

# Effects of Integrated Soil Fertility Management on Sustainable Crop Production

Hintsu Meresa Zelalem Mengistu Misene Bisetegn  
Collage of Agriculture, Department of Plant science, Wollo University, Dessie, Ethiopia.P. o. Box 1145

## Abstract

Maintenance of soil fertility at the economically optimal level with appropriate source of fertilizers combination is essential for sustainable crop production. Hence, different soil fertility amendment options have been done with different fertilizers sources. Application of biogas and NP fertilizer rate were among the amendment practices considered for both sole and inter cropping system. Application of biogas slurry significantly increased mean grain yield of maize. Sole application of biogas slurry at higher rate improved soil structure, maintained and increased the nutrient reserves of the soil. Grain yield of maize-haricot been inter cropping system were significantly increased with application of each and integrated use of NP fertilizers and farm yard manure. Integrated application had a significant change in ameliorating soil fertility. Interaction of N-P and FYM fertilizers significantly increased grain yield components of the crops. Higher grain yields of maize and climbing bean were obtained from sole cropping compared to inter cropping. Integrated use of N-P and farm yard manure fertilizers was offer sustainable production of maize climbing bean inter cropping system. Higher mean grain yield of fababean and field pea were from none rhizobium strain treated compared to the treated one indicating presence effective strains in soils of the area both legumes produces for many years.

**Keywords:** Biogas slurry, NP fertilizer, FYM.

## 1.INTRODUCTION

Agriculture is the backbone of Ethiopian economy, about 85% of the economically active population lives in rural areas and engaged in agriculture. Soil fertility decline is the main issue in African agriculture in general and in Ethiopia in particular. In Ethiopia, large number of population is hardly satisfied by reliable production, instead a decline in their crop yield is letting them to suffer from poverty and malnutrition. Studies indicated that in some parts of Ethiopia farmer suffer from lack of what to eat particularly in months starting from June up to September (Abera, 2003). Farmers in most parts of the country actually work hard, in seasons of the year when the rainfall is favourable for their cropping-

There are a number of researches done by different stakeholders to address the problems of soil fertility, but most of these concentrate on application of different types of mineral fertilizers and pesticides for which the farmer is very far away to afford them. Irrespective of the different local research studies in Ethiopia until now the fertilizer application undertaken by farmers is based on a national level forwarded by the government. It is based on some general soil studies, for immediate solution of production problems of the country; and this national fertilizer recommendation is known as the blanket recommendation, but it is now found to be antiquated practice that cannot address the existing condition of the farmers. If scholars have to do a research to address the problems of the farming community, it should be in collaboration/participation of the farmer himself, in the manner that he/she is able to analyse the problem and understand the solutions given on his farm by interpreting to his own standard.

The blunder with this agricultural problem is very intricate in nature, the complexity arises from various condition of the country such as the agro-climate, topography of the lands, the soil types and socioeconomic status of the farming community and the combination of these; the overall effect of which is finally reflected by soil fertility decline and reduction in yield of crops. In the expansion process of the agriculture, farmers deforest the existing forest lands and bring a new form of land use and on their agricultural land they almost take no organic matter management. Besides, livestock productions on unprotected land lead to overgrazing process and bare the land of grasses.

Soil is a thin layer that covers a land surface. It is used as medium for plant growth. Soil fertility is the capacity of the soil to support plants life. Soil fertility is the status of the soil with respects to its ability to supply essential elements for the growth without toxic concentration of any elements. Thus soil fertility focus on the adequate and balanced supply of nutrients to satisfy the needs of the plants. Because plants are evolved in different climates and on different soils which have different needs for essential nutrients and had different tolerance of the toxic elements (Henry D. and Boyd G. ELLI1997).

Declining of soil fertility is a fundamental problem to agricultural growth and a major reason for slow growth of food production. Most of the soils in Northern Ethiopia are low in soil OM, CEC, and fertility. This low level of soil OM combined with poor land cover have resulted in poor soil structure, limited rooting depth and susceptibility to accelerated erosion (Wakene, 2001).

According to Mugwari and Curwari (1998), to overcome this problem, integrated soil fertility

management is an important technology. Integrated soil fertility management (ISFM) is the technology that combines a mix of organic and inorganic materials (fertilizers) used with closer attention to timing and placing of the inputs to maximize nutrient use efficiency of the soil. This technology also used to reduce the dependence on commercial fertilizer and there is a different locally available organic fertilizer as alternative sources. To date different research result indicates the advantages on integrating different fertilizer source for crop production. The concept of ISFM is more recent and needs to be more research and information generated on the optimal combined use of mineral fertilizers and various techniques to increase soil OM.

The need for both organic and inorganic mineral inputs was advocated because:-

Both resources fulfill different functions to maintain the plant growth. In urban most small scale farming conditions neither of them is available or affordable in sufficient quantities to be applied alone. So ISFM or integrated uses of chemical and organic fertilizers are required to supply and maintain the better soil fertility for sustainable crop production on a given soil. Mugwari and Mukwari (1998) reported that the uses of organic fertilizers are more beneficial when combined with commercial fertilizers.

Hence, the objective of this paper is to review and compile findings related to the importance of integrated soil fertility management and revise the limitations of using sole organic or inorganic fertilizer.

## **2. LITRATURE REVIEW**

### **2.1. SOIL FERTILITY STATUS OF ETHIOPIAN SOILS**

In the different regions of Ethiopia there exist various topographic, climatic or Agro-climatic and soil conditions. And these varying conditions together with socioeconomic status of the society, creates various factors that cause soil fertility loss with varying degrees. Therefore, the soil fertility status of Ethiopia cannot simply be generalized, because there are different local soil fertility statuses which may range from fertile soil to highly infertile soil. But in general the soils of most sub-Saharan Africa particularly the east African soil are generalized as infertile with "Orthodoxy", Orthodoxy is to mean that infertility of the soil in this region is an apparent phenomenon, which does not need any proof. "The existence, the extent and causes of soil fertility problem are accepted without question" (Taye and Yifru, 2010).

### **2.2 Types of fertilizers used in integrated soil fertility management**

The highest and sustainable gains in crop productivity per unit nutrients are achieved from two types of fertilizers used for integrated soil fertility management. These are organic fertilizer and inorganic or commercial (chemical fertilizers).

These two types of fertilizers are more important as it is used by mixture rather than using them individually to plant nutrient requirements, to increase the productivity of the soil, to cover the land by the available economy of the farmer, to maintain soil fertility status and its production capacity, and to improve the soil physical condition, chemical properties of the soil and biological activity or condition of the soil (Nlle C.N Brady, 2002).

#### **2.2.1. Organic Fertilizers (inputs).**

Organic fertilizers are nutrients sources that can be used in organic terming that are organic from chemical stand point as G.W. Cooke (1975). Explain that organic fertilizers are produced from locally available materials. These nutrients are released much more slowly than synthetically produced or chemical fertilizers. So to make nutrients available to plants, first the organic matter must be broken down by micro organism working in the soil and converted in to a water soluble form that plants are able to absorb. This process happens gradually so that there is less chance of gardeners causing damage to planets through over fertilizing of organic fertilizers.

##### **a. Importance of organic fertilizer**

An organic fertilizer provides essential elements and improves soil structures.

Organic matter helps to breakdown heavy clay soil to improves air circulation and drainage capacity of the soil. It also increase the capacity of sand soil to retain water and make easier for roots of the plant to reach the moisture and to absorb the nutrients in the soil. It provides nutrient release over an extended period of time; in particular N can be minerized over a season to eliminate the needs for repeated application (Daniel Hillel 2005).

An organic matter depletion of the soils is a wide spread problem in Ethiopia, investigation made by MARC (2007) as cited by Zelleke et al. (2010) indicates that soils of the different areas can be rated as low concerning their organic matter and total nitrogen content.

##### **b. Sources of organic materials**

###### **A Compost**

Compost is rotting down of plant or animal residue (remains) in heap or pits before the residue is applied to the soil. In the preparation of the compost, the rate of decomposition is controlled by the aeration condition and water contents of the pits. If it is too dry too compacted or too water logged little decomposition takes place and if it is kept moist and olden the rate of decomposition is at its maximum (E.W Russel, 1973).

#### i) Effects of compost on soil

The application of compost to the soil initiates a series of physical, chemical and biological transformation that affects both soil properties and processes.

##### i.i) Physical effects

Compost changes several critical soil physical functions including water holding capacity and transport gas's exchanges and transfer. At the soil surface compost provides a barrier to a rain drop impact reduce surface sealing and allowing rapid infiltration of rainfall or irrigation water. This factor can delay the on set of run off. Deeper in the soil profile the structural effects of the compost particles typically increases both soil porosity and permeability enhancing gas transfer as well as saturated water flow.

According to Daniel Hillel (2005). Organic matter (compound) introduced with the compost to the soil and produced by the subsequent biological activity work to promote soil aggregation and enhance aggregate stability. These soils aggregates as well as compost it self increase water holding capacity which can improve irrigation efficiency and mitigates drought stress.

##### i.ii) Chemical effects

As Mycle C.Brady(2002) stated that when compost is incorporated in soil there are immediate calculable changes in the concentrations of nutrients trace metals and other chemical compounds that result from the application rate and composition of two materials. Compost contains more amount of carbon so carbon is the dominant element in composts primarily occurring as the structural back bone of organic bimolecular. This bimolecular have open ion exchange sites that can react with other compounds in the soil system increasing the overall CEC and chelating minerals and heavy metals in the soil. Some compounds also includes significant amount of mineral carbonates either from feed stock or accidentally blended in from the surface of compost pads.

Both carbonates and organic carbon in the compost can changes the soil pH. Carbonate raises pH value of the soil through their affinity of hydrogen ions while organic carbon lends to buffer the system some where near neutral (Nyle C.Brady and Ray R.Well 2002).

##### i.iii) Biological effects

Organic carbon added to the soil through compost provides a major energy resource for biological activity and growths while the added nutrients and mineral cycle through both micro organisms and plants. In addition to increasing over all microbial activity compost also increases the activity of specific enzymes the amount of active microbial biomass and the over all diversity of microbial ecology in the soil system (Daniel Hillel, 2005)

#### **B. Green manure**

In agriculture a green manure is a type of cover crop grown primarily to add nutrients and organic matter to the soil typical a green manure crop is grown for specific period of time and then ploughed under and in corporate in the soil shale green or shortly after flousering green manure crops are commonly associated with organic and are considered essential for annual cropping system that wish to be sustainable. Traditionally the practice of the green manuring can be traced back to follow the cycle of crop rotation which was used to allow soils to recover.

Organic relies on soil health and cycling of nutrients through the soil using natural processes. Green manures perform the vital function of fertilization in concert which there are a variety of beneficial aspects of the use of green manure there are also limitation to consider. Another function contribute of green manure to agricultural fields the nitrogen riding ability and consequent nitrogen accumulation in the soil with green manure use the amount of nitrogen that is available to the succeeding crop is usually in the range 40-60% of the total amount of nitrogen that is counted with the green manure crops. The amount of humus found in the soil also increase with higher rates of the decomposition. It also come from a shade plant or tree whose cuttings or taller leaves are suitable to plopping into the soil (E.W. Russel 1973). Effects /importance) of green manure

#### **Effects of green manure**

##### a. Nitrogen addition

One important reason for using green manure legume crop is that they supply additional N. depending on the yield and N content. When the non legume plant is lured under, only N from the soil or that supplied in fertilizer is returned (used) for the crop (Neely et al., 1987). As Neely et al (1987) stated, one of the benefits attributed from the use of green manure is organic matter (OM)

##### b. Protection of the soil against erosion

Protection against erosion is one of the most important advantages of using green manure. As green manure is applied to the soil, it will increase. In addition, the practice of green manure improves the soil structure, increase the ability of the soil to retain water, protect the soil from dehydration and temperature fluctuation (Nyle B Brady and Rayr well 1999).

##### C. Animal manure

Described that animal manure is animals excrement usually mixed with straw or leaves. The amount and quality of this excrement depends on the animal minimal reeds. Methods for handling and Storing animal manure will affect its nutrient contents previously the common method of disposal was to collect the manure plus bedding and spread it on the fields liquid waste systems have since been developed in which manure is diluted with water

stored.

Table 1. Annual raw manure production per 1,000 lb animal manure weight

Animal type	Manure Tons/yr	Percent Solids	Nutrient Content		
			N	P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	K <sub>2</sub> O
Dairy	15.9	12.7	10.0	4.1	7.9
Beef	11.5	11.6	13.3	8.4	9.5
Veal	11.5	8.4	8.7	2.1	9.0
Sheep	7.3	25.0	22.0	7.6	19.6
Goat	7.0	31.7	33.4	5.4	15.1
Layers	9.7	25.0	23.4	1.7	12.5
Turkey	8.4	25.0	23.7	2.8	16.9
Horse	8.2	21.0	12.1	4.6	9.0

Source:- Ohio state university extension department of horticulture and crop science 2011 cotey road. Columbus Ohio 43210-11344.

#### I. Importance of animal manure

Used properly animal manures are available source of plant nutrients some of the beneficial effects of manure use are, increase or plant available increase mobility and availability of P and ciro nutrients due to OM compellation increased soil OM increased soil moisture retention improved soil structure decrease soil bulk density and increased infiltration rate increase butter capacity reduced Al<sup>+3</sup> toxicity in alid soil by completion with organic maters and increased c<sup>o</sup>2 in the plant canopy particularly plant stands with restricted air circulation. Greater attention is being given to effective disposal manure because of

- increased use of confinement production system and associated manure handling problems and
  - increase concern over contamination r ground surface water by N<sup>o</sup>3 and H<sub>2</sub>P<sup>o</sup>4 in the manure
- maximizing crop recovery of soil applied manure nutrients depends on manure nutrient content application method and time on short day plant and long day term availability manure nutrient. Content application method and time on short day plant and long day term availability manure nutrient. Jajm L.Haulin and Werner L. Nelson (2005).

#### D. Mulches

Mulch is any types of material that is spread over the surface of the soil covering. It is used to retain moisture in the soil suppress weeds keep the soil cool and make the garden bed look more attractive organic mulches also help improve the fairs fertility as they decompose organic much will also improve your fairs fertility and of course its organic content.

The maintained of crop residues on or near the surface reduces evaporation and consisted an essential phase of water management in potentially wind eradicable arable soil which is the great single factors

in wind erosion control. The threshold velocity for movement of undecomposed crop residues even it scattered on the surface of the ground in higher than most of the redouble soil particles it the wind is root strong some of its force is absorbed by residue and soil erosion part of the much material about the surface forms an effective trap for soil particles moaning by salutation or surface creep.

The principal use of multiples in dry and terming is forest highly erosive knolls and blow wants particularly in sandy soil. It has been absorbed that use of 1-2 tones straw or hay 4-5 tones corn cobs 6 to 8 tones manure or about 5 tones cotton gin trash per acre effectively controls erosion on venerable spots and prevents their spreading to other parts of field. Much has a great importance in the soil as the source of organic matter (MMRSL, 2002).

#### I) Effects of mulching on soil environment

Mulching improves the physical properties chemical environment and biological activities of the soil of a give area. Effects of mulching on physical condition of the soil controlling evaporation access from the soil mulching reduces evaporation from the soil surface by retarding the intensity of radiation and decreasing wind velocity on the mulched surface improves integration rate of the soil because it serves as a barrier of run off which provides more opportunity for water to infiltration in to the soil profile (Meyer, 1963).

Modify soil thermal regime mulching ahs a moderating influences on the soil thermal regime and the effect varies among soils climate kinds of mulching materials used and rates of application. It increases soil temperature enduring cooler weather and decrease the temperature of the soil during hot weather condition.

Modify soil thermal regime mulching has a moderating influences on the soil thermal regime and the effect varies among soils climate kinds of mulching materials used and rates of application. It increases soil temperature during cooler weather and decreases the temperature of the soil during hot weather condition. Improve soil aeration crop residue mulch proves soil aeration this is facilitate by improvements of structural stability total porosity and macro porosity, decreasing g of surface crusting and by improving the overall soil

drainage (Gupta *et al.*, 1983).

ii) Effects of mulches on chemical condition of soil.

Mulch has the influence on leguminous green mulching on physical, chemical and environmental conditions on the soil. Measurements are reported on the influence of mulch on the chemical condition of the soil. Mulch also influence the availability of nutrients through conditions hydro thermal regime and biological activity of the soil. (Daniel Hillel, 2005).

Mulching reduces evaporation and increasing wind velocity on the mulch surface. Improve infiltration rate of the soil mulching with organic materials improves the infiltration rate of the soil because mulch acts as a barrier of runoff which provides more opportunity for water to infiltrate into the soil profile.

According to Meyer 1963. Changes can be formed as the result of mulch on the soil chemical conditions cation exchange capacity which measures either Melton per g unit could be reduced and the concentration of the nutrient improves with PH values declining.

iii) Effects of mulch on biological activity of the soil.

Soil biological activity is either directly influenced by the supply of food substrates by organic mulches through alteration of the soil hydro thermal regime. The activity and diversity of soil organisms is substantially influenced by the quality of mulch materials and the rate its application.

The soil micro organisms like bacteria fungi and actinomycetes and soil fauna like earthworm millipede centipede etc help in the decomposition of soil organic matter and hence the availability of nutrients. However mulching with materials of high carbon to nitrogen ratio results in immobilization these micro organisms feeding on organic residues of weeds like wild grass or evaporation under conservation tillage practices enhances the earthworms population due to the supply of food substrates and the better hydrothermal regime under mulch. Generally mulching is an important practice for the biological activity carried out in the soil like increasing the population of the decomposers in soils and for activating them by supply of food substrates (Rattan Lal 2008).

#### 2.1.2 Commercial or inorganic fertilizers

According to Rattan Lal (2008) mineral fertilizers defined as the types of fertilizer which is composed of systemic chemicals on mineral or is a chemical fertilizer produced by chemical fertilizer industry through chemical reactions of different elements or products. Nitrogen phosphate and potash fertilizers are primary mineral fertilizers proposed fertilizers are primary minerals fertilizers produced by the fertilizer industry. Harvested crops remove nutrients. Unless the removed nutrients are replenished soil fertility declines and the capacity of the soil to produce additional crops is degraded. To maintain soil healthy and productivity nutrients must be continuously soil replaced because natural process can replenish only limited quantity of nutrients removed. These nutrients must be supplied from sources including organic materials biological fixation and mineral fertilizers. Although organic and biological sources are important in supplying nutrients these are not sufficient to meet the nutrient requirements of food and timber production needed for an ever growing world population.

The importance of using inorganic fertilizers are nutrients are immediately available to plants and the exact amount of a given element can be measured before reaching the plants. The composition of mineral fertilizers is much more precisely defined than is in the case of organic fertilizer. In most cases this fertilizer are used to supply plants with the macro nutrients such as N,P and K some times called the primary fertilizer elements. Generally inorganic mineral fertilizer are usually simple chemical compounds made in factory or obtained by mining which supply plant nutrients and are not residues of plants or animals life (G.W. Cooke 1975).

### 2.3. Importance of ISFM and limitations of using sole fertilizers.

#### 2.3.1. Importance of ISFM

As ISFM is the technology of maintenance or adjustment of soil fertility and of plant nutrient supply to an optimum level of sustaining the desired crop productivity on one hand and to minimize nutrient losses to the environment on the other hand it is achieved through efficient management of all nutrient sources. ISFM is not a matter of conserving soil alone but rather it combines organic and mineral methods of soil fertility management with physical and biological measures of soil and water conservation.

It integrates technologies that are site specific to agronomic and socio economic conditions to redress nutrient imbalance and organic matter deterioration. Integrated soil fertility management must essentially look into three main challenges:

- judicious use of mineral fertilizers
- maximize use of organic fertilizers (materials) and
- Maximize negative environmental impacts (Rattan Lal 2008).

Generally integrated soil fertility management has many importance which is described as follows. Waste lands are converted high yielding fields on the same lands for many years eliminating the need for clearing new lands by using integrated soil fertility management farmers better use of organic materials available on farm to

build up soil organic matter. Also farmers shares knowledge by working in groups.

#### 2.2.2. The limitations of using fertilizers separately.

##### i) Using sole organic fertilizers

As dilute source of nutrients when compared to inorganic fertilizers transporting large amount of fertilizer incur's higher costs especially with slurry and manure. The composition of organic fertilizers lands to be manure complex and variable than a standardized in organic product from plant or animals matter that are harmful to humans or plant. However proper composting should remove them more labor is need to compost organic fertilizer increasing labor cost. Some of this cost is off set by reduced as purchase. Conventional farming application in on organic farming compromise between the use of article and organic fertilizer is common often using in organic fertilizers supplemented with the application of organic that are readily available such as the return of crop residues or the application of manure (Graham P.H 1981).

##### ii) Using sole inorganic fertilizers

Many in organic fertilizers may not replace trace mineral elements in the soil which become gradually depleted by crops. This depletion has been linked to studies which have shown a marked fall the quantities at such minerals present in fruits and vegetables. In organic fertilizer are now produced in many which the cortically can not be continued indefinitely by definition as the resources used in their production are non renewable. A disadvantage with inorganic fertilizers includes trace mineral depletion over fertilization high energy consumption and long term sustainability (Donovan G. and F Casey 1998).

##### iii) Principles of ISFM

International agricultural research has significantly contributed to the developments of sound soil management principles that aim at sustainable crop production with out compromising the ecosystem service function of the soil. These principles of integrated soil fertility management includes:-

The integration of cover crops and multi purpose, woody and herbaceous legumes to improve crop yield.  
Improved sustainability of nutrient cycles through integration of livestock with arable production.

Application of organic resources of animal or plant origins in combination with mineral inputs to maximize in put use efficiency.

Using soil conserving methods to control soil loss and improve water cup true and use efficiency.

Enhancement of the soil organic carbon pool as an integration of various soil based function s related to production and ecosystem services and integration of different sectors for managements of the soil like water sector forest sector in order to get sound soil management practice. Generally as ISFM is more important than using g sole fertilizer. It is critically necessity to follow or consider the principle

#### **How to apply integrated soil fertility management**

It should be applied in a manner that all sorts of soil fertility losses are minimized, such as the soil erosion, and nutrient mining from the soil and causes that result for these two major problems.

IFDC-Africa promotes ISFM through a participatory and process-oriented approach that builds on a solid understanding of local settings, indigenous knowledge and scientific expertise, and targets at different spatial and temporal scales both technological and institutional change. The complexity of farmer reality requires much emphasis on farmer experimentation and participatory learning, and building of partnerships between soil fertility management stakeholders (farmers, credit providers, input dealers, research and extension agencies, government) from village to district to national level (Marco and Maatman, 2002).

#### **Effect Integrated soil fertility management in yield of crops**

Under Ethiopian condition particularly in the highlands, integrated soil fertility management can give better yields as high as balanced application of fertilizer and significantly higher yields than the traditional cultivation method other than the integrated methods. For instance in Benishangul Gumuz region a research done on woredas Agalometi and Sirba indicates that a combination of few Agronomic management practices like tillage (not local type), application of manure and compost resulted in higher yields of different varieties of maize (Vaje, 2007)

### **3. CONCLUSION**

Integrated use of corporation inorganic and organic fertilizers for crop production increases yield . Integrated use of all these soil management factors helps to reduce considerable amount of inorganic fertilizers. The use of this method is to sustain crop production and productivity, ensuring essential plant nutrients to replenishment in the soil of the area. Organic fertilization enhances the responses to mineral fertilizer there by increases the fertilizer use efficiency improves the efficiency of mineral fertilizers with SOM could expand the number of fertilizer uses hence reduced the cost of chemical fertilizers. Furthermore, use of inorganic soil ameliorants in conjunction with slow release mineral has the advantages of increasing the nutrient storage capacity of the soil. Integrated use of different soil management technologies is not well known in the country Ethiopia as a whole and southern Wollo in particular. Therefore, advising, training and assisting the farmers in using locally available materials and cheapest technology economizes the raising cost of chemical fertilizers. For soil fertility management, it is

paramount important technology and should be scaled up on farmer's filed for sustainable crop production in the zone.

#### 4. RECCOMENDATION

low / very low in our countries Ethiopia. To vitiate this problem, integrated use of fertilizers is an important solution as an integrated soil fertility management, which includes the combination of organic fertilizer and inorganic fertilizer. There are different sources of organic matter like compost, FYM, Green manure and mulching, and there are also different sources of inorganic elements from nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium fertilizers which are synthesized in industry. Application of mineral fertilizer requires extra labor. Application of inorganic fertilizer has limit as nutrients are easily leached out by rain or irrigating water, environmentally unsustainable and too expensive for the farmers to cover their land. Therefore, different principles should be followed which includes improving nutrient cycles, integrating cover crops and multipurpose woody and herbaceous legumes. To improve crop yield, application of organic and inorganic resources. If it is applied in combination by following considering the biological, physical and chemical property of the soil, it reduce the lost of the commercial fertilizer and improve SOM content and increase the yields of the crop.

#### 5. REFERENCE

- Abera B (2003). Factors influencing the adoption of soil conservation practices in Northwestern Ethiopia. Goettingen-Waldweg: Institute of Rural Development University of Goettingen
- Anonymous (2005-2007). Prgres report vako agricultural research centre agronomy and crop physiology research dividion bako
- Astaw ahilemariam and Angaw Tsigie 2003 Nitrogen foliation research on food legumes in Ethiopia in programs and abstracts of the second national workshop on food and forage legumes in Ethiopia 22-26 September 2003 Addis Ababa Ethiopia.
- Charreau C. 1995 organic matter and biochemical properties of soil in the dry tropical zone of West Africa in FAO PP 313-336.
- Donovan G. and F. Casey 1998 soil fertility management in sub saran Africa World Bank technical paper No 408. The World Bank Washington DC 60P.
- FAO 1999 fertilizers strategies food and agricultural organizations of he unite nations. International fertoklzer industry association. Rome 98P.
- Filler K.E and K.F Wilson 1991 nitrogen tixatin in tropical cropping systems CAB international UK 313 P.
- Food and agricultural organization (FAO) 1997 land quality indicators and their use in sustainable agricultural and rural development Rome Italy no 5.212PP.
- Graham P.H 1981 some problems of nodulation and symbiotic nitrogen relation in phaseolus vulegaris L Review filed crops research 4(2): 93-112.
- Grant P.M 1981. The fertilization of sand soils in peasant agriculture Zimbabwe agricultural journal 78:169-175.
- Marco S, Maatman A (2002). International Center for Soil Fertility and Agricultural Development. Lome, Togo: IFDC-Africa Division.
- Pinstrup Anderson P. 1993 world food trends and how they may be modified Washington DC international food policy research intitute
- Sanchez P.A Valencia i.e., Izac A-M and C pieri 1995 soil fertility replacement in Africa ICRAF Nairobi Kenya.
- Taye B, Yifru A (2010). Assessment of Soil Fertility Status with Depth in Wear Growing Highlands of Southeast Ethiopia. World J. Agri. Science, 525-531.
- Vaje P (2007). Soil fertility issues in the Blue Nile Valley, Ethiopia. In Bationo A, Waswa B, Kihara J, Kimetu J, Advances in Integrated soil Fertility Management in Sub-Saharan Africa: Challenges and opportunities (pp. 139-148). Norway: Norwegian Center for Soil and Environmental Research.