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Integrating applied research and policy implementation for high returns and greater impact: An approach based on lessons from the Ethiopian experience

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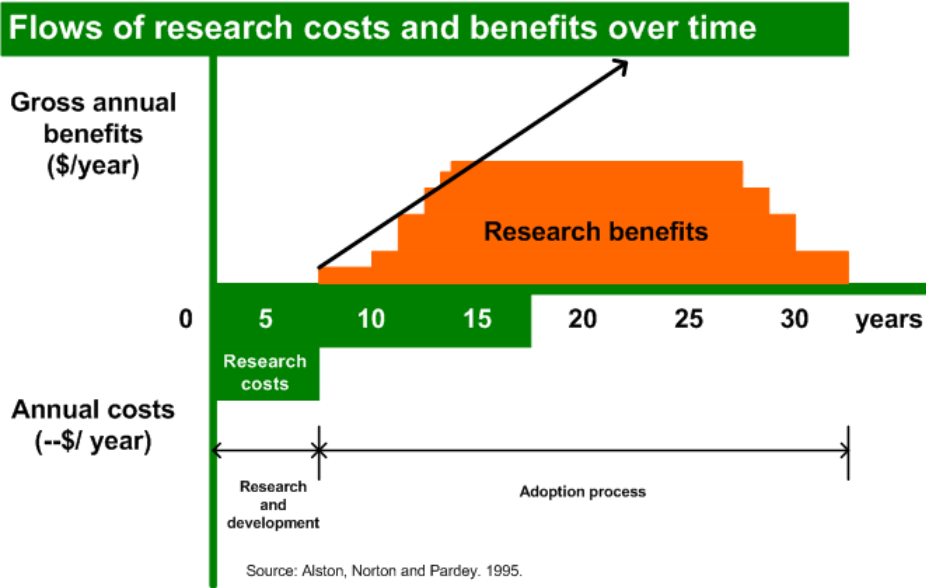
Key Message

There are numerous useful research findings on land and rainwater management in Ethiopia, but they tend to be fragmented, too narrowly focused on specific technologies, and poorly linked to government policy and investment programs. There is a strong case for systematic planning and integration of applied research and investment programs, implemented by national research organizations partnered with international institutions.

Summary

The N1 project synthesized information on 40 years of Ethiopian land and rainwater management programs. Ethiopia has a long history of large-scale research land management programs that have produced much knowledge on land degradation, performance of soil water conservation technologies, and the effectiveness of various policies and implementation strategies. Despite the evidence for uptake of research results, it is not systematic: research has not been well-integrated with investment programs and often does not address priority implementation and policy issues. Some donor-funded research and development programs have produced promising results but did not continue long enough to achieve real impacts. There has also been little systematic comparative research on the performance

of SWC technologies. The main lesson is that the returns to investments in both research and implementation can be dramatically enhanced by their integration into long-term programs. This insight is applicable to all CPWF basins.



APPLIED RESEARCH INCREASES LONG-TERM RETURNS TO INVESTMENT PROGRAMS [THE ARROW REPRESENTS AN INVESTMENT PROGRAM WITH AN INTEGRATED RESEARCH COMPONENT]*
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