

Factors Affecting Adoption of Soybean Production Technologies in Ethiopia

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Abstract

Adoption of improved technologies is seen as a key driver to increase agricultural production and productivity in Ethiopia. However, farmers are still using lower than the recommended rates and yet there are a lot of farmers who are not using soybean production technologies at all. In this study, we analyze the factors affecting adoption and intensity of soybean production technologies adoption using a survey data collected from 188 randomly selected smallholder farmers in Tiro Afeta District, Ethiopia. The data were analyzed using descriptive statistics; econometric models and Kendall's Coefficient of Concordance (W) analysis were employed to analyze the data. The result from Heckman two step model indicated that education level of household, total livestock holding, improved seed availability, frequency of extension contact, credit use and farm income were positively and significantly influenced where as market distance negatively and significantly affected adoption of soybean production technologies. Also the, result indicated that age, land holding size, and farm income determine the intensity of soybean technologies adoption positively and significantly whereas distance from market affect negatively and significantly. Based on the findings of this study it can be concluded that policy and development interventions should give emphasis towards improvement of such economical and institutional support system so as to achieve wider adoption of soybean production technologies, to increase production and productivity as well as to ensure food security.

Keywords: Adoption, Intensity, Soybean, Technology

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1. INTRODUCTION

The world's population is expected to reach 9.1 billion by 2050; the production of food, mainly staple crops is expected to increase accordingly (IFC, 2013). This suggests that the dominant role of agriculture as the primary source of food and employment creation in the developing countries' economies should be stepped up. A study by Alexandratos and Bruinsma (2012) indicated that agricultural production needs an increase of 60% by 2050 to meet the world's consumption demand. Malnutrition and specific nutrient deficiencies are the leading underlying cause of immune deficiency, leading to infections and other diseases. Thus, diversification of food consumed with protein-rich legumes such as soybean is best solutions to protein-calorie malnutrition, particularly in developing countries (Burstin, et al., 2011).

Agriculture is a dominant sector of Ethiopian economy which makes a lion share contribution to the GDP, employment and foreign exchange earnings. It is still believed to remain a sector that plays an important role in stimulating the overall economic development of the country in the years to come. This would be realized if and only if strenuous efforts are made by the government and other concerned stakeholders including farmers to increase agricultural production and productivity (CSA, 2016). Ethiopian economy and employment are largely depending on agriculture sector. Its GDP reached 55 billion USD and per capita was 631 USD by the end of 2013/14. Agriculture, industry and services sectors contributed 40%, 14% and 46%, respectively to the GDP. Despite its declining contribution to GDP over the years, agriculture leading sector in the contribution to the country's overall economy. It is a major source of food, raw material for the domestic industries and commodities export (UNDP, 2016).

Soy bean is relatively new crop in Africa according to (Glycine max L., 2014). Till today, it was seen as being applicable only for large- scale commercial farming for production of seed that are used in making livestock feed. The major soybean producing countries in the world are the United States, Brazil, China, Nigeria, India, Argentina, South Africa and Uganda (IITA, 2009). It is the most important legume worldwide due to its versatile uses as a human food, animal feed and its role in soil amelioration. Soybean can grow in *Woina Dega* (middle highland) and *Kola* (low land) areas of the country. Depending on its varieties, the crop grows in an altitude ranging from 700-1800, rain fall 450-1500 mm. Day temperatures ranging from 23-25 °C are ideal for growing the crop. Potential areas for soybean are: Southern Nations Nationalities People region, Oromia region, Benshangul Gumuze region (Metekel, Kamashe and Asosa areas); Amahara and Tigray regions are expected to be more appropriate for soybean production (Miruts, 2016).

Soybean is a high value and profitable crop. The economic viability of soybean production is determined by the commercial utilization of both its sub-products, meal and oil, which, respectively, account for about two thirds and one third of the crop's economic value. Soya bean oil and meal is consumed worldwide as food and animal feedstuff respectively (FAO, 2015). Currently agricultural policy of Ethiopia gives high priority for increasing food production and decreasing malnutrition problems through the promotion of improved production technologies among smallholder farmer in the national extension package. In a similar sense, producing and consuming more soybeans improves the situation of food security as it can provide a nutritious combination of both calorie and protein. It is also cheap and rich source of protein for poor farmers, who have less access to animal source protein, because of their low purchasing capacity. Besides better nutritional status, the crop has a great significance in improving the status of soil nutrients and farming system when grown solely and in combination with cereal crops (CDI, 2010).

Soybean's productivity is low in Ethiopia. Its national average yield is low (1.998ton/ha) which is below the global average 2.31ton/ha (CSA, 2014). The low national yield could be attributed to various reasons. Some of these are related to low adoption of improved soybean production technologies; lack of improved varieties and poor cultural practice (Miruts, 2016). So far, many agricultural technologies have been developed and providing extension service to promote agricultural technologies adoption in the country. Despite such interventions, adoption of agricultural technologies in Ethiopia as a whole is quite poor (FAO, 2010), including Soybean adoption. For example, land improving technologies such as improved seed, fertilizer, improved agronomic practices and natural conservation measures are not widely adopted (Million, 2010).

Even though, a lot of studies have been conducted to explain the factors affecting adoption and intensity of adoption of soybean production technology in Ethiopia at different places and time by using different models, the currently available knowledge about the adoption and intensity of adoption of soybean production technology is not sufficient. This is due to the fact that, factors influencing adoption and intensity of adoption is different from place to place according to the findings of different authors. This indicates that there are different factors directly or indirectly influencing the adoption of technologies that believed to bring change in smallholder farmers' production and productivity. But, the reasons why farmers do not accept the recommended soybean production technologies are not yet well understood. The intensity of adoption of the recommended technologies among farmers has not been determined in the study area. Knowledge of the distribution of the technologies and the factors triggering the technologies is very important in order to make informed policy decisions (Jain et al. 2006). Therefore, this study aimed at analyzing the level to which the recommended soybean production technologies are adopted by farmers and assessing the factors influencing adoption of the recommended technologies in the study area since still now empirical study is not conducted on this problem.

2. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

2.1. Description of the Study Area

The study was conducted in Tiro Afeta District, Jimma zone, Oromia regional state, Ethiopia. The District is situated at a distance of 68km north east of Jimma town and 263km West of Addis Ababa. The administrative town of the District is called Dimtu. The District is consist of 23 rural and 2 urban kebeles and lies at an approximate altitude of 1432-2500m above sea level.

The district has total population of 130,554 of male 66,732 and female 63,822. The total number of households in the district is about 15,436 of which 14,574 are male headed and 862 are female headed. The economic base of the residents of the District is mixed farming, which the majority of the population depends for their livelihood. Individual smallholder farmers are the sole and dominant production unit. Farming is based on rain fed and is characterized by low productivity. Mixed farm (crop production and animal rearing) is a typical practice in the District. The major crops produced in the District are: maize, sorghum, *teff*, *nugi*, wheat, barley and others.

2.2. Sampling Method and Procedure

Two-stage sampling techniques were used to select sampled respondents. In the first, by considering soybean production uniformity in all kebeles of the district from the total of 23 rural kebeles, 3 kebeles were randomly selected. In the second stage, a list of all smallholder soybean farmers in the three kebeles were obtained and stratified into two adopter and non-adopter of soybean technologies and 188 smallholder farmers (97non-adopter and 91 adopter of soybean production technology) were randomly selected from total households of 2352 of the sampled kebeles in the district.

2.3. Data Type, Sources and Methods of Collection

Both quantitative and qualitative data were collected from primary and secondary sources. The primary data were collected through structured interview schedule, focus group discussion and key informant interview. The quantitative data were collected through structured questionnaire by trained enumerators from the sampled

respondents. For this data collection, eight enumerators and one supervisor were used. The questionnaire was pre-tested on 20 similar farmers with the sampled household, but who were not included in the final survey, for clarity, relevance and completeness. Finally the questionnaire was translated from English to Afaan Oromoo (local language of the study area) and implemented. In addition, primary data were collected from key informants including district administrative bodies, experts from agricultural offices and cooperative offices; as well as from three focus groups (one from each kebele), each consisting of 8 farmers. The secondary data were collected from published and unpublished materials.

2.4. Methods of Data analysis

In this study, both descriptive statistics and econometric model were used to analyze the data. Descriptive statistics was used to provide a summary statistics related to variables of interest and Chi-square test and t-test were used to identify variables that vary significantly between adopters and non-adopter.

2.4.1. Econometric analysis

In non-experimental data where samples are selected randomly after the population in the sampling frame made their own decisions to participate in a program or not (i.e., self-selected themselves to participate or not), one can't rule out self-selection bias of the program participants in the estimations to be made using these data. Thus, we use Heckman's selection model to control for the selection bias problem. According to Heckman (1979), sample selection bias may arise in practice for two reasons, first; there may be self selection by an individual or data units being investigated; second sample selection decision by analysts or data processors in much the same fashion as self selection. In this study due to the first reason we are enforced to use Heckman two stage models.

Some adoption studies in Ethiopia and East Africa used the Heckman's selection model to identify the probability and intensity of different agricultural technologies in different locations (Jaleta *et al.*, 2013; Yirga and Hasan, 2013; Atupokile, 2016).

Heckman's selection model follows two-steps estimation procedure where in the first stage, an 'adoption equation', attempts to capture factors affecting adoption decision and Inverse Mill's Ratio (IMR) is obtained. In the second stage, the intensity of adoption is estimated using the IMR as one of the explanatory variables to correct selection bias. The probability of adoption was modeled by Maximum Likelihood Probit, from which the inverse Mill's ratio was estimated. The specifications for Heckman's two-step models are as follows:

1. The adoption equation: The Probit model is specified as:

$$Y_i = \beta_i X_i + \varepsilon_i, \quad i = 1, 2, n \quad (1)$$

$$y_i^* = 1, \text{ if } y_i^* > 0 \text{ or } 0, \text{ if } y_i^* < 0$$

Where, y_i^* is the latent dependent variable which is not observed and Y_i is a binary variable that assumes 1 if household i , use improved soybean and 0 otherwise.

β_i is a vector of unknown parameters in adoption equation.

X_i is a vector of explanatory variables in the probit regression model.

ε_i is random error term that are assumed to be independently and normally distributed with zero mean and constant variance. λ_i , which is related to the conditional probability that an individual household was deciding to adopt (given a set of independent variables) is determined by the formula.

$$\lambda_i = \frac{f(X\beta)}{1 - F(X\beta)} \quad (2)$$

Where λ_i is Inverse Mill's Ratio (IMR), $f(X\beta)$ is the standard normal probability density function and $1 - F(X\beta)$ is the cumulative distribution function for a standard normal random variable. The value of X_i is not known, but the parameters (β) can be estimated using a probit model based on the observed binary outcome (Y_i). Then it was used in outcome equation to make consistency of the model.

2. Regression (OLS): Outcome model is specified as:

$$Y_i = \alpha_i Z_i + \mu \lambda_i + \eta_i \quad (3)$$

Where, Y_i is the intensity of soybean adoption technologies, α_i is a vector of unknown parameters to be estimated in the level of soybean adoption technologies equation, Z_i is a vector of explanatory variables determining the rate of soybean adoption, μ is the parameter that helps to test whether there is a self-selection bias in the adoption of soybean, λ_i is inverse mill ratio and η_i is the error term.

Before running the Heckman model all the hypothesized explanatory variables were checked for the existence of multi-co linearity problem. There are two measures that are often suggested to test the existence of multicollinearity. These are: Variance Inflation Factor (VIF) for association among the continuous explanatory variables and contingency coefficients (CC) for dummy variables. In this study, following Maddala (1992) and Gujarati (1995), variance inflation factor (VIF) and contingency coefficients (CC) were used to test multicollinearity problem for continuous and for dummy variables respectively.

Table 1: Hypothesized variables

Dependent variable

Variables	Type/Unit	Description
Use/Adoption	Dummy	Status of use/adoption; 1 user & 0 otherwise
Intensity of use	Adoption index	Extent of adoption of soybean production technology component

Table 1: Summary of independent variables, their definition and expected sign

Definition of variables	Nature of the variables	Unit of measurements	Expected sign
Age of the household head	Continuous	Number of years	-
Sex of the household head	Dummy	1 if the household head is male and 0 otherwise	+
Education level of household head	Continuous	Grade attended	+
Family size	Continuous	Measured in adult equivalent	+
Perception of farmers/hh	Dummy	1 if perceived as a technology has positive attributes; 0 otherwise.	+
Land holding	Continuous	Hectare	-
Number of livestock	Continuous	Number of livestock in TLU	+
Frequency of Contacts with extension agents	Continuous	Number	+
Participation in soybean field days	Dummy	1 if participated in soybean field day and 0 otherwise	+
Distance to the main market	Continuous	Kilometer	-
Credit use	Dummy	1, if yes; 0, otherwise	+
Membership in cooperative societies	Dummy	1 if member and 0 otherwise	+
Off farm Income	Continuous	ETB	+
Farm income	Continuous	ETB	+
Availability of improved soybean	Dummy variable	1, if available, 0, Otherwise	+

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

3.1. Descriptive Analysis

Table 2 presents the results of descriptive statistics and compares the soybean production technologies users and non-users based on different factors. Accordingly, about 83.5% of the sample households are male headed. More than 76.28% and 91.2% of female and male headed households respectively are soybean technology adopters.

The overall average age and education of the sampled respondents were 44.97 and 2.95 years respectively. There is no statistically significant mean difference among adopters (43.67 years) and non-adopters (45.71 years) where as adopters are more educated (4.64 years) than non-adopter (1.37 years). The average family size is 5.395 in adult which is equally for adopter and for non-adopter.

The average farm size and livestock holding of sampled respondents were 2.87ha and 6.75 TLU respectively. Non-adopter and adopter holds almost equal farm size which is 2.88 and 2.85 hectares respectively. On the other hand, adopters hold larger livestock (7.75 TLU) than non-adopter (5.80 TLU).

The average annual farm incomes and off-farm income were 7511.72 EB and 665.00 ETB (Ethiopian Birr) per household respectively. The mean farm income was larger for adopters (9649.8 EB) than that of non-adopters (5505.8 EB). Likewise, the average off-farm income was also larger for adopters (865.99 ETB) than for non-user (665.00 ETB). The average frequency of extension agent's contact with sample respondent was 2.175 days per month during production season. Users contact extension agents more frequently (3.09 days per month) than non-users who contact for only 1.32 days per month. On average, a household walks 5.32 km and non-adopter walk 6.08 km while adopters were travel 4.51 km which is less than non-adopters

Table2 in annex Households' socio-economic characteristics (for continuous explanatory variables)

Variables	Non-adopter(97)		Adopter(91)		T-value	Total sample(188)	
	Mean	Std.D	Mean	Std.D		Mean	Std.D
Age of household	43.67	6.30	45.71	6.46	-1.198	44.72	6.45
Education level	4.63	2.66	1.37	2.09	9.37***	2.95	2.89
Adult equivalent	5.23	1.47	5.35	1.61	-0.55	5.29	1.54
Total land size holding	2.88	1.45	2.85	1.43	-0.143	2.87	1.44
Livestock holding	5.8	2.97	7.75	4.22	3.66*	6.74	3.75
Off-farm income	665.00	2154.02	865.99	2569.4	-0.583	762.29	2359.9
Contact with extension	1.32	1.33	3.08	2.00	7.15***	2.17	1.9
Distance from market	6.08	2.02021	4.51	1.5	6.04***	5.32	1.94
Farm income	5505.8	5730.02	9649.8	5829.5	4.914***	7511.72	6125.6

*** & *significant at 1% & 10% respectively

In table 3 from non-user (57.73%) and user (6.6%) of sampled farmers had perceived that the negative whereas from non-user (42.27%) and (93.4%) of users among the sampled farmers had perceived that the cost of production was high. Hence, a chi-square (χ^2) analysis indicated that there was statistically significant difference in perception on cost of production among adopters and non-adopters at 1% level.

From non-adopter 77% and adopter 29.67% were response that improved soybean seed is not available where as non-adopter 23% and adopter 70.33% were response that improved soybean seed is available. Hence, a chi-square (χ^2) analysis indicated that there was statistically significant difference at among users and non-users 1% level. From non-adopters 38.47% and 45% were a member of cooperative society whereas 61.53% of non-adopter and 55% of adopter were not a member of cooperative society.

From non-adopter 47.25% and adopter 16.5% were response that has not participated in field day where as from non-adopter 52.75% and from adopter 83.5% were responses that participate in field day. Hence, a chi-square (χ^2) analysis indicated that there was statistically significant difference in perception on perception to ward soybean production technology among adopter and non-adopter at 1% level. From non-adopters 67% and adopters 57.73% were non-users of credit whereas 33% of no-adopter and 42.27% of adopters were users of credit.

Table3: Household socio economic character (for dummy variable)

Variable		Non-adopter		Adopter		X ² - Value	Total sample	
		N	%	N	%		N	%
Household perception to ward soybean	Negative	56	57.73	6	6.7	55.55***	62	33
	positive	41	42.27	85	93.4		126	67
Improved soybean seed availability	No	70	77	27	29.67	33.95***	97	51.6
	Yes	27	23	64	70.33		91	48.4
Member of cooperative society	No	56	61.53	50	55	0.15	106	56.4
	Yes	41	38.47	41	45		82	43.6
Household participation in field day	No	43	47.25	16	16.5	15.599***	59	31.4
	Yes	54	52.75	75	83.5		129	68.6
Credit use	No	36	33	35	42.27	0.036	71	37.8
	Yes	61	67	56	57.73		117	62.2

***significant at 1%

3.2 Econometric Model Results

3.2.1 Determinants of soybean production technologies adoption decision

Table 4 presents the output of Hackman selection model for the factors affecting household's soybean production technology. The result indicated that seven variables affect the probability of soybean production technology.

Education level of household head was found to positively and significantly influence the probability of adoption of soybean production technologies at 1% ($P < 0.001$) level of significance. The result indicates that, the increase in the number of years of formal schooling of the head of a household by one more schooling year would lead to increases the probability of soybean production technologies adopt in soybean production by 18.91%. This implies that, having education level of smallholder soybean production farmers will improve the ability to use information, process and interpret information concerning agricultural technology. The result of this study was consistent with the finding by Eba and Bashargo (2014), Afework and Lemma (2015), Sisay (2016) and Abebe (2017) who stated that adoption of agricultural technology was positively associated with level of farmers' education.

Livestock holding was found to be statistically significant variable at 5% ($P < 0.015$) level. The result implies that, the increase in livestock holding (in tropical livestock unit) of the head of household by one more TLU would lead to the increases in the probability of soybean technology adoption in soybean production by 11.95%. This implies that, as livestock value increases the income of the smallholder maize farmers increases which leads to

increases the purchasing power of soybean production technology of the smallholder soybean farmer. This study was consistent with the research findings by Ketema and Bauer (2011), Yirga and Hassan (2013). Their results suggested that improving herd size (e.g. improving access to veterinary service) will have positive impact on raising adoption and expected use of soybean production technology.

Improved seed availability was found to be statistically significant variable at 10% ($P < 0.068$) level. The result of the study indicated that, being improved seed availability of the head of household would lead to an increase in the probability of soybean production technology in soybean production by 80%. From this result, it can be stated that those farmers who have obtained improved soybean seed are more probability of soybean production technology in soybean production than those not obtain improved soybean seed on time and closest place. In similar result was gained by Adunea (2016) shows provision of improved wheat seed to farmers in required quantity and at the right time increases the probability of adoption of wheat row planting and the intensity of use of wheat row planting technology.

Frequency of contact with extension agent found to be statistically significant at 1% ($P < 0.004$) level in affecting the adoption of soybean production technology. The result of the study revealed that, the increase in the frequency of extension agent contact with the head of household by one more day per month would lead to the increase in the probability soybean production technology adoption in soybean production by 27.57%. This result implies that frequency of contact with extension agent was enhanced the exposures of farmers on adoption practices, increases the probability of acquiring updated information on the new agricultural technologies. This study was consistent with research finding carried out by (Dereje et al., 2016). On the basis using the analytical method to analysis extension as a determinant in adoption of soybean production technology was proven to have positive and significant impact.

Distance from market was found to be statistically significant at 1% ($P < 0.000$) level in affecting the adoption of soybean production technology. The result of the study indicated that, the increase in the distance from market of household by one more kilometer would lead to the decrease in the probability adoption of soybean production technology by 35.99%. The result implies that since the farmer is far from market cannot obtain enough information about price, quality and have transportation problem. This is in line with previous studies by Debelo (2015), Sisay (2016) and Musba (2017), who found that distance to nearest market influence adoption of new technology negatively.

Use of credit was found to be statistically significant at 10% ($P < 0.060$) level in affecting the adoption of soybean production technologies. The result of the study indicated that, being user of input credit of the head of household would lead to an increase in the probability of soybean production technology adoption in soybean production by 56.3%. From this result, it can be stated that those farmers who have use formal credit are more probability of soybean production technology adoption in soybean production than those not using formal credit. The result also indicated that credit is very helpful in relieving capital constraints faced by smallholder soybean farmers for adopting soybean production technology and other purchased input. The study is consistent with the findings of Mekuria (2013).

Farm income was found to be positively and statistically significant at 1% ($P < 0.005$) level in influencing on the adoption of soybean production technology. Accordingly, as farm income of the head of household increase by one ETB would lead to the increase in the probability of soybean production technology in soybean production by 0.001%. The result of the study implies that, smallholder farmers who got income from their annual agricultural production could invest his/her proportion of income to buy soybean improved seed as well as purchasing other agricultural inputs. Moreover, smallholder farmers with higher annual farm income tend to adopt soybean production technologies. The result is in line with the result found by Mesfin (2017) and Musba (2017), who state that probability of technology adoption and improved varieties of soybean are positively and significantly related.

Table4: Parameter estimates of Heckman's two steps for the likelihood of soybean production technology adoption (Probit estimation) and its marginal effect.

Variables	Coef.	Std. Err.	T-ratio	Marginal effect
Age of household head	-0.025	0.0173	1.40	-0.024
Sex of household head	0.638	0.409	1.56	0.638
Adult equivalent labor	0.143	0.102	1.40	0.143
Education level of household head	0.189	0.057	3.31***	0.189
Livestock holding	0.119	0.049	2.43**	0.119
Total land holding size	0.0598	0.085	0.70	0.0598
Perception of household head on soy bean	0.611	0.485	1.26	0.611
Improved seed availability	0.800	0.438	1.83 *	0.800
Frequency of contact with extension agent	0.276	0.097	2.86 ***	0.276
Off-farm income	-0.0001	0.0001	-1.50	-0.0001
Distance from market	-0.36	0.086	-4.19	-0.36
Member of cooperative society	0.045	0.30	0.15	0.045
Household field day participation	-0.220	0.50	0.44	-0.220
Use of credit	0.563	0.302	1.86 *	0.563
Farm income	0.0001	0.00003	2.80 ***	0.0001
Constant	-1.202	1.092	-1.10	-1.202

Number of obs = 188 Wald chi2 (14) = 27.98 Prob>chi2 = 0.0000

***, ** and* shows the values of statistically significant at 1%, 5% and 10 probability level of significance respectively.

3.2.2. Determinants of intensity of Soybean production technologies adoption

The parameter estimates of Heckman's two step models for intensity of soybean production technology are given in Table 5. The results show that five variables are found to be significant determinants of intensity of soybean production technology adoption by households.

Inverse mill ratio (LAMBDA):According to the model output inverse mill ratio (Lambda) for the intensity of soybean production technology was significant, indicating that selection bias would have been resulted if the intensity of soybean production technology had been calculated without taking into account the decision to adopt soybean production technology. That is selection effects become important, the Inverse mill ratio is significant at 5% ($P < 0.010$) level. Hence, this justifies the use of heckman's two-step procedure. The negative sign suggested that the error terms in the adoption equation and intensity of adoptions are negatively correlated. This shown that those unobserved factors that determine household adoption of soybean production technologies are likely to be negatively associated with household intensity of soybean production technology adoption.

Age of household head was found to be statistically significant in affecting adoption of soybean production technologies at 10% ($p < 0.058$) level. The result of the study indicates that, the increase in the age of household head by one more year would leads to the increase in the intensity of soybean production technology adoption by 0.005units. This might be related to the reason that older farmers might gain knowledge and learnt though out their long life experience. Moreover, older farmers may accumulate more wealth than younger and so older ones may still be intensive in soybean production technology adoption even as they grow older and again the implication is that the increase in farmer's age increases farmers' experience in farming and understanding more the benefits of the technology. Studies by Fitsum (2016), Sisay (2016) and Abebe (2017) also obtained a similar result in their studies.

Total land size holding was found to be statistically significant at 1% ($p < 0.008$) level. The result of the study indicates that, the increase in the total land size holding of household head by one more hectare would leads to the increase in the intensity of soybean production technology adoption in soybean production by 0.044units.This result implies that having large farm size enhances the adoption of agricultural new technology at recommended rate. The result found study consistence with the study of Akubuilu (2013), Mohammed and Lakew (2013), Miruts (2016).

Distance from market was found to be statistically significant at 10% ($P < 0.065$) level in affecting the intensity of adoption of soybean production technology. The result of the study indicated that, the increase in the distance from market of household by one more kilometer would lead to the decrease in the intensity of soybean production technology adoption by 0.04 units. The result implies that since the farmer is far from market cannot obtain enough information about price, quality and transportation problem. The result of the study was similar with result of Adunea (2017) increase in distance (km) from the household residency to the nearest market will decrease the intensity of use of wheat row planting in his study.

Farm income was found to be statistically significant at 1% ($P < 0.005$) level in influencing on the intensity of adoption of soybean production technology. As farm income of the head of household increase by one ETB would lead to the increase in the intensity of soybean production technology by units. The result of the study

implies that, smallholder soybean farmers with higher annual farm income tend to adopt soybean production technologies. The study was in line with the result found by Mesfin (2017) on chickpea technologies of adoption intensity positively and significantly and Musba (2017) positively significant on intensity of adoption of soybean improved varieties.

Table5: Parameter estimates of Heckman’s two steps intensity of soybean production technology adoption (OLS estimation).

Variables	Coef.	Std. Err.	T-ratio
Age of household head	0.005	0.003	1.90*
Sex of household head	0.076	0 .087	0.87
Adult equivalent labor	-0.007	0.0175	-0.40
Education level of household head	0.00023	0.0114	0.02
Livestock holding	-0.01	0.008	-1.25
Land size holding	0.0445	0.017	2.66 ***
Perception of household head toward soy bean	0.027	0 .076	0.35
Frequency of contact with extension agent	0.0002	0.015	0. 0.01
Off-farm income	4.10e-06	0.00001	0.38
Distance from market	-0.0386	0.021	1.85*
Member of cooperative society	0.058	0.066	0.88
Household field day participation	0.0142	0.077	0.18
Use of input credit	0.037	0 .0596	0.62
Farm income	.00001	5.01e-06	2.48**
Inverse mill ratio (Lambda)	-0.246	0.095	2.59**
Constant	-0.0566	0.22	-0.26

Number of obs = 188 (regression model with sample selection) Censored obs = 97

Uncensored obs = 91 Wald chi2(14) = 27.98 Prob> chi2 = 0.0000

***, ** and * show the values of statistically significant at 1%, 5% and 10% probability level of significance respectively.

3.3. Constraints Associated with adoption of soybean production technologies

Table 6 present the result of the Kendall’s coefficient of concordance. The coefficient of concordance calculated was 0.670 (67%). The value indicates the degree of agreement in general to the rankings of the constraints. Therefore, the main constraints put into the following categories based on the identification and rankings by the sampled respondents.

High cost of fertilizer, Lack of credit for input use, High interest rate on the credit, Poor quality of soybean seed, Lack of uniform rain fall distribution, Lack of knowledge on soybean technology use and lack of oxen and poor transportation facilities were ranked from 1 to 8th respectively by sampled respondents. In general, the result of this study was consistent with research finding by (Tirfu, 2011; Basha, 2016; Joseph, 2016).

Table 6: Rankings of constrains of adoption and intensity of soybean production technologies adoption by respondents

Constraints	Mean Rank	Overall rank
High cost of inorganic fertilizer	1.68	1 st
Lack of credit for input	2.27	2 nd
High interest rate on credit	3.72	3 rd
Poor quality of soybean seed	4.10	4 th
Rain fall fluctuation	4.35	5 th
Lack of knowledge on soybean production technologies	6.09	6 th
Lack of oxen	6.47	7 th
Poor transportation system	7.33	8 th

Note: Kendall’s W=0.670, M=188, n=8, $\chi^2 = 885.285$, Asympt.sign=0.000, df=7

4. Conclusions and Policy Implications

Result of descriptive analysis indicated that a total of 51.6% of respondents have adopted the soybean production technologies where 48.40% were non-adopters. The level of soybean production technologies adoption of the sample respondents were indicated that 18.08%, 17.02% and 13.3% were classified in to low, medium and high rate adopters respectively.

Result from the Heckman two-step model indicated that education of level of house hold , total livestock holding, improved seed availability, frequency of extension contact, credit use , farm income positively and significantly influence adoption were as market distance do negatively and significantly affect soybean production

technologies adoption. On the other hand, Age, land holding size, and farm income determine adoption intensity of soybean technologies positively and significantly whereas distance from market affect negatively and significantly. The constraints of adoption and intensity of soybean production technologies were also identified and ranked by the respondents in the study area and there are serious constraints. Hence, concerted efforts should be made to promote the adoption soybean production technologies at recommended rate in soybean production to enhance soybean productivity and profit through overcoming the factors and constraints. These require strengthening the institutional support provided to this sector, such as credit service, cooperative union, research and extension service.

Education level of household plays an enormous role in disseminating technologies such as improved soybean seed and other agricultural inputs. Moreover, education is enabling the farmers to capture information in order to disseminate technologies. It is, therefore, necessary to encourage participation of farmers in basic educational opportunity for enhancing application of soybean production technology and other agricultural technologies.

Adoptions of soybean production technologies are still lagging behind the recommended rates for soybean production. Therefore, farmers should be encouraged to increase use levels of these soybean production technology application in order to optimize crop productivity. Furthermore, the study revealed the importance of taking in to account extension agent contact while advising and delivering soybean production technologies to farmers in various soybean producing districts. This can further maximize the benefit obtained from the application of such soybean production technology. Furthermore, it is necessary to strengthen farmers training centers for enabling them to properly demonstrate technologies and at the same time to capacitate farmers on technology utilization by offering training.

Declaration

Ethics approval and consent to participate

We hereby declare that this thesis represents our own work which has been done after we are identified the problem, and has not been previously included in a studies conducted in the area.

We have read the current research ethics guidelines, and accept responsibility for the conduct of the procedures in accordance with the research. We have attempted to identify all the risks related to this research that may arise in conducting this research, obtained the relevant ethical and safety approval, and acknowledged our obligations and the rights of the participants. Thesis in whole or in part when in his or her judgment the proposed use of the material is in the interest of scholarship, permission must be obtained from the author of the Thesis.

Consent for publication

“Not applicable” in this section.

Availability of data and materials

The data used for this article is currently not available publicly but could be made available upon request, with permission from the project team leaders.

Competing interests

The author(s) declare that they have no competing interests.

Author’s contributions

The research idea was originally conceived by BT. The authors searched for the existing literature together. They equally contributed together in estimating the empirical models and analyzing the econometric results and also, descriptive. They also discussed the results and contributed to the final manuscript. Both authors read and approved the final manuscript. Any remaining errors are our own.

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