# Interviews with teenage focus groups in Yetmen, Enemay wereda, East Gojjam

*Topic – government development interventions*

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## Focus group of males aged 15-19

 1. EH 18, Grade 4, middle-wealth

2. UD, 16

3. FT 19, Grade 10 completed, rich

4. EE 19

5. BX 17

6. UU 15

### Land

The main issues the raised and discussed were about the redistribution of Mote-keda (land confiscated from dead people) and land certification. In the discussion it was indicated that after the first all land redistribution carried out by EPRDF it was the redistribution of this specifically Mote-keda land carried out partially among the landless young people in the Kebele. They pointed out that a few plots of land taken from individuals as extra land pushed/stolen from bordering communal grazing were also reallocated along with Mote-keda land. All this land was distributed primarily for the children of the `bureaucrats’ above 18, whose parents’ land was confiscated previously. They indicated that selection of these was carried out through lots casting after listing all children above 18 each `bureaucrat’ farmer had. It was revealed in the discussion that there were up to 2 young siblings who received such land. Discussants argued this was unfair because there were many families none of whose children got any land. Of the general opinions expressed were that the children of non-bureaucrat farmers were harmed by being excluded and left to remain landless; even among the `bureaucrats’, none of the young in many families got any land. However, many discussants agreed that the children of non-bureaucrats families have a better opportunity to obtain/use land from their parents, because parents have enough land as much as 12 Gezm compared to the bureaucrats uniformly left with 4 Gezm of land. They argued that children/relatives of the deceased were very much harmed as Motekeda land was redistributed while many of them trying to reclaim it in the court as legitimate inheritors of the deceased. They mentioned the case of A whose father died while he was a little baby and the kebele confiscated 4 Gezm of his dead father’s land as Motekeda leaving only 1Gezm for the baby.

Regarding the benefit, it was pointed out that some of the young were able to save good money producing from own land while living with parents and could buy animals, rent additional land. They mentioned some young who could use more land through renting and sharecropping using the money they saved by selling grain from own Motekeda land and some plots they received from parents. In addition the Motekeda land he received, parents gave him a plot and leaving with them he was able to produce own crop and save enough and started buying grain from farmers and selling to whole sale traders, now he was being engaged as whole sale grain trader himself.

They all agreed that Yekul (equal crop sharing) and renting were the main common methods of land access to the young and using of rented land was described to be mainly richer people’s practices.

They pointed out that the government plan to give land to organised youth was the most important thing they used to hear so that many of them in the Got have organised themselves in to 16 members groups and are waiting for the government to provide them the land. They argued that lack of land was the main problem of the young and the `bureaucrat’ farmers so that all land should be redistributed to all people.

An ever tax increase, doubled for this year; rising price for fertilisers and consumer goods in relation to high price decrease for grain were the main problems causing harm to parents’ income and their own education.

Regarding land certification, many of them said it will help farmers to ensure Balebetinet (ownership) of their land, to present it as evidence when disputes arise and to transfer it through inheritance

They all agreed that women’s land right was practically protected even more than the men, especially in divorce cases if they appeal to the court will decide immediately and order equal division of property and land.

Regarding land taken to school construction, they indicated that the community gave about 4 ha of land from 6 individuals farms agreeing to provide them from Yegudfin communal grazing land used by both the rural and the town community. It was indicated there will be another inter community conflict as the town communities were heard they will not allow any replacement be given to the farmers

### Resettlement: none

### Government universities/colleges: no answer

### Irrigation

They all agreed the introduction of irrigation has greatly motivated people, especially the young to work hard and produce twice in a year. It was pointed out that as the result many young were able to be involved in daily labor on irrigated farms obtaining more than 20 birr daily and many others were directly engaged in the production of own crops using parents’ pumps/land It was mentioned that many young people whose parents have irrigable land and/or pumps were able to save own money by growing own crops while living with and working for parents.

One of the discussant mentioned his own case that after completing grade 10 he has been living with parents growing own crops using father’s pump and rented irrigable land. They discussed the story of another boy who could buy own pump after saving enough from own crop production using father’s pump. They argued that people who didn’t have own irrigable land or lack money to rent any were not benefiting, and they described shortage of improved vegetable seeds and pesticides as a problem irrigators were facing. It was also mentioned that there was some times, shortage of water during the long dry season as the upstream farmers intensively used it through canal and dam irrigation; in 2000 there was not enough water in the stream even for animals and vegetables dried out until elders were sent and negotiated to share it fairly.

### Alternative Basic Education: none

### Water harvesting

They all agreed that Kurie, household dug water reservoirs, would help at least to reserve rain water enough to produce vegetables for family consumption but not enough to produce for the market since the water decreases in the long dry season. Of the disadvantages described were that when dug on farms it takes land that could be used for crop production; animals used to fall in and die and even children could enter as a child in neighboring kebele, Dibisa Got was reported to have fallen in to and died.

### Government pre-school education: none

### Agricultural extension and packages

They agreed that people have been preparing and applying compost on Yeguwaro Ersha (backyard land) but didn’t use it for bigger size crop fields. They also discussed that uses of fertilisers, the BBM plough, and intercropping have been effective and widespread in the community.

### Community-government interactions: no new intervention

### Livestock extension and packages

Discussants indicated that the majority of farmers were involved in bull fattening at least once or twice, and many sold such a bull up to 6000 birr. It was also indicated that many other were raising improved cattle breeds; they mentioned a man who have about 6 breed cows benefiting through milk marketing

### The use of models, champions, promoters

They all agreed in saying that model farmers didn’t give any benefit to other people except for themselves

### Non-farm extension and packages

They pointed out that the Wereda and the DAs used to advise the youth to take loans and be engaged in running group business including poultry, fattening, and dairy development, but the government couldn’t provide them loans and land to start any business

### The use of extension workers

They all agreed that extension workers helped the people very much in terms of giving advice about development and facilitating the purchasing of pumps and use of fertilisers and improved seeds.

### Co-operatives

They described the service cooperative as the most important and widely used co-op in their community in terms of increasing farmer’s income by marketing their grains, providing fertilisers/seeds, and paying dividends.

### Good governance: no answer

### Government Micro-credit

They agreed in taking Amhara Credit and Saving Institution(ACSI) as the main source of government credit(ACSI is a party affiliated business officially identified as private institution). Most discussants indicated that many farmers used to take loans from ACSI for buying bulls and sell them fattening, to buy sheep for raising, and for fertiliser. But some of the discussant argued that some people were put in debts being unable to repay loans either because their animals bought died or they consumed the money(expended on food)

### Interactions with woreda: no answer

### Food aid: none

### Security, policing and justice: no answer

### Nutrition: no answer

### Taxes; other contributions of cash and labour: no answer

### Family planning

Many of them expressed their opinion that the community well understood the benefits of birth control. But they argued using it in tablet form was not good as many women used to forget taking it or took it at the wrong time. They all agreed that taking it through injection was the common method used .

### Government-sponsored Associations: no answer

### Pregnancy and childbirth

Some argued that using of traditional birth attendants has been declining and many mothers used to give birth in the clinic. But all agreed in saying that the majority of the pregnant mothers used to go and check every month in the clinic, and small children were regularly taken to the clinic for vaccination.

### Presentation of government models of development: no answer

### Drinking water: none

### Exemptions for the poor: none

### Sanitation

Many agreed with the opinion raised that the majority of people didn’t yet understood the benefits of latrines and most of those who dug never used them. The main reason raised was the fact that people couldn’t feel at ease in using it; one discussant said that even themselves as students were at first reluctant to use the latrine when they did go to school and rather used to go to the bushes/open fields until they gradually became adapted to it.

### Gender laws, policies , programmes and implementation: no answer

### Preventive health services

They all agreed that all people have received mosquito nets, but only once for the first time. It was pointed out that almost all people were not using the net as to prevent mosquito, rather it was being used for making ropes to tie with animals and loads on donkey back, tie and carry water jars, to put under bed sheets so to wipe out insects and to spread grain on and dry in the sun.

### Youth policies, programmes and implementation: no answer

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### Curative health services

They all agree the clinic was providing very good services, especially for pregnant mothers and children

### Community work including FFW and non-government work: no answer

### Primary education

Many of them pointed out that the school service has well improved in that unlike the previous 1 book for 6-10, it was then 1 for each student, only 50-60 students in a class; previously 4-5 students seat on one chair, but now all students seat in 1: 3 proportion, and it was indicated that all this was because 5 additional class rooms were built (2000) as well many of the students coming from other Kebeles left as new schools were opened in their respective kebeles. They also agreed in saying that shortage of teachers has improved.

### Transport: no answer

### Secondary education: no answer

### Electricity and communications: no answer

### Government TVET: no answer

### ‘Harmful traditional practices’: no answer

## Focus group of males aged 11 – 14

1. HC 14

2. EC 12

3. HZ 13

4. NA 13

5. HB 12

### Land

They discussed that mainly motekeda land and some plots taken from individuals who pushed communal grazing land was allocated to landless youth. Some discussants said that many families have benefited while some others were harmed as the result of this land distribution. It was indicated that the bureaucrat farmers were the most benefited because they had been in critical shortage of land since their land was confiscated.

They pointed out some of those who received such land also obtained additional land from parents and they were able to produce own crops and save money and helped themselves and younger siblings to continue their education. They mentioned a boy who could attend and complete his education from 6-10 by growing vegetables using father’s pump. Some of the discussants agreed that the need/ method of producing two or more times using irrigation and kerirtibet (remaining rain wet) was the good thing they used to hear about. The imbalance between the price of their products and the consumer goods was mentioned as the bad thing the community faced. One of them said “their commodity price soar up, and they pushed down the price of our products ”

Some of them suggested that the distribution of motekeda land didn’t have any harm except benefit, because the land was confiscated from dead people who haven’t any children.

### Resettlement : none

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### Government universities/colleges

They discussed that many farmers in the kebele educated their children up to university and college level; they mentioned some farmers who have sent children to private colleges in Addis and Debre Marcos.

### Irrigation

They indicated irrigation enabled many people improve their family standard of life and educated their children. It was mentioned that some were able to buy improved breed cows and market milk, rented more irrigable and other land by growing vegetables.

### Alternative Basic Education: none

### Water harvesting

They all believed that water harvesting was very important for those who didn’t have irrigable land to produce in the dry season. But since people have shortage of land, they don’t want to dig water reservoir on their farms. They pointed out that many people have prepared compost, but they didn’t use it widely due to lack of understanding the benefits. One discussant said that this was despite the fact that the DAs used to teach farmers comparing the price difference between compost and fertilisers.

### Government pre-school education: none

### Agricultural extension and packages

The DAS were described as to have been providing very important education and advice about the benefits /method of producing more than two times, use of irrigation, and fertiliser, which helped many people to get richer

### Community-government interactions: no answer

### Livestock extension and packages

They argued the majority of people were not benefiting from fattening and improved breeds. It was indicated that only few people have been involved in raising breed animals and in bull fattening due to shortage of grazing land and forage.

### The use of models, champions, promoters: no answer

### Non-farm extension and packages: no answer

### The use of extension workers: no answer

### Co-operatives

They described the service cooperative as good in that it helped them to buy commodities and fertiliser at a fair price, and to sell their grain with better price

### Good governance: no answer

### Government Micro-credit

They discussed that many people used to take loans from ACSI for buying oxen, fertiliser, and to run petty trade. But they all agreed that there weren’t any people they knew whose life was changed through loaned money. Some even argued that there were people who were forced to repay loans by borrowing from money lenders, and others used to put the required savings from the loan they took; they mentioned some people who were harmed of debts from ACSI.

### Interactions with woreda: no answer

### Food aid: none

### Security, policing and justice

It was described that theft and interpersonal conflict were common in the past, especially farmers going to drink houses in the town were frequently involved in violent fights. But it was pointed out that compared to last year and before, crop theft has decreased in this year; this was not due to ensured security but because farmers were able to transport their crops to threshing floors around homes as soon as they harvested it. It was indicated that even the town’s policemen didn’t consider security watching as their duties, when conflicts/fights arose they couldn’t reach on time or were called from drinking houses; sometimes they would even try to evade when encountered with conflict events

### Nutrition: no answer

### Taxes; other contributions of cash and labour

They discussed that tax increase was taking place every year forcing their parents to sell grains in cheaper price, because tax has been collected during harvesting season when price used to go down.

### Family planning

They agreed that many people have been trying to delay having children using birth-controlling medicines. Some pointed out that especially young people were commonly using contraceptives.

### Government-sponsored Associations: no answer

### Pregnancy and childbirth

They indicated that pregnant women and small babies have been effectively getting vaccination and treatment services from the health centre. But one of them said that they didn’t usually see many children being vaccinated in their year and couldn’t know why?

### Presentation of government models of development: no answer

### Drinking water: no answer

### Exemptions for the poor: no answer

### Sanitation

It was pointed out that many of those who have latrines never used them, and rather continued to go to the bush/open fields complaining the latrines would cause bad smells. it was mentioned that they would use it at night if they used it at all; they argued since men stay in the fields they don’t need latrines in the day time. They agreed people dug latrines only to show it to the HEWS when they come to supervise

### Gender laws, policies , programmes and implementation: no answer

### Preventive health services

Discussants agreed in describing use of bednets as widespread accepted by all for other purposes. But it was pointed out that people didn’t use it for preventing mosquitoes because there wasn’t any serious malaria threat. One of the discussant said that all of them in their respective homes never used the nets over beds, rather all people used it as Shash (head wear) for women and for making tying ropes to load with/tie animals.

### Youth policies, programmes and implementation

They mentioned that the government has a plan to provide land and credit to the youth to help them start businesses. One of them said and others agreed that youths in other areas have got good results by being organised and working in groups, but here they were not benefiting, as they couldn’t get land and credit

### Curative health services

They agreed in describing the health centre’s service as good, especially for children and pregnant women and in terms of providing education about HIV/AIDS. They pointed out that there were many people in the town suspected of being HIV infected, but there weren’t any people who exposed themselves in public.

### Community work including FFW and non-government work: no answer

### Primary education

Among the opinions for warded in the discussion were that education was being given nicely, especially since students have been taught by many different teachers instead of one teacher and more good teachers were brought. They indicated that there were still shortages of chairs so that some even used sit on the floor, mainly because the school couldn’t repair broken seats.

### Transport: no answer

### Secondary education: no answer

### Electricity and communications

They agreed that the town people were the beneficiaries of the electricity and only about 10 farmers bordering the town could have it. It was also indicated that 5 water points were in the town and only 2 in the rural sites while the borehole was located on their land in the rural village. Some of them complained that the wereda officials favour the town people so that farmers couldn’t equally use electricity and pipe water; it was pointed out that the workers assigned to manage water points and electric power were from the town so that they never/rarely open water for the rural population.

### Government TVET: no answer

### ‘Harmful traditional practices’

They discussed that extravagant feast offering ceremonies was being practised as before, but they agreed the quantity/quality of food preparation, especially for wedding, has decreased in that some people begun to reduce the number of people they invite to and the food they prepare, number and size of animals slaughtered for such feasts. However, most discussant believed the feast expenditure for death commemorative ceremonies continued to be extravagant even among poor families.

It was discussed that early marriage was almost stopped because the bride and groom were required to go to the wereda to be checked whether or not they were mature enough to get married. Yet, some argued that there could be early marriage when the kebele officials agree to be silent over the cases, and one discussant pointed out a story where elder siblings of the underage bride and groom were sent to wereda to pass the checking for them to get married officially, and were married indeed in 1999 after their respective elder siblings passed the required physical check-up for them. This was just because the father wished to prepare wedding ceremony for his first son while alive.