

THE EFFECT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE ON RURAL LIVELIHOODS AND MIGRATION IN SOUTH WOLLO

MIGSOKO STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP IN SOUTH WOLLO, MARCH 2019

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WHO WE ARE

We are a junior research group at Helmholtz-Center for Environmental Research in Leipzig (Germany). In our work we aim at understanding the causalities and interlinkages between environmental change and human migration in the tropics. Coming from different academic disciplines we want to combine various approaches to get a comprehensive understanding of our field of study. In recent decades, millions of people worldwide are estimated to have migrated due to environmental change and this phenomenon is likely to increase even more, given the projected continuation of both environmental change and population growth. Why and under what conditions do people migrate? What role do environmental factors play?



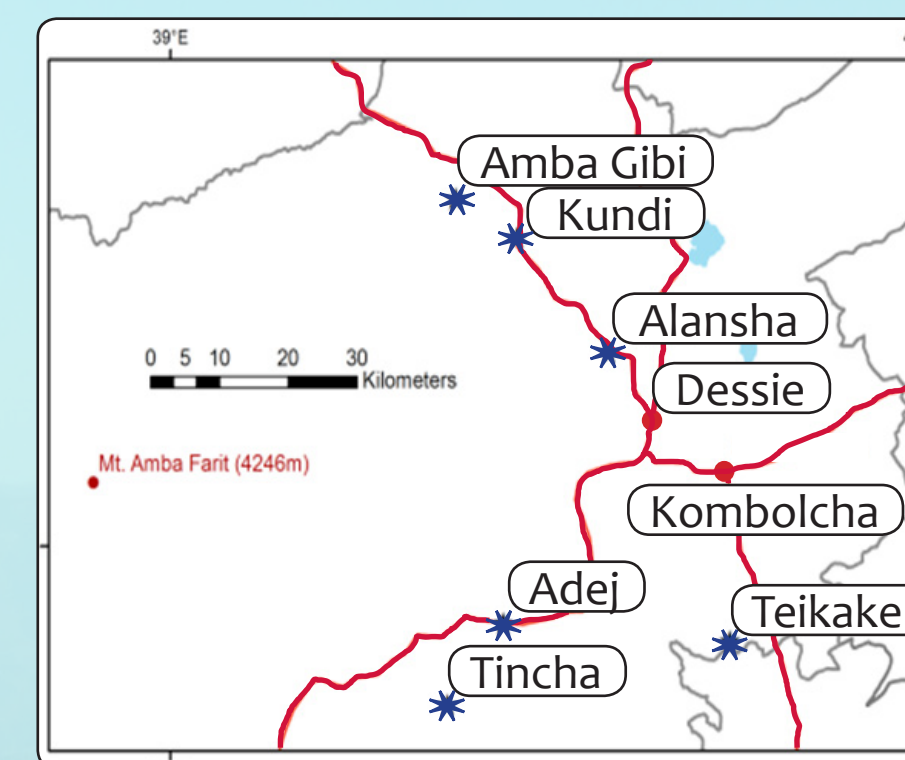
I.t.r. Dr. Jule Thober, Dr. Kathleen Hermans, Juliane Groth, Charlotte Wiederkehr

We observe migration from different perspectives to get new insights on causalities between human migration and environmental change in Ethiopia. Based on extensive field work in South Wollo, where we applied focus group discussions and interviews, we investigated several linkages that we want to present here and further discuss and elaborate. Our research in South Wollo was done in collaboration with EECMY DASSC.

OBJECTIVE

Our study aims at understanding subsistence farmer's decisions to migrate as response to rainfall variability and land degradation in South Wollo. Therefore, influences of different agro-ecological and socio-economic features on the migration behavior are taken into consideration.

our study region



Dessie Zuria Woreda:

* Adej

Kutaber Woreda:

* Alansha

* Amba Gibi

* Kundi

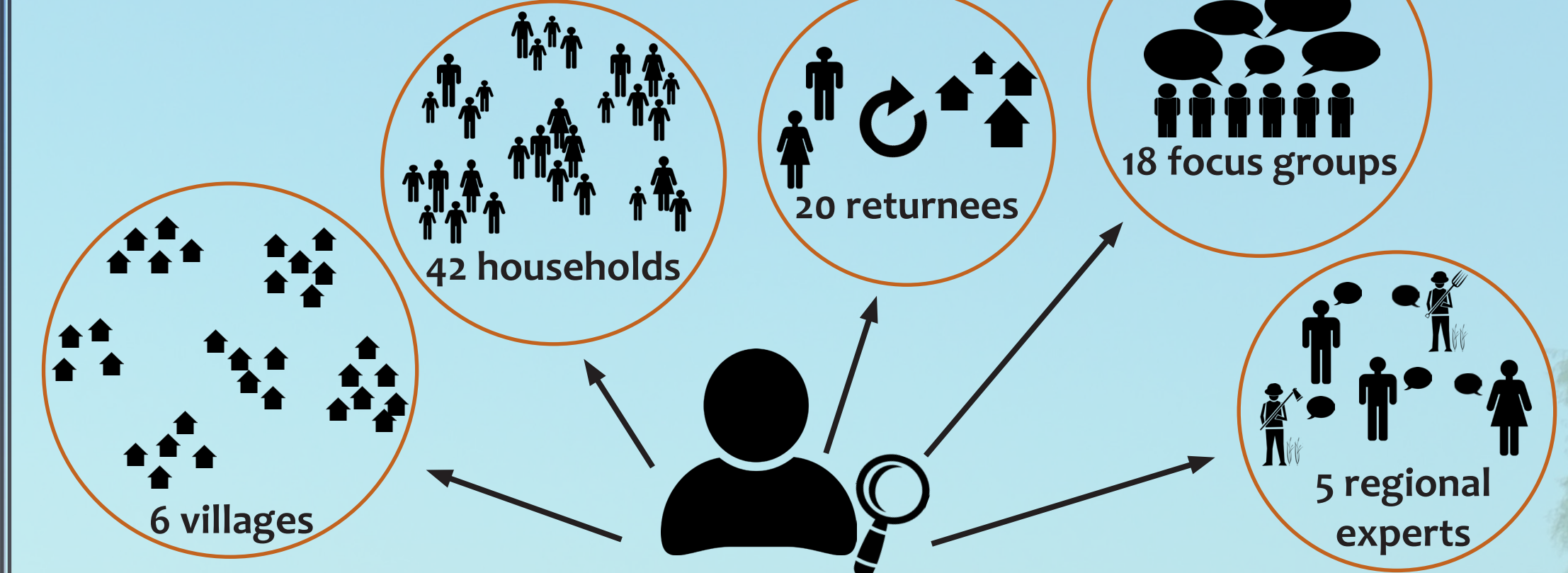
Legambo Woreda:

* Tinch

Kalu Woreda:

* Teikake

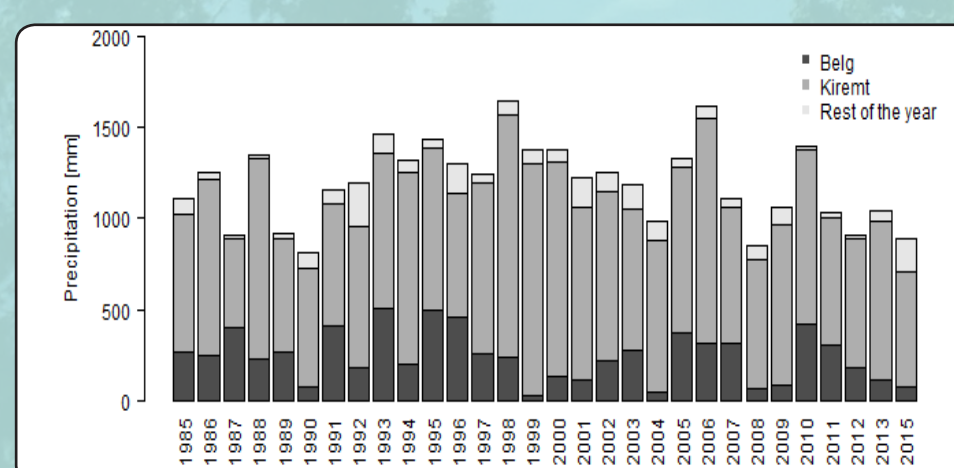
STUDY METHOD



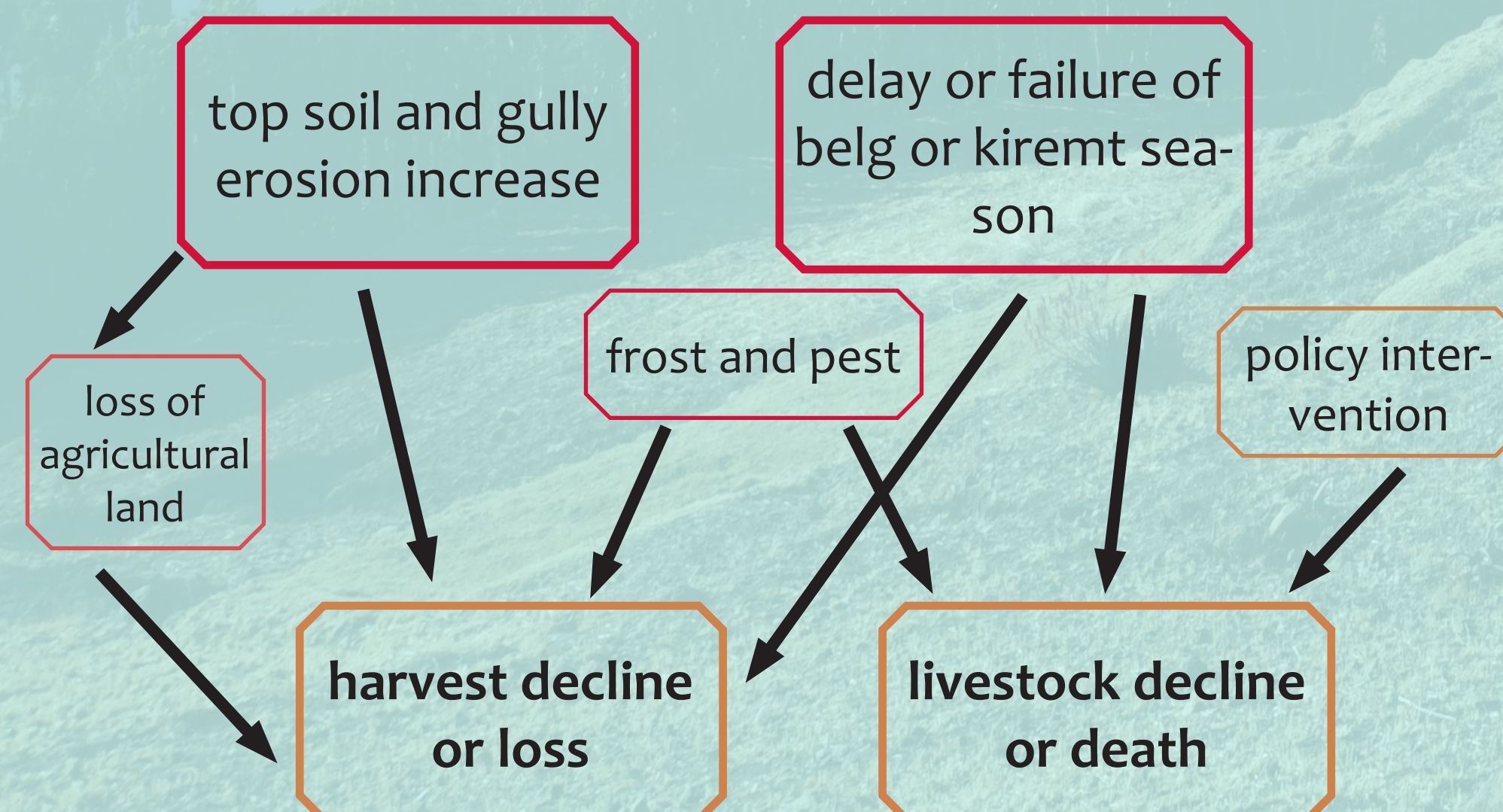
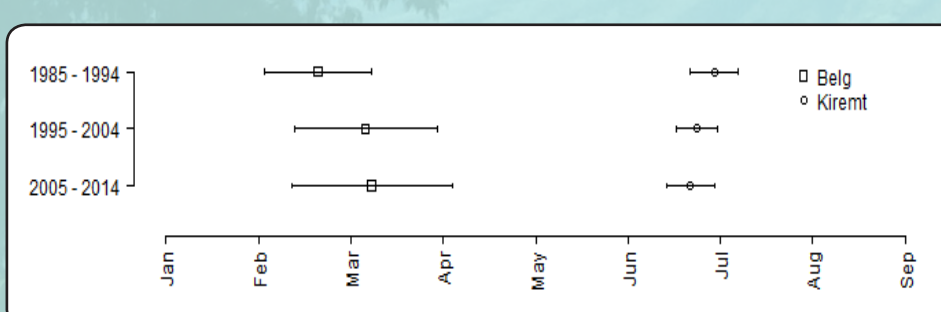
Our study contributes a systematic analysis of qualitative data which is drawn from numerous interviews with migrating and non-migrating farming households, local officials and regional experts. Six kebeles were chosen along an agro-ecological gradient ranging from lowlands to highlands. The six sites differ in terms of severity of land degradation, type of rainy season used for cropping, road connection and market availability. The altitude in the study area ranges from 1400 to 3700 masl and hence, encompasses three agro-ecological zones: Kola, Weyna Dega and Dega.

ENVIRONMENTAL STRESS AND THE IMPACT ON RURAL LIVELIHOODS IN SOUTH WOLLO

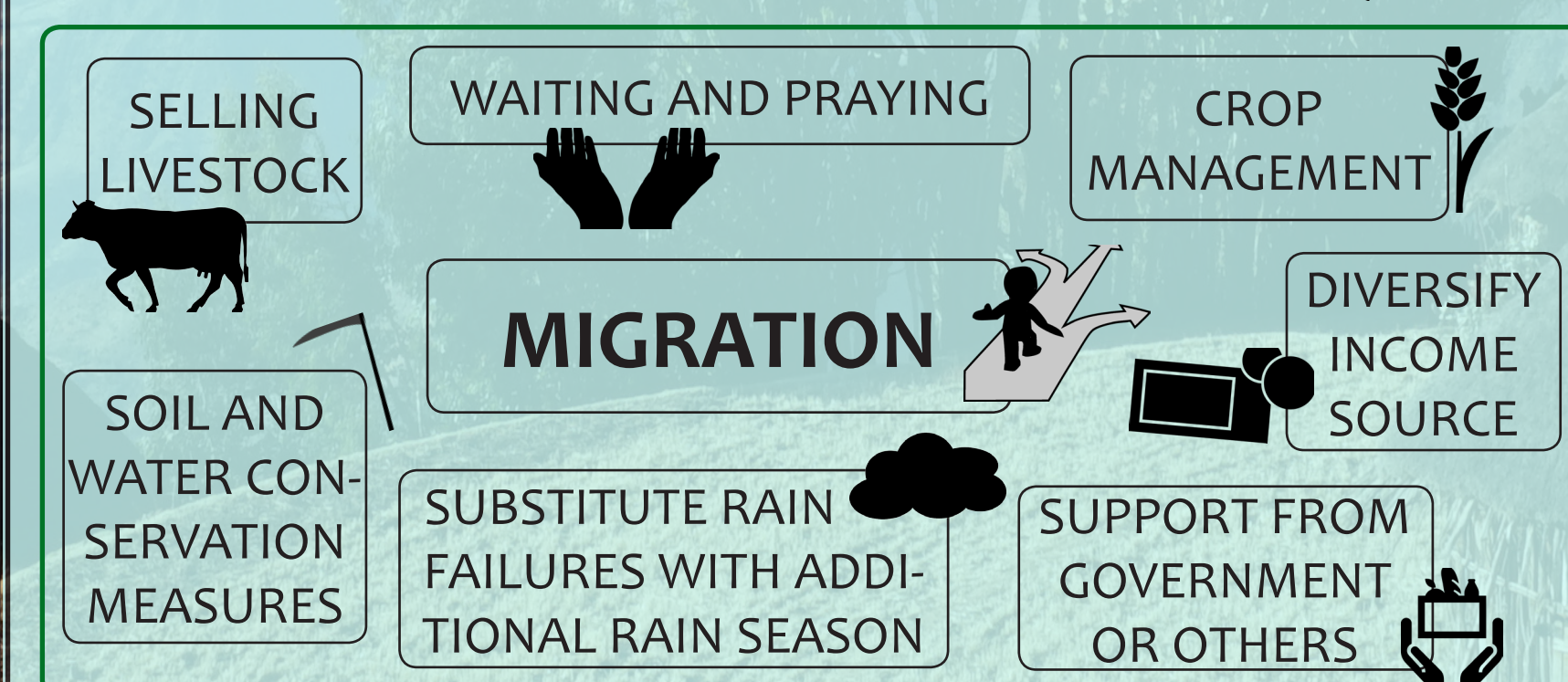
rainfall distribution (Dessie)



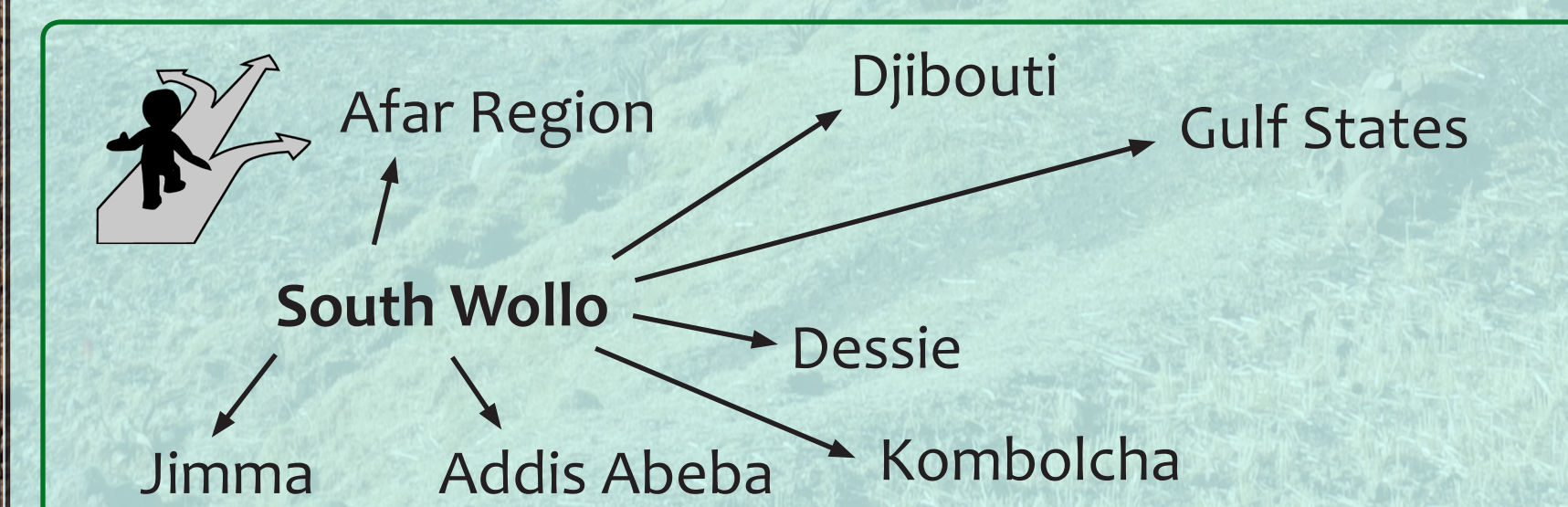
shift in belg and kiremt onset (Dessie)



STRATEGIES TO DEAL WITH ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE

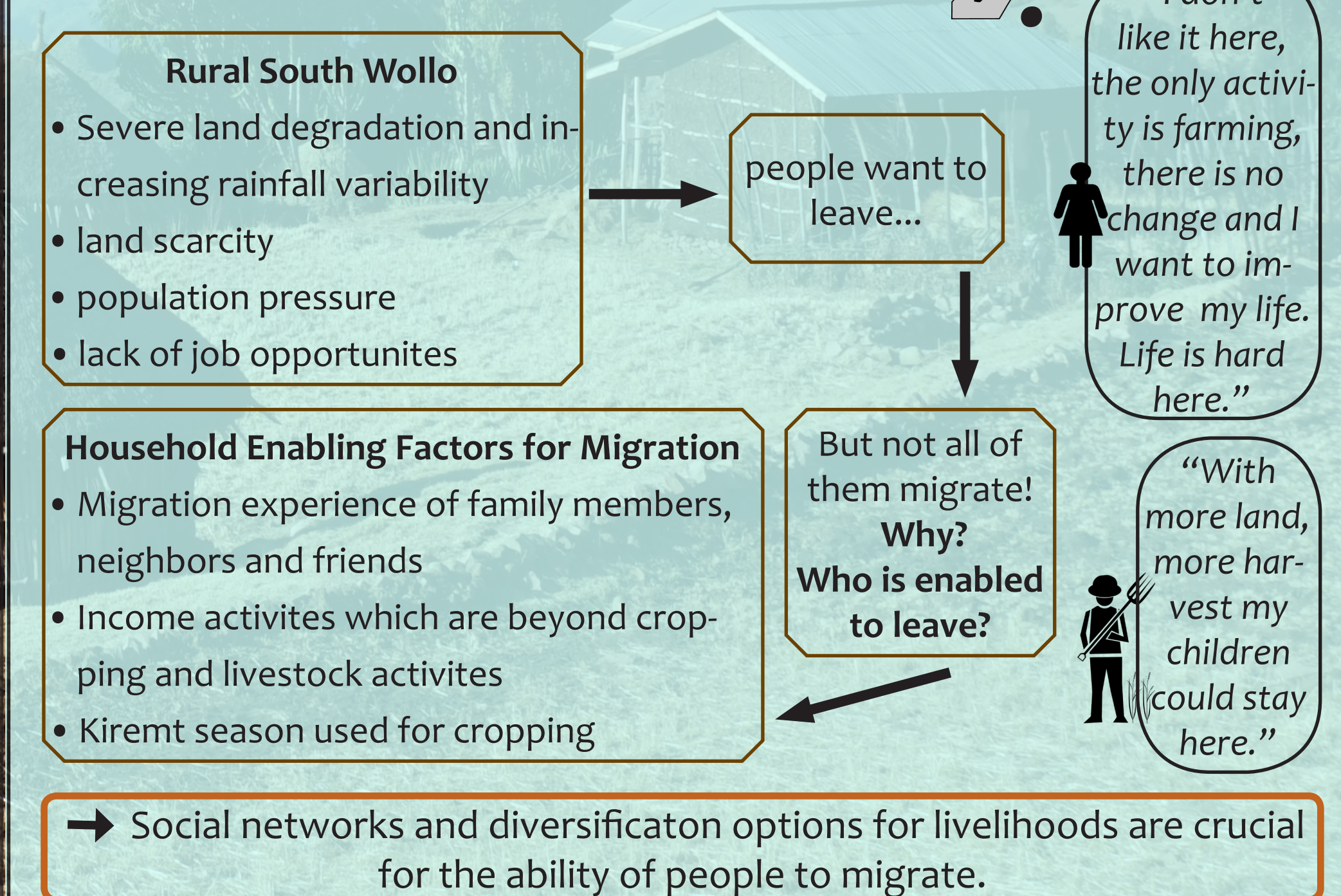


- migration takes place across all age, gender and wealth groups
- migration occurs to rural and urban destinations, temporary and permanently, as well as internal and external



→ Migration can be a response to environmental change and it is an important livelihood strategy.

MIGRATION IN SOUTH WOLLO



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MigSoKo project website
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