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# ASSESSMENT OF MAJOR WEED SPECIES AND INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE OF AYBA GRAZING LAND, SOUTHERN ZONE OF TIGRAY, NORTHERN ETHIOPIA

**TESFAYATSEBHA[1*] SOLOMON WAYU TEMESGENTESFAY[2] ADHANOM BARAKI[3] HNTSA LIBSEKAL[4] ZEBRHE TEKLAY YKAALO TEKLAY[5] ABADI GIDAY[6]**

*Tigray Agricultural Research Institute (Tari), Alamata Agricultural Research Centre, Alamata, Ethiopia*

***ABSTRACT***

***The study was conducted at Emba Alaje district of the highland agro-ecology. The objective of the study was to generate base-line information on the weed species that exist on the grazing land resources in southern of Tigray. Structured and semi structured questionnaire were used. Purposive sampling method was used for selection farmers for interview. 10 farmers were selected for group discussion purpose. Data was analyzed through descriptive statistics (frequency, percentage) using SPSS (statically package of social science) software. A total of 48 farmers were interviewed. Among them 89.6 % were male household farmers and the rest 10.4 % was women household farmers. Around 62.5% of the respondents reported that they were not weeding their pasture land. According to the respondents, declining of Pasture land productivity (57.5%), reducing of soil fertility (10%) and increasing of animal disease (bloating)(31.9%) were the undesirable effect of weeds impacts on the study area.***

***A total of 7weed species were identified in the study area. Of these, 5 species were strong perennials and the remaining 2 were annual. In addition,3 species were identified as non palatable and 4less palatable species. The respondent reported that 6 weed species were introduced before 7 years in the study area. However 1 weed species (Xanthium spinosum) introduced after 7 years in to the pasture land .uncontrolled movement of grazing animals (36%), exchange of seeds in the market and cultural farmer to farmer seed exchange (18.4%), water runoff (32.9%) and wind (6.1%) are among the major events that encourage the rapid spread of weeds in the area. Toxic, allergies', thorns, deep rooted and host to recognized pests and pathogens were the majored undesirable traits of the identified weeds in the area.***

***KEYWORDS**: Feed, Grazing Land, Pasture Land, Toxic, Undesirable Traits, Weed*

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