

# Story of Change: Alulla Tekelay, PSNP Public Works Focal Person

Ahferom woreda, Tigray, Ethiopia

Alulla in his office  
Photographer: Negash Berhanu

*The Climate Smart Initiative (CSI) was launched in July 2013, as an adjunct to the existing Government of Ethiopia's Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP) and Household Asset Building Programme (HABP); two of the key mechanisms of the Government to tackle food security issues and related rural livelihoods strengthening.*

*CSI was designed to pilot approaches that consider climate change within this larger, established context, working within existing Government approaches and cycles. This Story of Change provides an example of how CSI has affected an individual or a household.*

Story  
Ten



## Who is Alulla Tekelay?

He is the PSNP Public Works (PW) focal person who works at the Agriculture and Rural Development Office, Department of Natural Resource, Ahferom woreda, Tigray. He has worked in this type of role for seven years, four years in this woreda. He was assigned as the CSI focal person during the Climate Vulnerability and Capacity Analysis (CVCA)<sup>1</sup> process in March 2014.

## What are the climate and environmental problems facing Alulla Tekelay in his woreda?

He is facing erratic rainfall, drought, water shortages, flooding, hailstorms, deforestation, land degradation and loss of rangeland/pasture for animals.

## Summary:

Alulla Tekelay, an experienced PSNP expert, was inspired by his intensive engagement with CSI and its attention to climate change factors to review all PW plans within the woreda. This included reviewing the PSNP road planning, applying the CSI/CVCA climate-smart criteria and an environmental impact assessment (EIA). This was extended to three non-CSI kebeles, which led to changes in planned activities to achieve climate-smart roads.

<sup>1</sup> The Climate Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (CVCA) is a tool developed by CARE to analyse the implications of climate change for lives and livelihoods. CSI has carried out two rounds of CVCA within the programme, adapting and amending from one round to the next, and then extracting learning from these processes to produce suggestions for "climate smarting" the annual PSNP planning process.

CSI has been implemented by a consortium of organisations, led by CARE Ethiopia, and including Cornell University, Dadimos, FARM Africa, IDS, IICD, Itad Ltd, Jimma University, MMA Consulting, Mercy Corps, ORDA, REST, and SNV. In late 2015, CSI is closing down; leaving a legacy of learning and insights about "climate smart" and what it means, from the household reality to the highest level of policy making.



## Story of Change: Alulla Tekelay

### Changing understanding of climate change inspires changes in practice

Alulla Tekelay, an experienced PSNP woreda expert, reports how his understanding of and attitude towards climate change have significantly changed. This was a result of his intensive engagement with the whole CVCA process, receiving training and becoming the CSI focal person: 'I never think of the negative impacts of PW plans but now I have learnt that I need to look at the pros and cons of any development intervention.' As a result, Alulla was inspired to review – applying climate-smart criteria – the PSNP-PW plans of all the kebeles for the calendar year 2014/15.

### Applying this learning to non-CSI kebeles

Alulla has not stopped at applying these new insights to CSI kebeles; he has extended this learning to three non-CSI kebeles, focusing on road planning: 'I am trying my best to look into/ review the PSNP-PW plans of all kebeles within the woreda. In the process I found three kebeles with three road plans. Hence I have decided to review all PW plans as we did during the CVCA process by applying the CSI climate-smart criteria because I have learned from CSI/CVCA that I need to think of sustainability.' Using his own initiative, Alulla also applied an EIA, not introduced by CSI.

### Changing planned activities to be climate smart

As a result of this climate-smart review Alulla decided to 'include some additional activities that can at least minimise the negative impacts of roads (adding, for example, plantations, designing a water flow structure) ... Climate smart!!!' The plans will now lead to climate-smart roads in these non-CSI kebeles, ensuring that new roads will not increase community vulnerability to flood and erosion.



Alulla Tekelay  
Photographer: Negash Berhanu

