# Korodegaga site-specific topic: community participation and development

*Note: Due to shortage of time, the actual research was not undertaken and this small report is the result of observation.*

Decentralisation is one of the preferred administration systems. It increases public participation at grass roots level. This participation further helps to tap local knowledge and increase sense of ownership for any development endeavour for sustainability. Decentralisation also needs to meet these advantages if it is to address the real administration.

However, observations at Korodegaga reveal that development activities lack proper public participation which is manifested in different ways. Some of these are:

* There was a big ceremony arranged by the kebele in collaboration with the wereda officials for experience sharing with farmers from other rural areas as the kebele is exemplary in its irrigation development as officials stated. Almost every member of the community was contributing food for the ceremony. The kebele and wereda officials know the aim of the ceremony. However, most community members do not have the real idea of the ceremony. The community said that the ceremony was to be a graduation ceremony for the new irrigation.
* Every farmer was forced to dig a toilet without convincing him warning them being excluded from the aid unless they dig the latrine. Accordingly, everybody has dug a latrine. However, most people do not use the latrine they dug. Hence resources are misused that further affect development in the future.
* The safety net programme as reported from the wereda has failed to meet its goal. The reason for failure as wereda stated was problem of implementation. One of these implementation problems is the sense of dependency created in the community due to lack of public participation in creating awareness about the objective of the program.

Preventive health interventions also lack public participation for their effectiveness. For example, a bednet is distributed for the community to protect from malaria. However people are using the net for other purposes out of its intended service. Some of them are using it to cover hay or crop heaps, use it as a blanket, and use it under bed missing its target. The cost ,however, is a burden for other developments