

## Project Update: May 2016

I have accomplished the identification, data encoding and data analysis. I found the following results. A total 92 herb species were recorded in the studied *Eucalyptus* plantations and 68 in the Chilimo natural forest. The number of forest herb species (i.e. herb species usually prefer shade areas) in the patches decreased with canopy cover and distance from the forest from around 12 species at the closest distances to less than 5 species at 10 km out into the landscape. However, with increased height of the grass sword the number of forest herb species increased from less than five species in a patch with grass swords less than 10 cm up to more than 15 species in patches with grass swords higher than 40 cm. The result from an interview revealed that they prefer planting *Eucalyptus* because it is fast growing, coppicing ability and incentives from selling.

Group discussion with farmers in the study area on the role of *Eucalyptus* plantations to foster native plants Habte Telila is the one with violet colour shirt and writing. ©Habte Telila



When I (Habte Telila) was collecting herbs in one of the selected *Eucalyptus* plantation patches. ©Habte Telila

