

Tesfahun Kasie. Vulnerability to food insecurity in three agro-ecological zones in Sayint District, Ethiopia. (MSC in Disaster Risk Science, 2009)

The objective of this study is to identify and compare the determinants of vulnerability to food insecurity among households in three different agro-ecological zones. It also aims to apply the livelihoods framework in the context of Sayint rural district. The analysis indicates that oxen ownership, livestock ownership and access to off-farm employment opportunities are the most significant determinants of a household's vulnerability to food insecurity in the rural district of Sayint. All of the sample households face major agricultural problems, such as lack of adequate land, financial constraints and lack of oxen and farm implements, but highland households were found to be more vulnerable to food insecurity than lowland and midland households; food security analysis indicates that 80% of highland households are food insecure. In addition, the depth (60%) and severity (41%) of food insecurity were also found to be higher among highland households than among lowland and midland households. Based on vulnerability and livelihood analysis, this is mainly because highland households have limited internal resource endowments and access to less external assistance in particular, and more than half of highland households have livelihoods that are more fragile in general. Despite the fact that the sustainable livelihoods framework was not limiting by itself, it required a number of analytical tools for best use. The framework was found to be robust enough to explain the households' vulnerability to food insecurity in the areas under study, however.