



WERABE UNIVERSITY RESEARCH THEMATIC AREAS

Final version



Prepared by:

**Mathewos Kebede (PhD)
Abraham Mulu (PhD)
Mohammedawol Reshad (Ass. Professor)
Hassen Mosa (MSc)
Abdilkerim Asrar (MBA)
Muktar Abdella (MSc)**

April, 2025

1. Rationale

In the last couple of years, Ethiopian Higher Education Institutes (HEIs) have undergone structural transformation to improve leadership and closer supervision of universities by categorizing them into: Applied Universities, Comprehensive Universities, and Research Universities. As part of this transformation, the Ministry of Education (MOE) has issued new working guidelines and directives, prompting previous ones to better align with the current demands.

Although the core missions assigned to universities remain largely unchanged, the revised HEIs Proclamation 1152/2019 places a strong emphasis on the need to undertake relevant research, and foster innovation, and community engagement. It highlights the importance of striving towards centers of excellence by aligning research efforts with national and local priority areas, effectively disseminating the findings. Moreover, Article 23 (1–4) of the proclamation outlines a framework for conducting research that prioritizes national interests and encourages collaboration with both national and international institutions.

In line with the current Ethiopian university differentiation framework, Werabe University (WRU) has been categorized as a comprehensive university with centers of excellence in Agriculture, Health, Tourism, and Trade. So far, WRU's research thematic areas have been in-house research calls, conferences, and seminars. However, recent developments at local, regional, and international levels necessitate a revision of the previous research themes. There is now a pressing need to focus on well-defined, need-driven, and problem-based research that positions WRU at the forefront of addressing key regional and national development challenges. Furthermore, WRU is committed to conducting innovative and original research that addresses emerging issues, leverages the potential of its catchment areas, and provides sustainable solutions to fundamental problems related to livelihoods, socio-economic development, and environmental sustainability.

In line with this scope, it is imperative to revisit and develop comprehensive research themes and sub-themes that will guide WRU's research, innovation, and knowledge generation efforts, while also supporting its designated centers of excellence. To this end, an ad-hoc committee has undertaken an extensive desk review of key documents, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), WRU's Strategic Plan, the National Research Strategy (developed by MoSHE in 2021), the Ethiopia Development Plan, as well as a needs assessment conducted with various sectoral offices of the Siltie Zone and Central Ethiopia government.

2. Strategic Objectives

- ✍ To identify multidisciplinary research thematic areas through rigorous discussion with the stakeholders to solve the top urgent local, national, and international problems.
- ✍ To mobilize and engage staff members in research endeavors to promote the capacity of individual researchers and increase the reputability and visibility of Werabe University.
- ✍ To undertake problem-solving applied research as per the identified research priorities.
- ✍ To disseminate research outputs through various means possible, to solve multifaceted problems
- ✍ To create an enabling, harmonious, transparent, and efficient environment for research and innovations for Postgraduate students;
- ✍ To enhance funding for research and innovations;
- ✍ To create strong collaboration in research, and transfer of knowledge and technology with national and international universities and research institutes.

3. Thematic Research Areas

Following rationale and strategic objectives, Werabe University has identified the following thematic and sub-thematic areas:

Table 1: WRU Themes and Sub-themes

Themes		subthemes	Thematic Leader
Theme 1	Agricultural Productivity, Natural Resources, and Food Security	Crop Production, Protection, and Technology	Email: Phone:
		Livestock, Poultry, Fishery Production, Health, and Technology	
		Sustainable land resources management	
		Agricultural innovations and food security	
		Agribusiness, Agri Extension and Economics of Rural Development	
		Agroforestry, Forest Resources and Biodiversity	
		Agricultural Mechanization and Post harvesting technology	
		Horticultural Crops Production, Protection and Technology	
		Energy Efficient and sustainable irrigation system	
		Disaster Risk Management	
Theme 2	Entrepreneurship,	Digital Marketing and Consumer Behavior	

	Poverty Mitigation, Trade and Investment	Innovation-Driven Entrepreneurship and Startup Ecosystems	
		Structural Economic Transformation and Industrialization	
		Sustainable Development and Inclusive Economic Growth	
		Development Financing, Foreign Direct Investment, and International Trade	
		Leadership, Governance and Public Sector Reform	
		Human Resources Management and Organizational Performance	
		Business Environment, Domestic firm linkages, and Enterprise development	
		Financial Inclusion and Islamic Financing	
		Manufacturing, Agricultural Value Chains, and Branding	
		Public Financial Management and Domestic revenue mobilization	
		Corporate financial reporting and financial market development	
		Digital Economy and Transformation	
		Trade and Market Information	
Theme 3	Tourism, Heritage Management and Sustainable Development	Wildlife Resources and Ecotourism Management	
		Halal Tourism, Inclusive Hospitality and Sustainable Tourism	
		Digitalization of Tourism and Hospitality Management	
		Urban Tourism and Smart City Integration	
		Tourism promotion and investment	
		Tourism Policy, Governance, and Local Economic Development	
Theme 4	Science, Technology, Engineering, and Energy	Artificial Intelligence, Internet of Things, Blockchain, Data Science, and Cybersecurity	
		Digital Platform and Software Development	
		Genomics, Bioinformatics, Biosafety and Biosecurity	
		Mineral Resource Exploration and Processing	
		Sustainable Energy, Electronics, and Communication Systems	
		Earth and Space Science	
		Smart Urban Development	
		Biomanufacturing and Material Sciences	
		Water Resources and Hydro Structures	
		Environmental Engineering and Circular Economy	
		Construction Engineering and Project Management	
		Machine Design and Manufacturing Technology	
		Chemical and Food Processing Industry	
		Numerical analysis, Biomathematics and Modelling	
Theme 5	Human Health and nutrition	Human Nutrition and Food Safety	
		Environmental Health, Occupational Safety, Social Reintegration, and Mental health	
		Communicable and non-communicable diseases	
		Innovative Medicine and Health Informatics	
		Sports Medicine, Fitness and Exercise	

		Maternal, Neonatal, Adolescent, and Child Health	
		Antimicrobial Resistance and Pharmaceutical Studies	
		One Health	
		Health Systems Strengthening	
Theme 6	Education Quality, Relevance, and Technology	Educational and Professional Development	
		Educational Leadership, policy, and governance	
		Curriculum, Instruction methods, and education quality	
		Adult Education, Special Needs, and Inclusive Education	
		Educational Guidance and Psychology	
		Digital Education	
		Literature and Media	
Theme 7	Population Dynamics, Governance, and Diversity	Population Dynamics and Urbanization	
		Migration and Socioeconomic re-integration	
		International Relations and Diplomacy	
		Federalism, Constitutionalism and Democratization	
		Sustainable Peace and Security	
		Legal Systems and Criminal Justices	
Theme 8	Culture, Indigenous Knowledge, and Peace Building	Folklore and Ethiopian Language Development	
		Culture, Arts, and Entrepreneurship in the creative industry	
		Indigenous Governance and Conflict Resolution	
		Traditional healers, medicinal plants, and traditional medicine	
		Cultural Heritage and Environmental Conservation	

Description of Research Theme and Subthemes

Theme 1: Agricultural Productivity, Natural Resources, and Food Security

Agricultural productivity fundamentally relies on natural resources. Natural resources management and sustainable agriculture lead to increased productivity and food security. The identified theme is holistic and provides the full package of innovative technology promoting agro-industries, societal economic transformation, and improving livelihood.

Overarching goal

The overarching goal of this theme focuses on achieving holistic improvements in both food systems and economic well-being by fixing agricultural challenges while ensuring sustainable utilization of natural resources through the implementation of new and adapted agricultural technologies.

Subtheme 1: Crop Production, Protection, and Technology

It encompasses seed systems, improved crop production practices, integrated pest management, plant breeding and biotechnology, climate-smart agriculture, precision crop farming, soil fertility and plant nutrition, and modern farming technologies.

Subtheme 2: Horticultural Crops Production, Protection and Technology

It covers seed systems, improved production, protection, tissue culture, and modern technological enhancement of fruits, vegetables, herbs, species, and ornamentals to boost income, nutrition, and export potential.

Subtheme 3: Livestock, Poultry, Fishery Production, Health and Technology

It covers innovative projects applied to enhance the productivity of livestock, poultry, bees, and fish including their improved husbandry practices such as breeding, nutrition, hygiene, disease control, and climate-smart livestock systems and modern technologies that support food security and bring economic benefits through maximized productivity.

Subtheme 4: Sustainable Land Resources Management

It focuses on a project dealing with soil, water, and their ecological integrity through land use planning, soil fertility management, land closure, and combating land degradation to meet human needs while ensuring long-term agricultural productivity and environmental functions.

Subtheme 5: Agricultural Innovations and Food Security

It emphasizes innovative projects that explore climate-smart, eco-friendly, and sustainable agriculture that contribute to resilient food security while conserving natural resources, promoting biodiversity, and minimizing environmental impacts.

Subtheme 6: Agribusiness, Agricultural Extension, and Economics of Rural Development

It covers agribusiness, agricultural extension, and economic policies in shaping and empowering rural communities, fostering market-oriented extension, enhancing value chains, transforming subsistence farming, and bottlenecks in agricultural production.

Subtheme 7: Agroforestry, Forest Resources and Biodiversity Management

It includes projects dealing with a holistic approach to improving agroforestry practices, forest resources, and management practices with ecological integrity by ensuring long-term sustainability of both forest ecosystems and biodiversity.

Subtheme 8: Agricultural Mechanization and Post-Harvest Technology

It incorporates projects addressing mechanization enabling small, medium, and large-sized farmers from tillage up to post-harvest operations. Besides it includes promoting innovative postharvest technologies reducing grain, fruit, and vegetables loss.

Subtheme 9: Energy-Efficient and Sustainable Irrigation System

It includes research projects dealing with energy-efficient irrigation systems that maximize water-use efficiency while minimizing energy consumption and supporting long-term agricultural productivity.

Subtheme 10: Disaster Risk Management

It focuses on projects reducing and managing the risks and impacts associated with natural and human-made disasters. It includes hazard identification, vulnerability analysis, risk mapping, mitigation, and preparedness.

Theme 2: Entrepreneurship, Poverty Mitigation, Trade and Investment

This theme focuses on promoting inclusive economic growth through research that supports entrepreneurship, innovation, investment, and trade. It encourages multidisciplinary investigations, including institutional reforms, business environments, digital tools, financing mechanisms, and enterprise development that can contribute to poverty reduction and strengthen domestic and international economic linkages.

Subtheme 1: Digital Marketing and Consumer Behavior

This subtheme explores the dynamic relationship between digital marketing strategies and consumer behavior in the context of a rapidly evolving digital economy. It focuses on understanding how consumers interact with digital platforms, respond to marketing stimuli, and make purchasing decisions in online and hybrid marketplaces. The subtheme also examines the influence of technology, social media, mobile commerce, and data analytics on marketing effectiveness and consumer engagement.

Subtheme 2: Innovation-Driven Entrepreneurship and Start-up Ecosystems

It centers on fostering a culture of innovation and supporting the creation, development, and sustainability of entrepreneurial ventures. It investigates the mechanisms, policies, technologies, and support systems that contribute to a thriving start-up ecosystem. The focus is on empowering individuals and institutions to translate innovative ideas into viable businesses that drive job creation, economic transformation, and inclusive growth.

Subtheme 3: Structural Economic Transformation and Industrialization

It encourages research on the transition of economies from low-productivity sectors to higher-value industrial and service sectors. Besides, it focuses on identifying pathways for industrialization, diversification, and improved productivity. Priority is given to studies that examine manufacturing growth, industrial policy, infrastructure development, and employment creation as drivers of long-term economic transformation.

Subtheme 4: Sustainable Development and Inclusive Economic Growth

It promotes research on inclusive economic models that balance growth with equity and sustainability. It includes studies on social enterprise, poverty alleviation, green business models, and policies that ensure economic benefits addressing marginalized groups.

Subtheme 5: Development Financing, Foreign Direct Investment and International Trade

It covers research on financing models, FDI inflows, and trade policies that enhance domestic capacity and global competitiveness. It encourages work on cross-border trade integration, capital mobilization, and international market entry strategies.

Subtheme 6: Leadership, Governance, and Public Sector Performance

It supports research on leadership practices, institutional capacity, and governance reforms that influence economic development. It includes studies on public service delivery, regulatory efficiency, and participatory decision-making processes.

Subtheme 7: Human Resource Management and Organizational Performance

It focuses on research examining how human resources systems affect organizational productivity and adaptability. It includes workforce development, performance evaluation, talent retention, and aligning human resources with strategic business and institutional goals.

Subtheme 8: Business Environment, Domestic Firm Linkages, and Enterprise Development

It focuses on research that strengthens the business environment and enhances the competitiveness of domestic enterprises. It encourages studies on improving regulatory frameworks, market access, and innovation within local firms. The subtheme also includes analysis of inter-firm linkages, supply chain integration, and support systems that foster sustainable private sector growth and entrepreneurship.

Subtheme 9: Financial Inclusion and Islamic Finance

It supports research on inclusive financial systems that expand access to banking, credit, and investment for underserved populations. It emphasizes the role of Islamic finance in promoting interest-free financing models.

Subtheme 10: Manufacturing, Agricultural Value Chains, and Branding

It supports research on market-oriented manufacturing and agri-value chain development. Emphasis is given to product quality, branding, packaging, and sales strategies that improve competitiveness and enhance market access for local producers.

Subtheme 11: Public Financial Management and Domestic Revenue Mobilization

It focuses on studies that improve transparency, efficiency, and effectiveness in public financial systems. It includes tax policy reform, fiscal decentralization, and strategies for increasing domestic revenue generation.

Subtheme 12: Corporate Financial Reporting and Financial Market Development

It invites research on improving financial disclosure, investor confidence, and capital market growth. It includes corporate governance, regulatory frameworks, and innovations in financial services that support business expansion.

Subtheme 13: Digital Economy and Transformation

It covers research on how digital technologies are reshaping economies and business practices. It includes digital entrepreneurship, fintech, e-governance, and the development of smart infrastructure to support inclusive digital growth.

Theme 3: Tourism, Heritage Management and Sustainable Development

Overarching Goal:

This theme aims to promote research that enhances sustainable tourism, protects cultural and natural heritage, advances hospitality, and drives local economic development. It encourages interdisciplinary studies that integrate community participation, digital innovation, and policy frameworks to strengthen tourism as a tool for national development and cultural preservation.

Subtheme 1: Wildlife Resources and Ecotourism Management

It focuses on research that integrates wildlife resource management with lakes, caves and ecotourism. It includes studies on protected areas, ecotourism models, community-based tourism, and the sustainability of nature-focused tourist attraction activities.

Subtheme 2: Halal Tourism, Inclusive Hospitality, and Sustainable Tourism

It promotes research on tourism services that accommodate the spiritual, cultural, and practical needs of travelers while promoting inclusivity and environmental sustainability. It encourages studies on Halal tourism infrastructure, inclusive service design, and cultural sensitivity. Researchers may explore models that integrate eco-friendly practices, local community empowerment, and ethical tourism that respects religious and cultural values.

Subtheme 3: Digitalization of Tourism

It encourages research on digital innovations in tourism, such as online marketing, booking systems, virtual tours, and mapping tourism destinations. It supports efforts to enhance competitiveness through technology.

Subtheme 4: Urban Tourism and Smart City Integration

It focuses on the role of urban tourism within smart city development. Researchers may explore mobility, urban culture, digital infrastructure, and service innovations that enhance tourist experiences in urban settings.

Subtheme 5: Tourism Promotion and Investment

It emphasizes research on marketing strategies, investment attraction, branding, promoting tourism destinations, tourism investment policy, and private-public partnerships for sector growth.

Subtheme 6: Tourism Policy, Governance, and Local Economic Development

It encompasses tourism policies, institutional frameworks, and their role in job creation and economic growth. Besides, it focuses on regulatory systems, stakeholder coordination, and inclusive development planning.

Theme 4: Science, Technology, Engineering, and Energy for Sustainable Development

This theme promotes research that harnesses science, technology, engineering, and energy systems to address complex development challenges. It emphasizes interdisciplinary and applied research aimed at improving infrastructure, resource efficiency, and technological innovation to drive sustainable economic, social, and environmental progress.

Overarching Goal:

To advance sustainable development through scientific application, technological innovation, and engineering solutions, promoting efficient energy systems that improve livelihoods, reduce environmental impacts, and enhance national resilience.

Subtheme 1: Artificial Intelligence, Internet of Things, Blockchain, Data Science, and Cybersecurity

It incorporates innovation across various sectors, including healthcare, finance, education, and smart cities, with a focus on improving systems through technologies like machine learning, predictive modeling, and secure systems. Besides, the sub-theme includes advancements in telemedicine, telehealth, telecare systems, and enhancing healthcare delivery.

Subtheme 2: Digital Platform and Software Development

It focuses on designing and developing digital platforms, including mobile, web, and desktop applications, and AI-driven software for industries. It also explores research in digital policy, digital inclusion, fintech, and enterprise systems.

Subtheme 3: Genomics, Bioinformatics, Biosafety and Biosecurity

It explores plant, microbial, and human genomes, computational biology, and big data analysis that can support advancements in healthcare, agriculture, and the environment.

Subtheme 4: Mineral Resource Exploration and Processing

It focuses on hydro-geological, physical, chemical, and environmental sciences, along with geosciences to support effective investigation and characterization of mineral resources.

Subtheme 5: Sustainable Energy, Electronics, and Communication Systems

This research sub-theme focuses on developing eco-friendly energy solutions, efficient electronic systems, and advanced communication technologies. Key research areas include renewable energy integration, power systems, control systems, embedded systems, smart grids, robotics, electronics systems, and smart communication infrastructures for a sustainable future.

Subtheme 6: Earth and Space Science

It focuses on planetary geology, atmospheric and climate science, remote sensing, space exploration technologies, and astrophysics to advance understanding of Earth systems and environmental changes.

Subtheme 7: Smart Urban Development

It focuses on sustainable infrastructure, intelligent transportation systems, urban beautification and landscaping, urban land administration, green building technologies, and IoT-enabled city management to enhance livability, efficiency, and resilience in urban environments.

Subtheme 8: Biomanufacturing and Material Sciences

It focuses on research in biomaterials and biomolecules and advanced nano-materials that are important in medicine, agriculture, food and beverage processing, and industrial applications.

Subtheme 9: Water Resources and Hydro Structures

It focuses on the sustainable management, conservation, and development of water resources and hydraulic infrastructures. It includes studies on irrigation systems, dams, watershed management, flood control, and climate-resilient hydro structures supporting environmental and agricultural sustainability through innovative engineering solutions.

Subtheme 10: Environmental Engineering and Circular Economy

It focuses on sustainable waste management, resource recovery, pollution control, material recycling, and designing systems that minimize environmental impact.

Subtheme 11: Construction Engineering and Project Management

It focuses on modern construction technologies and effective project management strategies. It covers areas such as cost estimation, risk assessment, construction safety, digital tools, and lifecycle management.

Subtheme 12: Machine Design and Manufacturing Technology

It focuses on the design, fabrication, and performance of machines and systems through advanced materials, additive manufacturing, automation, robotics, precision engineering, sustainable manufacturing practices, and the integration of digital tools for enhanced productivity and efficiency.

Subtheme 13: Chemical and Food Processing Industry

It focuses on developing new technologies for food preservation, flavor enhancement, and ingredient extraction while addressing consumer health trends and regulatory challenges in food processing and packaging.

Subtheme 14: Numerical analysis, Biomathematics and Modelling

It focuses on developing numerical and mathematical models to understand and predict complex biological, physiological, and biochemical processes.

Theme 5: Human Health and Nutrition

Health and well-being are fundamental pillars of sustainable development. This theme encompasses integrated efforts to improve population health through innovations in nutrition, disease control, healthcare systems, and community-based interventions. Additionally, it includes a holistic and inclusive approach to ensure the physical, mental, and social health of the communities. This shall contribute to societal resilience and productivity.

Overarching Goal:

To enhance the quality of life and health outcomes by promoting comprehensive, innovative, and community-centered approaches in human nutrition, disease prevention, health service delivery, and mental well-being while integrating environmental, pharmaceutical, and technological advancements.

Subtheme 1: Human Nutrition and Food Safety

It emphasizes the importance of adequate nutrition and safe food systems in promoting public health, focusing on malnutrition, food fortification, dietary diversity, and regulatory frameworks for food safety.

Subtheme 2: Environmental Health, Occupational Safety, Social Reintegration, and Mental Health

It addresses the interconnections between environmental factors, workplace safety, social integration, and mental health, aiming to create supportive environments and inclusive healthcare systems.

Subtheme 3: Communicable and Non-Communicable Diseases

It covers the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of infectious and chronic diseases, with a special focus on emerging threats, health system preparedness, and lifestyle-related conditions.

Subtheme 4: Innovative Medicine and Health Informatics

It explores cutting-edge medical innovations and digital health technologies such as AI, telemedicine, and electronic health records to enhance healthcare access, efficiency, and personalization.

Subtheme 5: Sports Medicine, Fitness, and Exercise

It promotes physical activity, sports-based interventions, and exercise science as key components of preventive healthcare and rehabilitation strategies.

Subtheme 6: Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health

It addresses interventions to improve maternal, neonatal, and child health outcomes, emphasizing access to quality healthcare, nutrition, immunization, and safe delivery practices.

Subtheme 7: Antimicrobial Resistance and Pharmaceutical Studies

It focuses on tackling drug resistance, promoting responsible pharmaceutical use, developing new medications, and improving drug accessibility and regulation.

Subtheme 8: One Health

A transdisciplinary approach linking human, animal, and environmental factors to address complex public health threats such as pandemics, zoonosis, and ecosystem imbalances.

Subtheme 9: Health Systems Strengthening

It is aimed at building resilient, equitable, and efficient health systems capable of responding to both routine and emergency health needs. It encompasses research and innovation focused on improving the six core building blocks of a health system—leadership and governance, health workforce, health financing, service delivery, medical products and technologies, and health information systems.

Theme 6: Education Quality, Relevance, and Technology

It focuses on advancing the quality, accessibility, and relevance of education through research that integrates innovative teaching methods, inclusive practices, and digitalization. It encourages studies that strengthen educational leadership, curriculum development, and lifelong learning to meet the evolving needs of learners and society.

Overarching Goal

This theme encompasses research that strengthens the quality and relevance of education through innovation, inclusivity, and responsive leadership. Besides, it explores teaching and learning outcomes at all levels by integrating pedagogy, policy, technology, and community engagement.

Subtheme 1: Educational and Professional Development

It focuses on the systems, policies, and institutional factors that influence professional growth. Further, it focuses on the effectiveness of continuous learning models, the impact of professional standards on teaching quality, career frameworks, and the role of institutional support in enhancing professional competencies.

Subtheme 2: Educational Leadership, Policy, and Governance

It encompasses the improvement of the educational environment to foster optimal learning and growth by including teachers, students, and the wider community.

Subtheme 3: Curriculum, Instruction Methods, and Education Quality

It focuses on research that evaluates and develops curriculum design, teaching methods, and assessment systems. Besides, emphasis is placed on aligning curricula with learners' needs, societal priorities, and global competencies to enhance learning outcomes and relevance.

Subtheme 4: Adult Education, Special Needs, and Inclusive Education

It promotes research on inclusive education practices for adult learners, individuals with disabilities, and marginalized populations. Besides, it includes flexible learning pathways, inclusive pedagogy, support systems, and community-based education models that ensure equitable learning opportunities.

Subtheme 5: Educational Guidance and Psychology

It supports research on the psychological and guidance-related dimensions of education. It focuses on student motivation, learning behavior, mental well-being, and the role of counseling in improving academic achievement and retention.

Subtheme 6: Digital Education

It focuses on exploring the integration of digital technologies in education, including e-learning platforms, virtual classrooms, and ICT-enhanced teaching. It encourages studies on access, effectiveness, digital literacy, global trends, and challenges in implementing technology-driven education models.

Subtheme 8: Language, Literature, and Communication

It includes the study of linguistics, literary theory, creative writing, and critical analysis. Additionally, it covers the impact of communication technologies, media, and digital platforms on society, examining how language and literature influence and reflect contemporary social, political, and global dynamics.

Theme 7: Population Dynamics, Governance, and Diversity

This theme explores how demographic transitions, governance systems, and social diversity shape development, equity, and public policy. It addresses urbanization, migration, climate resilience, gender equality, legal access, and peacebuilding in multicultural societies.

Overarching Goal

The overarching goal is to explore the complex interactions between population change, governance systems, and socio-cultural diversity. Besides, it generates knowledge that informs inclusive policy-making, strengthens institutional capacity, and supports equitable and sustainable development in diverse societies.

Subtheme 1: Population Dynamics and Urbanization

It covers the impact of population growth, migration, and age structure on urban development and service delivery. Promotes inclusive urban planning, smart city frameworks, and equitable infrastructure.

Subtheme 2: Migration and Socioeconomic Re-integration

It focuses on understanding migration drivers, patterns, and impacts on both origin and destination communities and the reintegration of returnees into socio-economic and inclusive development policies.

Subtheme 3: International Relations and Diplomacy

It covers foreign policy, global cooperation, and multilateral diplomacy in addressing shared global and regional challenges.

Subtheme 4: Federalism, Constitutionalism and Democratization

It covers legal pluralism, the rule of law, civic participation, and democratic governance within the context of a diverse society with multiple ethnic groups.

Subtheme 5: Sustainable Peace and Security

It focuses on the holistic approach to peace and security, addressing the root causes of conflict prevention, resolution, and post-conflict reconstruction through inclusive governance, social justice, and community resilience.

Subtheme 6: Legal Systems and Criminal Justices

It covers the structure, principles, and functioning of legal systems, focusing on the administration of justice, criminal law, and human rights. Besides, it explores common law, civil law, and Sharia law and their impact on criminal justice practices.

Theme 8: Culture, Indigenous Knowledge, and Peace Building

Overarching Goal

This theme covers cultural heritage, revitalization of indigenous knowledge, and peacebuilding. It encourages inclusive and community-centered approaches that address, conflict resolution, and cultural preservation.

Subtheme 1: Folklore and Ethiopian Language Development

This subtheme promotes interdisciplinary research into Ethiopia's rich tapestry of oral traditions, folklore, and indigenous languages. It emphasizes the documentation, preservation, revitalization, development and promotion of Ethiopia's diverse cultural narratives, proverbs, folktales, songs, and indigenous knowledge systems.

Subtheme 2: Culture, Arts, and Entrepreneurship in the Creative Industry

It focuses on research that explores the economic and social roles of arts, crafts, and creative industries. It includes cultural entrepreneurship, innovation, and heritage-based business models.

Subtheme 3: Indigenous Governance and Conflict Resolution

It encourages research on traditional systems of governance and conflict mediation. It explores how indigenous mechanisms contribute to peacebuilding, justice, and community cohesion.

Subtheme 4: Traditional Healers, Medicinal Plants, and Traditional Medicine

It encourages interdisciplinary research on traditional health practices, medicinal plants, and indigenous healing systems. Besides, it considers their integration with modern healthcare and conservation strategies.

Subtheme 5: Cultural Heritage and Environmental Conservation

It promotes research that links cultural heritage preservation with environmental stewardship. Additionally, it covers the protection of sacred sites, community-led conservation, and sustainable heritage tourism.

Annex 1: Research Proposal Submissions Template

Rationale: Major attention has been given to thematic research programs instead of individually conducting fragmented research which have seldom yielded visible outputs. Accordingly, researchers are strictly advised to follow this template and submit their proposal to the Research, Publications, Ethics and Dissemination (RPED) office.

Submission template

Title Page: (Which includes a concise, and explanatory title of the thematic research proposal; highlight of the research team using the table below).

No.	Researchers Name	Dept	Specialization	Academic rank	Email & tel.no	Remark

Executive Project Summary

1. INTRODUCTION
 - 1.1 Background of the study
 - 1.2 Statement of the Problem
 - 1.3 Overarching goal
 - 1.4 Sub-theme titles and concisely state the objectives in line with each sub-theme title (respective sub-theme leaders)
2. LITERATURE REVIEW (optional)
3. MATERIALS AND METHODS
 - 3.1 Description of Study Areas
 - 3.2 Description of Major Activities for each Sub-themes
4. EXPECTED OUTPUTS
5. BENEFICIARIES AND IMPACT
6. MONITORING AND EVALUATION
7. DISSEMINATION STRATEGY
8. GENERAL WORK PLAN OF THE PROJECT
9. SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT BUDGET
 - 8.1 Cost Breakdown for sub-themes
10. REFERENCES
11. RESEARCHERS CURRICULUM VITAE

Annex 1: Researcher CV

[Full Name]

Current Position: [Your Job Title]

Department: [Your Department]

College [Your Department]

Werabe University

Personal Information

- **Date of Birth:** [Your DOB]
- **Email:** [Your Email Address]
- **Phone:** [Your Contact Number]
- **Researcher IDs:**
 - **Google Scholar:** [Link or ID]
 - **Scopus Author ID:** [Link or ID]
 - **Web of Science Researcher ID:** [Link or ID]
 - **PubMed ID:** [Link or ID]
 - **Loop Profile:** [Link or ID, if available]

1. Education

- **[Degree Type]** (e.g., PhD, MSc) in [Field of Study], [Institution Name], [Year]
- **[Degree Type]** (e.g., BA, BSc) in [Field of Study], [Institution Name], [Year]

2. Research Grants & Funding (Internal and/or External)

- **[Project Title]** – [Source of Funding], [Amount], [Duration]
[Brief description of the focus and goals of the project]

3. Ongoing and Completed Research Projects

- **[Project Title]** – Principal Investigator/Co-Investigator, [Dates]
[Brief description of the project, including its outcomes or ongoing work]
- **[Project Title]** – Principal Investigator/Co-Investigator, [Dates]
[Brief description of the project, including its outcomes or ongoing work]

4. Peer-Reviewed Publications

- **[Author(s)]**, "[Title of Paper]," *[Journal Name]*, [Year]. (Indexation: Scopus, Web of Science, PubMed)

5. Academic Conference Participation

- **[Conference Name]**, [Location], [Year] – [Role: Speaker, Presenter, Participant], [Title of Presentation]

6. Authored Books/Book Chapters

- **[Author(s)]**, "[Title of Book Chapter]," *[Book Title]*, [Publisher], [Year].
- **[Author(s)]**, "[Title of Book]," [Publisher], [Year].

7. Patents & Copyrights

- **[Patent Title]**, [Patent Number], [Year]
- **[Copyright Title]**, [Copyright Number], [Year]

8. Award

- **[Award Title]**, [Awarding Organization], [Year]