

CV of TAGESSE ABO MELKETO, PhD

CAPACITY STATEMENT

Dr. Tagesse Abo Melketo is an Associate Professor of Agri-Economics and Rural Development, researcher, and project leader with more than a decade of experience in food systems, food security, sustainable livelihoods, climate resilience, and rural transformation. He holds a PhD in Agri-economics and Rural Development and an MSc in Food Science and Development. His work combines rigorous research, policy engagement, and capacity building, with extensive experience leading international and donor-funded projects across Ethiopia and Africa. Dr. Melketo has published in reputable international journals, supervised graduate research, presented at global conferences, and collaborated with institutions in Europe and Africa. His expertise lies in applying interdisciplinary and evidence-based approaches to address food security, agricultural development, climate adaptation, and inclusive rural livelihoods.

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Born: 01/12/1979
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Unique ID: ORCID iD: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3177-678X>
ResearchGate: <https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Tagesse-Melketo/stats>
Web of Science ID: GON-4910-2022
Personal website: <https://www.tagesseabo.com.et>

EDUCATION

Addis Ababa University
Ethiopia MSc, Food Science and Development; Center for Food Security,
02/09/2020 - 23/06/2021
Monograph: Food Security among Urban People with Disabilities (PWDs)
Supervisor: Prof. Degefa Tollosa, PhD

Addis Ababa,

- Six months' field work on food access and utilization challenges experienced by people with disabilities in Durame Town, Central Ethiopia (01/10/2020 - 31/03/2021)
- Cooperation with NGOs and social movements working to reduce food entitlement challenges of vulnerable groups (PWDs)
- Awarded MSc with 'Excellent' grade on 23/06/2021

Wolaita Sodo University
Ethiopia PhD, Agri-economics & Rural Development (Livelihoods and Poverty Analysis),
14/09/2015 - 10/07/2018 *Monograph:* Integrating Food Systems and Livelihoods: Pathways for Sustainable Intensification and Diversification in Smallholder Farming
Supervisors: Prof. Dr. Stefan Sieber (major), and Dr. Endrias Geta (co-supervisor)

Wolaita Sodo,

- Ten months' fieldwork using mixed participatory methods and econometrics analysis of smallholder livelihood diversification, (01/06/2017 - 31/03/2018)

- Awarded PhD with no corrections on 10/07/2018

University of Dilla

Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Rural Development and Agri-Extension
28/06/2008

Dilla, Ethiopia

02/10/2005 -

ADMINISTRATIVE, RESEARCH, and TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 23/03/2024 - present Research and teaching faculty (Associate Professor) at Department of Agri-Economics and Rural Development, Wolaita Sodo University, Ethiopia
- *Lecturing Courses (as relevant):*
Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture; Climate-Smart Farming; Sustainable Livelihoods and Food Security; Advanced Research Methodology; Development Theories and Analysis; Environment, Agriculture and Food Systems; Contemporary Food and Nutrition Security Techniques; The Right to Food and Food Policy; Agribusiness, Food Marketing and Post-harvest Technology; Agriculture, Nutrition and Health Linkage
 - *Designing curricula:*
MA in Agricultural Knowledge Management and Communication;
PhD in Food Security and Development
 - *Lead research projects* with junior researchers and graduate students
- 01/04/2021-05/12/2022 Research and teaching faculty (Assistant Professor) at Department of Agri-Economics and Rural Development, Wolaita Sodo University, Ethiopia
- Lecturing and supervising undergraduate research; co-author and lead research projects with fellow researchers and undergraduate students
- 10/08/2018-30/08/2020 Scientific Director, Institute of Development & Policy, Ethiopia
- Overseeing institutional strategy, operations, and stakeholder engagement to enable policy impact, while managing resources, people and financial compliance
- 02/10/2011-30/06/2014 Executive Director, Internationalization & Public Relations office; Wolaita Sodo University, Ethiopia
- Develop and lead internationalization, partnerships, and public relations strategies

MOBILITY

Jul 2019; Jan–Mar 2025: Leibniz Center for Agricultural Landscape Research (ZALF), Germany

Role: Visiting researcher; researched agri-food systems and rural transformations; conducted fieldwork, data analysis, and stakeholder interviews

01/03/2022 - 30/05/2022

Water and Land Resource Center (<http://wlrc-eth.org>),

Ethiopia *Role:* Research Fellow, the DAAD scholarship on Strengthening Advisory Capacities for Land Governance in Africa (SLGA) Program

01/08/2018 – 08/08/2018

Center for Interdisciplinary Research (ZiF), Bielefeld University,

Germany *Role:* Summer PhD course on interdisciplinary research methods; seminars, workshops, and research networking

01/03/2017 – 30/06/2017

Sam Moyo African Institute for Agrarian Studies, Zimbabwe

Role: PhD dissertation writing; analyzed agri-food systems and land tenure dynamics; drafted three dissertation chapters and prepared manuscript for peer review.

SUPPERVISION AND EXAMINER (In the past 5 years – Ongoing)

<i>Supervision</i>		
<i># Master's thesis</i>	<i># Ph.D. dissertation</i>	<i>University/institution</i>
28	5	Wolaita Sodo University; Hawassa University; University of South Africa; College of Agriculture, Dublin, Ireland
<i>External Examiner</i>		
20	6	Addis Ababa University; Arba Minch University; Dilla university; Hawassa University; University of South Africa; College of Agriculture, Dublin, Ireland

PEER REVIEWING (Ongoing)

Invited peer-reviewer: *Discover Sustainability, Discover Food, Discover Public Health, Scientific World Journal (Wiley), Scientific Reports, Climate Policy, Humanities and Social Sciences Communications, and Frontiers in Climate, Springer Nature*

ORGANIZING WORKSHOPS/CONFERENCES

Since 2011: University Communication Director, Wolaita Sodo, Ethiopia

Role: Organized multi-stakeholder workshops (7) and policy conferences (8) advancing research and capacity building in agrarian transformation, food systems governance, and sustainability

INVITED PRESENTATIONS AT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

Presenter **Inter. Research Conference, Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia**

Panel: Migration, Displacement, Peace Building **17/06/26 - 19/06/26**

Presentation: Pursuing Sustainable Pathways: Mapping of economic initiatives for migrants and returnees

Panelist **The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

Panel: 13th Conference on Climate Change and Development (CCDA-XIII) **05-07/07/2025** Presentation: Climate Resilience and Livelihoods in Ethiopian Farming

Distinguished Speaker **Amsterdam, The Netherlands**

Conference: the International Conference on “Food Technology and Quality Control” **November 18-20, 2024** Presentation: Disability-related factors affecting food security status: A case study from southern Ethiopia

Panelist **Czech University of Life Sciences Prague, Prague, Czech Republic**

Panel/conference: Tropentag 2020 **Annual conference held 14/09/20 –16/09/20**
Presentation: Resilient Food Systems for a Changing World (virtual presentation; due to COVID 19)

Presenter **BOKU, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (Vienna, Austria)** Panel/Conference: Tropentag 2016 **Annual conference held 18/09/16–21/09/16**
Presentation: Pastoral Households Livelihood Diversification Strategies: Evidence from Ethiopia

RESEARCH EXPEDITIONS

01/03/2023 – 30/11/2024: Action research on “*Inclusive innovations for resilient and sustainable market systems in Ethiopia*” (Published by EU- RESET Plus Innovation Fund)

Key Responsibilities: Designed and led QUAL-QUAN research approach (survey, FGDs, KIIs); supervised data quality and ethical compliance; and synthesize findings emphasizing on institutional linkages and inclusion of women and youth.

01/10/2022-28/01/2024: “*Hydroponic fodder and dairy value-chain development in Borena, Ethiopia*” (Published by Helvetas Swiss Inter-cooperation in Ethiopia)

Key responsibilities: I designed and led fieldwork in Borena and peri-urban milk collection points to map actors, quantify fodder yields and milk productivity gains; trace market linkages; and used mixed methods to produce results’ report.

01/08/2021 – 31/08/2022: *Index-based livestock insurance (IBLI) for pastoralists: Evidence from northern Kenya and southern Ethiopia* – International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) academic synthesis (Carter et al: ILRI project report)

Key responsibilities: I led a multi-site fieldwork to pilot and evaluate IBLI; combined household surveys, remote-sensing triggered payout validations, FGDs, and KIIs to measure impacts on household risk management, livestock mortality, and market participation.

PUBLICATIONS IN PEER-REVIEWED JOURNALS

Melketo T, Tolossa D, Abi M, Bedeke S and Fentaw T (2025) Index-based livestock insurance schemes to manage climate risks in Ethiopia: determinants of farmer’s willingness to pay and lessons learned from Dasenech district, South Omo. *Front. Clim.* 6:1476202. DOI: 10.3389/fclim.2024.1476202 (citations: 3)

Melketo, T. A., (2023). Disability-related factors affecting food security status: A case study from southern Ethiopia: *Journal of Agriculture and Food Research (ELSEVIER)*, 13; 2666-1543. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jafr.2023.100647> (citations 7)

Melketo, T., Habtamu, L., Deneke, D., & Paulos, L. (2022). Managing disaster risks through adaptation and mitigation strategies in Wolaita, Southern Ethiopia. *Australasian Review of African Studies*, 43(2), 5–35 <https://doi.org/10.22160/22035184/ARAS-2022-43-2/5-35> (citations: 1)

Melketo, T., Martin S., Marcos L., Michelle B., Stefan S., Klaus M. (2021). Determinants of pastoral household resilience to food insecurity in Afar region, northeast Ethiopia: *Journal of Arid Environments (ELSEVIER)*, 188; 0140-1963. DOI: [10.1016/J.JARIDENV.2021.104454](https://doi.org/10.1016/J.JARIDENV.2021.104454) (citations-63)

Teshale T., Pádraig W., Dinku G. & **Melketo, T.** (2023): Analysis of communication approaches used in agricultural extension: Case of Wolaita Zone, Southern Ethiopia. *Local Development & Society*, DOI: 10.1080/26883597.2023.2173635 (citations 7)

Tegegn, H., Senbetie, T., Abraham, S., **Melketo, T.**, & Sisay, B. (2024). Socio-Economic Determinants of Smallholder Farmers' Coffee Production in Wolaita Zone, Ethiopia. *African Journal of Food, Agriculture, Nutrition and Development*, 24(6), 26799-26818. DOI: [10.18697/ajfand.131.24465](https://doi.org/10.18697/ajfand.131.24465) (citations 4)

Melketo, T. A., Endrias, G. & Stefan, S. (2019). Understanding Livelihood Diversification Patterns among Smallholder Farm Households in Southern Ethiopia. *Sustainable Agriculture Research*, 9(1); 26-41. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.22004/ag.econ.301916> (citations 26)

Melketo, T. A., & Berhanu K. (2015). Determinants of food security status of female-headed households: The case of Wolaita Sodo town; Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Region, Ethiopia. *International Journal of Social Footprints* 3(2): 8-24.

Melketo, T. A., Senbetie T, & Tegegn, H. (2017). Climate Change Mitigation in Ethiopia: To what extent do carbon sequestration projects put impact on smallholder farm households' income?" *Journal of Environment and Earth Science* 7(1); 37-45

Melketo, T. A., Mary T. & Senbetie T. (2016). Entrepreneurial Intentions of University Students: Insights for Entrepreneurial Education in Ethiopia: *European Journal of Business and Management* 8(22); 25-35

Melketo, T. A., Senbetie, T. Mary, T. & Tegegn, H. (2017) Triggers that Energize Potential Entrepreneurs: What We Know about University Students in Southern Ethiopia. *Asian Journal of Agricultural Extension, Economics & Sociology* 17 (3); 2320-7027.

Melketo, T. A., Sundaraa Rajan., & Endrias, G. (2018). Nexus between household asset base and agrarian livelihood strategies' diversification: Using multidimensional approach. *Asian Journal of Agricultural Extension, Economics & Sociology* 22(4); 1-17.

BOOK CHAPTER

- Tagesse Melketo and Stefan Seiber (2021): *Effect of Contract Farming on Food Security in Ethiopia*. Farming and Working under Contract: Peasants and Workers in Global Agricultural Value Systems (Springer)

KEY CERTIFICATES OF COMPETENCE (Diploma)

- *SAS-Package*: Center for Interdisciplinary Research (ZiF Summer School), Germany, (2017)
- *Fuzzy Set Approach to Multidimensional Poverty Measurement*: University of Bielefeld, Germany (2017)
- *Agrarian Transformation in Global South*: Samo Yo Agrarian Studies Training Institute of Africa (ASTI) Harare, Zimbabwe (2018)
- *The Political Economy of Land Governance in Africa*: Certificate of Competence by University of the Western Cape, South Africa (2022)

- Training of Trainers on: *Entrepreneurship Skills Development for Business Beginners*: Entrepreneurship Development Center- Ethiopia, the Federal Micro & Small Enterprises Development Agency, & UNDP (2016)

RESEARCH GRANTS AND AWRDS

- Forum for Higher Education Institutions, South Ethiopia Regional State: Dynamics of Migration: Profile, Impact and Governance (2025)
- Africa-China Joint Research Initiative: Rural Development Research Institute of Social Science (2023-2025)
- EU-RESET Plus Innovation Fund: Impact Evaluation (2023)
- DAAD “Strengthening Advisory Capacities for Land Governance in Africa (SLGA)” Research Fellowship Program (2022).
- Grant 2015 USA Embassy (Seed Money): Cultural Heritage Management
- ATSAF Travel Grant 2016: For Tropentag 2016 Conference Research Presenter
- EU-IOM Joint Initiative Grant for Migrant Protection and Reintegration Programme: Africa Trust Fund (2020-2022)
- Guest Researcher Grants: Leibniz Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research (ZALF), Germany (2018, 2019, 2020)
- Master’s Thesis Writing Grant of Engineers without Border (NGO in Germany): Enhancing Livelihood Resilience of Afar Pastoralists (ELRAP), in Northern Ethiopia (2017)

EXPERIENCES IN PROJECT/PROGRAM MANAGEMENT (relevant)

- Lead, program evaluation: EU-IOM Joint Initiative for Migrant Protection and Reintegration in the Horn of Africa (2019-2022)
- Lead, program evaluation: Impact of IOM-Regional Government Joint Actions to Deter Irregular Migration, Human Trafficking, and Smuggling in South Nations, Nationalities & People’s Regional State, Ethiopia (2017/18)
- Lead, program evaluation: Stakeholder Mapping and Strategic Collaboration Plan Development on Better Migration Management III in SNNPR State, Ethiopia (2022/23)
- Lead, program evaluation: Qualitative Impact Evaluation of Wolaita Development Association (WoDA) Integrated Development Projects of (2000 -2018)
- Lead, program evaluation: Impacts of EU-RESET Plus Innovation Funded projects in Ethiopia (2023)
- Lead, Action Research on: *Promotion of inclusive practices and the benefits of doing so, for building resilient and sustainable market systems*, through EU-RESET Plus Innovation Funded projects in Ethiopia (2023)
- Lead researcher on: *Invigorating Research and Community Services in Ethiopian Public Higher Education Institutions*, by Ministry of Education, Ethiopia (2019)

- Lead, consultant: Assessing Development Bottlenecks of Mixed Agricultural Production in Southern Ethiopia: The Case of Yem, Basketo, Konta and Dawuro zone, (2020)
- Lead, consultant: Mapping Humanitarian Risks in Wolaita Zone, southern Ethiopia (2019)
- Lead, evaluator: Enhancing Livelihood Resilience of Afar People (ELRAP Project): Baseline survey, (2017)
- Lead, evaluator: *Evaluation the Impact of Regional Saving on National GDP*: The case of Southern Nations, Nationalities and People's region, Ethiopia (2020)
- Lead, migrant reintegration project: *Enhancing Resilience and Climate Change Adaptation of Returnee Migrants, Internally Displaced Persons and Host Communities* in SNNPR: joint project by IOM (African Trust Fund) and Wolaita Sodo University (2020-2023)
- Lead consultant: *Mapping of Stakeholders Providing Economic Support to Victims of Trafficking, Migrants and Returnees in SNNPR, Sidama and South Western Region, Ethiopia*, by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH (2022)
- Initiator and project lead: *Migration Dynamics in South Ethiopia Regional State: Exploring the Profile, Impacts and Governance*, by Forum for Higher Education Institutions of SERs (2025)
- Reviewer: *Migration Policy of Ethiopia* (Draft), by Ministry of Justice, Ethiopia (2022)

REFERENCES

1. Degefa Tolosa (Professor)
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2. Stefan Sieber (PhD, Associate Professor (Privatdozent))
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Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
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