IRB # 20-0002

**Appendix 1. Informed Consent for Women Head of Household - Survey**

**Informed Consent**

**Introduction and Key Information:**

Hi, my name is <Name> and I’m part of a research team from EconInsights, a research organization based in Addis Ababa. We are collaborating with Landesa in Washington D.C., USA, to conduct a research study called "Impact Evaluation of Land Certification in 4 Regions in Ethiopia.” We are asking you to take part in the study because you are 18 years of age or older, head of the household, and may have been part of the survey study in 2015 (Ethiopian calendar year 2008). If you are interested, I will first explain what we are going to do.

I will provide detailed information about the study in just a few minutes. But before I do that, I want to give you a short summary to help you decide if you want to take part. You need to know:

1. This research is being done to know the effects of the land certification programs in Ethiopia to improve policies that give land certificates to people;

2. Whether you take part is your decision;

3. You do not have to take part;

4. You can change your mind at any time;

5. Your decision will not be held against you by EconInsights, Landesa, or anyone else;

6. If you take part, you will be asked to complete a survey, and your participation in the research will be for 2 hours. However, with your permission we may contact you up to a year after the survey if we have questions about your responses.

7. You will not benefit directly from taking part, but we hope to be able to help others in the future;

8. The primary risk to you if you take part is that others may find out the information you’ve shared, but we will try not to let this happen. The other possible risk is related to the COVID-19 infection. To prevent the risk of getting infected, we will follow all government issued guidelines and we request you to follow them too.

**Study Overview:**

The purpose of this research is to identify the effects of the land certification programs on the lives of men and

women in Ethiopia. For that, we are conducting a survey with heads of households (men and women) and wives, first and second – as determined by rolling a dice, of male heads of households that were interviewed in 2015 (2008 Ethiopian calendar year). We are also inviting some survey participants to be part of group discussions. We will also conduct a survey with authorities from the kebele, such as land management committee leaders, to get information about the kebeles.

Landesa will use information collected in this research to better understand what women and men think worked well and what did not work so well with the land certification to make recommendations for program and policy improvements.

**Procedures:**

If you agree to take part in the study, we will ask you to answer questions here or in a place that you choose near here, where others cannot hear your answers. Answering the questions will take around 2 hours.

If you agree to take part, we will ask you questions about your family, your land, agricultural decisions and decisions about the house, the land and yourself. We will ask you about products you grow as well. There are 277 questions and we think it will take about 2 hours to complete, but you can take as long as you need. I will read the questions to you and I will record your responses in my tablet. This information is encrypted, it means no one can see it without a password. No one else will be there when we talk.

After the survey is complete, we may contact you again if we have questions about your responses or to make sure the survey was given correctly. You do not need to talk to us if we contact you again.

**Risks:**

A possible risk to taking part in the study is that people outside the research team may find out your answers to the questions. To try and make it so this will not happen, after you finish the interview, we will save your answers under a password and we will not show them to anyone outside the research team in a way that the answers could be linked to you. We will keep your name separate from your answers and only the research team will be able to match you to your answers. If someone comes near us to find out what we are talking about we will stop talking until they leave.

Also, you may be upset by or not like some of the questions we ask. You do not have to answer any questions you don’t want to, and you can stop taking part in the study at any time.

If you want, we will give you a small card that has contact information for someone in your community you can talk to if you are upset by any of the questions.

The other possible risk is related to the COVID-19 infection. To prevent the risk of getting infected, we will follow all government issued guidelines and we request you to follow them too. We will maintain physical distance by sitting at least 6 feet-apart, in a quiet place outside your house, and we will both wear a mask throughout the interview and use a sanitizer frequently. We will provide you with a mask (if you don’t have) for your use. Wearing the mask or not is your decision, but if you are not willing to wear it, we will not conduct the study with you.

**Benefits:**

You will not benefit directly from taking part in this study. We hope that what we learn will help us improve commune members’ awareness of land rights and inform policymakers and key leaders about the reality of women’s and men’s land ownership in Ethiopia.

**Confidentiality:**

We will do everything we can to keep what you share with us secret. Only the research team, which includes the organization that is supporting this research, will have access to study records and notes. The organization that is supporting this research may want to talk to you during the study or after about the survey. We do not think they will contact you. However, if they do you do not have to talk to them if you don’t want to.

**Optional Statement to include only if USAID is present for data collection**:  There is someone from the organization that is supporting this research here with us today. He/she would like to talk with you and may be with us during the **survey**.   You do not have to talk to him/her if you don’t want to, and you do not have to agree be in the study if you don’t want to.

Is it okay if this person talks to you? YES NO

Is it okay if this person is with us during the **survey**? YES NO

The results of the study will be put in a report that we will share with donors, policy makers and general public. We will not identify you in anything we write about the study. You do not have to tell anyone you are taking part in the study if you don’t want to. You can help us keep it a secret that you are taking part by not telling others or discussing anything you share with anyone outside the research team.

EconInsights and Landesa will keep your responses to the survey questions indefinitely in a secure computer file and may use the responses in the future for more research. If we share your answers with any other researchers, we will make sure not to share anything that identifies you, like your name or address, so that they cannot tell the information comes from you.

EconInsights will keep your name and address for up to one year in a secure protected computer file. They will be able to link you to your responses but will only do this if they need to contact you to clarify one of your answers or make sure you were given the survey correctly. After one year, EconInsights will destroy its copy of your name and address. Landesa will keep your name and address for up to five years in a secure protected computer file on EconInsights server, but will only use your contact information if you give us permission and we need to reach you for a follow-up to this study. If we decide to do a follow-up study, we may contact you using your name and address and ask if we may once again speak with you.

If you don’t want us to store your contact information, we will make a note of this and destroy your information as soon as possible at the end of the study (within a year or less).

**Compensation:**

We will not pay you for taking part in this study.

**Voluntary Participation:**

Taking part in this study is voluntary, meaning you decide if you want to take part in the study. Nothing bad will happen to you and there is no penalty if you choose not to take part or if you want to stop taking part at any time. If you decide not to take part or stop at any time, we will respect this and not ask you why you do not want to take part.

**Contact Information:**

If you have any questions about the study at any time, you may contact Mr. Alemayehu Woldu Gedrago at Kirkos Subcity , Woreda 03, call at +251 944 089 991, or at alemayehu.woldu@gmail.com. For questions about your rights as a research subject you can contact the ICRW Institutional Review Board at [irb@icrw.org](mailto:irb@icrw.org).

**Verbal Consent:**

Do you have any questions? YES (if yes, answer the questions) NO (ask A8)

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **A8:** | Do you want to take part in this study? **(consent)** | | *Yes=1*  *No=0 -> STOP* | (Code) |
| **A8:** | Respondent’s full Name (**PII)** | (Text) | | |

Do you understand that you must comply with the COVID-19 precautions? □ Yes                              □ No

**Consent for Future Use of Contact Information:**

May we store your contact information (name and address), up to a year, in case we need to contact you with questions about your responses?

*| | YES*

*| | NO*

May we store your contact information (name and address), up to five years, so we may ask if you’d like to take part in a follow-up study?

*| | YES*

*| | NO, Thank you, your contact information will be destroyed when the study is complete.*

Please let me know if you would like to keep a copy of this form so that you can review at a later date, contact someone about the study, or keep it for your records