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Wachemo University
Academic Affairs Vice-President
Hosanna

Reference No.: WCU.AVP 02/3570/25
Date: 25 June 2025

Subject: Clarification of Ethical Review Waiver, Ethical Compliance, and Informed Consent

To Whom It May Concern,

This letter concerns the research manuscript entitled *"**Enset Cultivation and Its Effects on Household Food Security and Economic Well-Being in Hadiya Zone Central Ethiopia**, "* submitted to *Discover Agriculture* by Alemu Ersino Ersado and Tsegaynesh Markos Derilo. The study used a cross-sectional social science research design, drawing on primary household-level data collected through semi-structured questionnaires from 367 respondents in Hadiya Zone, Central Ethiopia, supplemented by secondary information.

1. Ethics Approval and Waiver

The Research Ethics Committee/Institutional Review Board of Wachemo University, Ethiopia, waived the requirement for formal ethical approval for this study in accordance with applicable institutional requirements, based on the nature of the study, its procedures, and the documentation reviewed. This determination is associated with the institution's ethics documentation, Reference No. WCU.AVP 02/3570/25, dated 25 June 2025.

2. Ethical Compliance

The study's ethical procedures were considered in relation to the applicable Ethiopian national research ethics requirements and the relevant Wachemo University institutional procedure protocol no. 07/2023. The specific regulation, guideline, or institutional protocol applicable to the committee's determination should be identified in accordance with the institution's records.

3. Consent to Participate

Verbal informed consent was obtained from all participants before they participated in the household survey. All 367 respondents were aged 18 years or older at the time of data collection. The consent procedures are reported in accordance with the available institutional documentation. This letter is intended to clarify the ethical review status, ethical compliance considerations, and informed-consent procedures associated with the research for academic and publication purposes.

Yours sincerely,

Sara Shikur Muzein (PhD)
Academic Affairs Vice Pres

Samuel Shibeshi Bizuneh
Head
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