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Declaration

I, Tinsaye Tamerat, bearing Registration No. Ph.D/2546/14 Dated 16.09.14, hereby declare that the subject matter of the thesis entitled, "**Rural Food Security and Livelihood Resources of Smallholding Farmers in Tigray Region of Ethiopia**" is the research work done by me and that the contents of this thesis did not form the basis for award of any degree to me or to anybody else to the best of my knowledge. The thesis has not been submitted in any other University/Institute.

Place: Silchar

Date:

(Tinsaye Tamerat)

Dedicated to

My beloved father (Abate)

Ato Tamerat Delelegne

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

First, above all I thank our Almighty God for carrying me and unreserved gifts every day so far. I am really grateful to numerous people who have been assisting as well as to those who were either shorthanded or denying to lend a hand, you both incomparably made me more stronger in doing this research. Though it is impossible to give a full account of all the individuals and organizations due to space limitations, yet I would like to take a special consideration in acknowledging the following ones.

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation and thankfulness to my family; my father Ato. Tamerat Delelegne and my mother W/o Aregash Fitsum, Dharitry Borah, Yabse, Alex, Menna and Mitaye for being there in all the way up to the completion of my Ph.D. Moreover, I would like to thank the Indian Government - Indian Council for Cultural Relations, for graciously granting me an opportunity to pursue my Ph.D. studies. Moreover, there are no words to express my deep appreciation and whole hearted gratitude to Dr. M. Gangabhusan, my supervisor, who has been contributing immensely from the initial stages up to the accomplishment of this study. A special one, the extraordinary and exemplary person in my life, Shri. Taddesse Mezgebo, I wish to find many more ways to thank you for all the supports and advices you gave me from my days of post-graduation till the end of this work, always in my heart. Tade, if it wouldn't have been for your efforts and suggestions, I would have had stayed visionless on statistics.

Lwam Awetahegn and Estifanos Alem, I sincerely thank you both for your contribution and the two most important people who has immeasurably assisted me during the field work in Kilte Awelalo, in that dusty and sunny long days of door to door walks, I wish to find many more ways to thank you for all the supports. In concomitant to this, I would like to thank all the

respondents who took part in major input work of this research and their kind heartedness, "There was no door I knocked where we were not offered a food, water and/or local beverages." The *Woreda* administration, Food security and early warning coordinators and development agents, especially Ato Berhanu, I thank him for his service who do this field work on daily basis!!!

Once again, thank you all!!!

Tinsaye Tamerat

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Preface

Food security remains to be one of the pressing issues in the globe as 861 million people live without sufficient food. Livelihood resources and food security impact welfare and health of humans as well as political and economic stability of a nation. As the globe's population continues to grow, correspondingly food production needs to increase too. Even though the global target of reducing poverty by half from the 1990 to 2010 was achieved from 36% to 18% respectively, yet the figure of people living in extreme poverty especially in Sub Saharan Africa region has increased from 290 million to 414 million in the same time.

In order to improve millions of lives and make the world a better place, various initiatives taken globally are raising awareness on the needs to improve food security, better livelihood options, economic opportunity and environmental sustainability for agriculture. Special attention has been focused to increase food security in Africa by accelerating agriculture through sustainable investment. In this regard, African Union declared 2014 as the “Year of Agriculture” to address the challenges of poverty, hunger and food insecurity across the continent.

Ethiopia is one of the Sub-Saharan African countries located in the Eastern horn of Africa. In the country, the struggle for achieving food security at household level has remained a challenging goal. To tackle this challenge, the need to disentangle the interwoven underlying factors that are influencing food security and to understand livelihood strategies among rural households has got a paramount significance to policy makers and development practitioners. Tigray region is one of the nine regional states in Ethiopia, and the region is known for its severely rooted poverty and recurrent droughts which has created a place for persistent food insecurity for decades. The major reasons behind the food security challenges in the region are complex which

range from natural to human made hindrances. To mention few, fragmented and small land holdings due to population pressure, environmental degradations, low levels of investments in agriculture, lack of startup and follow up supports especially for the diversification of production and income of smallholding etc.

The present study titled “Rural Food Security and Livelihood Resources of Smallholding Farmers in Tigray Region of Ethiopia”, proposed to focus on the current scenario of food security and livelihood related issues in Tigray. The study focuses on understanding the socio-economic characteristics with the extent of food insecurity challenge and livelihood strategies employed to stand against this challenge faced. The prime motto of the study is to examine the magnitude of food insecurity; identification of factors impacting food insecurity; assessment of livelihood strategies and challenges of rural households; to bring elucidations and enhanced intervention mechanisms to light. In line with this, the study also brings local indigenous coping mechanisms employed by the studied segments of the population to fight food insecurity challenges.

The overall aim of this study is to bring out information on food security and livelihood resources to assist different interested stakeholders. For this; the magnitude of households’ food security condition, the overall access and control of smallholding farmers on basic livelihood resources, major determinants of food security and livelihood strategies and local innovative coping mechanisms in times of insecurities are assessed. The study covered 370 households from Kilte Awelalo Woreda, Tigray Region and three *Tabias* were selected from Kilte Awelalo namely Ayenalem, Genfel and Tahetay Adikesanded. Accordingly, data was collected on information relating with socio-economic backgrounds, food consumption patterns, annual food production sufficiency, challenges faced by the smallholding farmers in their struggle to achieve food security.

The study is significant in bringing up to dated information on socio-economic and demographic characteristic features, food security condition and livelihood resources status in the *Woreda*. Poor socio-economic and educational attainments, deep rooted inadequate food productions and supplies, habitual dependence on limited types of food groups' consumption, landlessness and undersized farmland holdings, poor handling and implementation of government programs are the major challenges faced in the *Woreda*. The study also reveals that majority of the studied sample respondents are either temporally or chronically food insecure. Moreover, limitedness of clean drinking water supply, inadequate agricultural inputs (such as fertilizers, improved seeds, motor pumps and modern irrigation system) adoption hamper the effort put to fight against food insecurity in the *Woreda*. On the other hand, despite the considerable number of women in the *Woreda* and their immense contribution in food production, preparation, processing and provision, they are highly deprived and neglected from participating in various economic activities which in turn stands as a cause to their high vulnerability to food insecurity.

In view of the above, there is yet much to be done with regard to policy interventions on land reform, beneficiary selection process and resources allocation, provision of modern agricultural inputs, awareness creation on food consumption patterns, health care and credit facilitations. In line with this, social workers interventions can help numerous aspects of these aforementioned issues. Social work in the country is somewhat a new profession and the benefits of this profession to the health and wellbeing of people is not well recognized. Thus, recognizing the importance of this profession will help and enhance governmental and non-governmental organizations' effort in various intervention efforts. In concomitant, there is a dire need for the collaboration of governmental, NGO's, civil society groups and other interested stakeholders to fight against food insecurity challenges.

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Acronyms

ADLI	Agricultural Development Led Industrialization
AU	African Union
BMI	Body Mass Index
CCIP	Complimentary Community Investment Program
CSA	Central Statistics Authority of Ethiopia
DFID	Department for International Development
DLDP	District Level Decentralization Program
FDRE	Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
FCS	Food Consumption Score
FSP	Food Security Program
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GNP	Gross National Product
Ha.	Hectares
HABP	Household Asset Building Program
HHs	Households
Kcal	Kilo Calorie
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MAHFP	Months of Adequate Household Food Provisioning
MoI	Ministry of Information
OAU	Organization of African Union
P.A.	Per annum
PSNP	Productive Safety Net Program
TLUs	Tropical Livestock Units
WFS	World Food Security

Glossary

<i>Equib</i>	A group of people who come together and contribute equal shares of money within a predetermined time like for instance a month and give the total sum to one member for a use. This in turn will continue turn by turn until it reaches all.
<i>Idir</i>	<i>Idir</i> is a social gathering of people or communities to contribute money on monthly basis to help members during funerals. However, in recent times the self-help nature of this gathering has been extending beyond just the cost of funerals.
<i>Kebele</i>	The smallest administrative unit in Ethiopia which is equivalent to township or ward
<i>Kushet</i>	Administrative subdivision and a <i>Kushet</i> is a part of a <i>Tabia</i> which is a subdivision of a <i>kebele</i> , equivalent to a village.
<i>Tabia/s</i>	Administrative subdivision unit of a <i>Woreda</i>
<i>Teff</i>	<i>Teff</i> is a local staple food crop and is the main ingredient for preparation of the staple food which is locally known as " <i>Injera</i> ".
<i>Tsimad</i>	One fourth of a hectare
<i>Woreda/s</i>	The next larger administrative unit, equivalent to a district