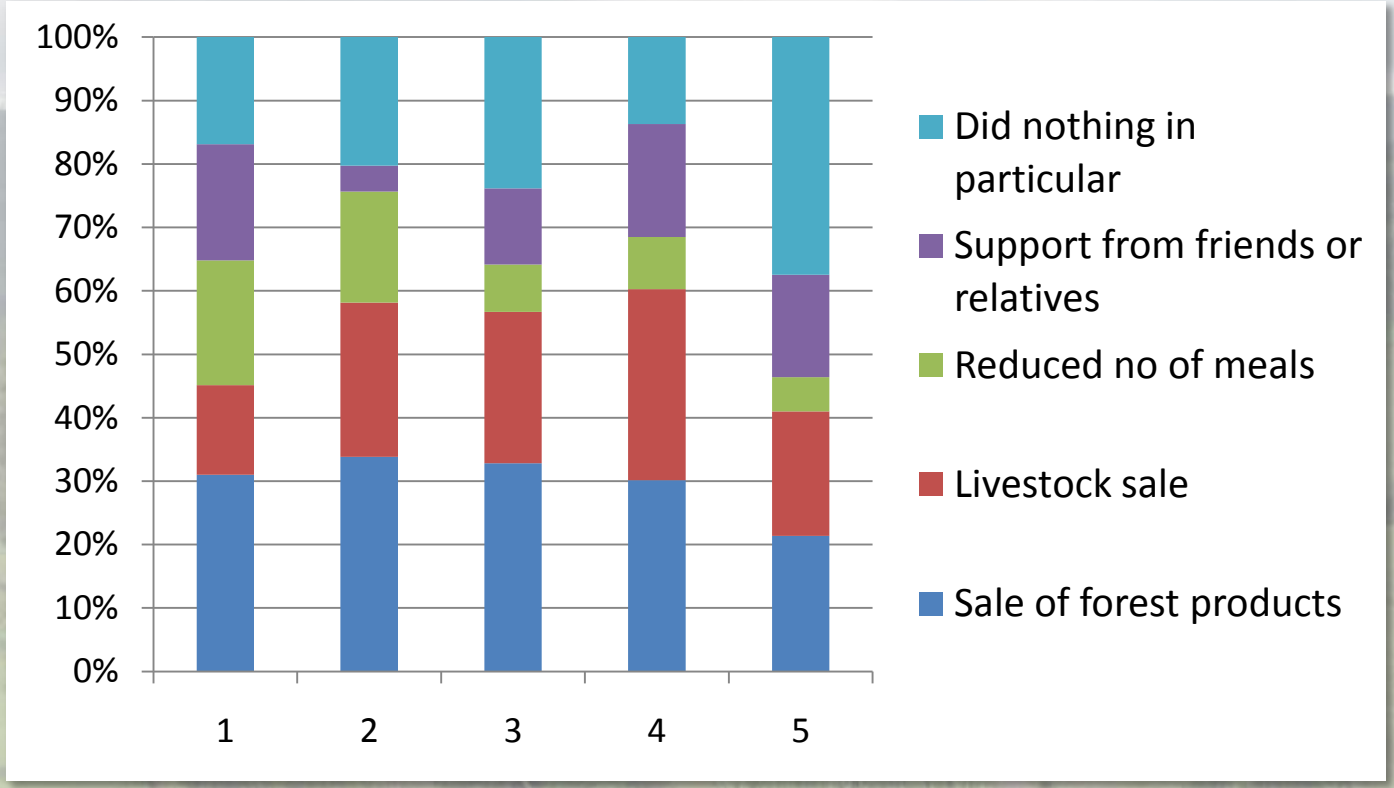
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Main coping strategies of households faced with income crisis

across quintile classes



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Conclusions

- Forests are pro-poor
- Asset-poor households are more forest dependent
- Forests provide 24-52% of household income
- 'Helps' 20% above the poverty line
- Important cash income
- Forest income is important in times of crisis


Thank you!