

PhD Project by Girma Mulu Alemu

Contentious peri-urbanization: Analysing the socio-economic effects on smallholder farmers in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

The study aims to analyse the socio-economic impacts of unregulated urban expansion on smallholder farmers in peri-urban areas of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The study examines how the legal and institutional frameworks influence agricultural land conversion processes in peri-urban areas. The study will also analyse the roles, perceptions and interests of actors in agricultural land conversion processes and examine how unregulated peri-urban expansion affects the socio-economic activities of smallholder farmers in peri-urban areas. The study will use a case study research strategy to gain an in-depth understanding of the socio-economic impacts of unregulated urban expansion on smallholder farmers in a peri-urban context.

Three heterogeneous cases will be selected using a multi-stage stratified purposive sampling technique. Document review, qualitative interviews, focus group discussions and systematic observations will be used to collect data. Ninety (90) qualitative interviews with smallholder farmers, nineteen (19) key informant interviews and three (3) focus group discussions will be conducted. In addition, in-depth interviews will be used to systematically document the biographical data of purposively selected smallholder households in selected peri-urban kebeles to track the socio-economic development of smallholder households. The study will use qualitative data analysis and presentation. Data analysis will first involve transcribing recorded audio data from qualitative interviews, focus group discussions and observations from Oromiffa (the local language of the participants) into English. The researcher will then collate and sort the transcribed data. The researcher will also code the collected data into themes and sub-themes. The study will be supported by ATLAS.ti software to code, categorise and analyse the data. The findings of the study will be presented in the participants' own words: in the form of quotations. The study will also present findings using non-verbal communication such as maps, graphics and photographs.