# Interviews on non- farming by males in Kormargefia, North Shewa

## Trade

### Facts about trade

All respondents agreed that there has been no regular trading activity involving the buying of products from farmers in the community and selling it in the market for making profits. Rather every farmer is sells their own crop produce, livestock/products, hey/straw feeds, wood/fallen dry leaves from eucalyptus trees, and dung cake. There isn’t any farmer who is involved in any regular business activity other than selling from their own production when they need money. The major markets they use to sell all the above are Debrebrhan and Chacha towns. There is only one small shop at the kebele centre which was opened this year by a school dropout from grade 10. The shop sells matches, pen/cils, biscuits, exercise books. There is one electric powered grain mill owned by an 80-year-old investor living in Debrebrhan.

## Cash crops

### Most important cash crop sold by big trader

Not available in this community. All respondents asked insist there hasn’t been any single farmer involved in crop produce trade other than selling their own products.

### Second most important cash crop sold by big trader

None

### Big trader’s activity

### None

### Most important cash crop sold by middle trader

None

### Second most important cash crop sold by middle trader

None

### Middle trader’s activity

None

### Most important cash crop sold by small trader

None

### Second most important cash crop sold by small trader

None

### Small trader’s activity

None

### Most important cash crop sold by self-trader

He and all the various respondents insisted that in terms of prices linseed, lentils, peas, and faba beans are most important. He said linseed and lentils are equally providing them the highest market prices, and insisted that he always sold some from his linseeds, or lentils or both, as far as he produced them in any year. He indicated that he didn’t choose any time of the year to sell the produce, rather he could sell some when he needed money to buy fertilizers, livestock, clothes, and other household requirements. He argued that there has been a constant change in the price for the last 10 or so years, with a high price increase occurring every year. He said he didn’t face any problem in transporting it to the market as he used his donkeys. He argued there is no profit nor loss when selling own crop. He sold around 40 kg of lentils at 600 birr in last year, and 20kg of linseeds around 400 birr in this year. He said he never paid any market tax.

### Second most important cash crop sold by self-trader

The same respondent reported that peas provide the second highest price for producers. He repeated what he said for linseeds and lentils, regarding when and for how long he has been selling. He indicated that the price of peas has been growing, but its production has been declining as a serious disease destroyed it in many years. As a result, farmers would stop growing peas for one or two years if they felt the disease was imminent next time. He didn’t have any problem regarding transportation to the market as he didn’t sell much.

### Self-trader’s activity

He indicated that whenever they wanted some money he or his wife used also to sell some from the other types of crop products barley, wheat, faba beans, if they had enough for household consumption. Sometimes, they sold in smaller quantities carrying it to the market themselves or at other times, if there was much more, on the donkey’s back. This depended on how much money they needed to obtain at the time. He said the price for all types of crop products was determined by the traders in the town so that in the same market/day some could sell at good prices, while others sold at lower prices for different traders/consumers. He complained that traders usually would agree among themselves to predetermine their buying prices so that farmers couldn’t negotiate for a better price with different traders. He reported that in addition to crop products, he has sold eucalyptus trees for around 2000 birr in the last year.

## Livestock trading

He reported that ten years ago he could buy cattle from markets in other wereda, including Hamus Gebeya (Thursday market) and sold them in Debrebrhan. Then he stopped cattle trading because he couldn’t even buy a single cattle with all the money he had as the prices grew far beyond his capacity. Rather he shifted to shoats trade and has been involved in buying sheep mainly from Debrebrhan and other markets and occasionally from farmers in the villages. He sells them mainly in chacha town where there are better prices. He has bought and sold more than 30 sheep in the last 12 months. He said he was not involved in regular buying and selling of shoats, but only in some years and during important holy day celebrations in the year. He reported that he was usually involved in shoat trading during Kidus-yohanis (Ethiopian New year) and Fasika (Epiphany) celebrations. He usually buys them some time before the festivals and sells them in Chacha 3 to 1 days before the holy days. He said he could sell to traders, hotel owners, and individual consumers, but traders buy the majority in bulk. He said some of the traders would sell the shoats in the same town to consumers or bigger traders who would take and sell them in Addis and on the way. Others could directly take all they bought to Addis Abeba market. He said prices were fixed through negotiations both when he bought and sold. His sales prices were determined after negotiations with different buyers until meeting someone who could offer better prices for each sheep, a bit above his purchasing costs. He noted that sheep prices usually increase during annual festival times more than normal times so that traders need to buy them two or one month before and keep until the festivals.

He reported that he bought and sold 30 sheep last year and got only 500 birr profit. He reported that he used to pay 4 birr/sheep when he took them to the market for selling, just as any farmer pays when selling his own sheep. He revealed that he doesn’t have any trading license and could avoid paying license fees until last year, when he was caught by the police at Chacha market and forced to pay 60 birr as a tax for the year and told to take the license or stop trading immediately. He complained that one of the kebele militia who had disputes with him had informed the town’s officials about his being involved in trade without paying taxes. He insisted he continued the trade secretly, and would not take the license as he does not work in it regularly.

He said he has been involved in sheep trading for the last 15 years and he always used own money, but the number of sheep he could buy at a time has been declining due to his shortage of money as prices have increased so much. He noted that ten years before 2000 birr could buy 4 sheep, whereas this is now the price of one sheep, so he could buy fewer sheep.

## Livestock products

Milk and dung cake were described as the most important products with high potential for traders in the community and from without; urban traders involved in faba beans/peas roasting have already started buying dung cakes in bulk from individuals and they transport it in ISUZU tracks. Private urban dairy processors were collecting milk from individual farmers, in addition to the dairy cooperative

### Male traders in livestock products

It was reported that there haven’t been any traders involved in trading any of the livestock products mentioned other than selling own products in markets in the nearby towns.

### Interview with livestock trader

Not available

## Micro, small and medium enterprises

### MSME facts

It was reported that there aren’t any small/medium productive enterprises in the community except one grain mill owned by a person from Debrebrhan, but there are some private dairy processors in Chacha and Debrebrhan, and some recently established private and group faba beans/ peas roasting businesses in Debrbrhan.

### Skilled production

There are 3 carpenters, only one of them is full time. All are involved in constructing wooden wall houses, fixing iron sheet roofs, making wooden chairs and beds. There are 2 or 3 traditional stone house builders, one part time weaver of cotton cloths, and almost all women are said be involved in making grass baskets for household utensils. There are no potters, blacksmiths, tanners.

### Livestock and products production

There aren’t any people involved in buying and distributing cattle for fattening. There have always been around 4 farmers involved in buying and selling of shoats, but they all used to buy them from other town markets and sell to traders in the towns. None of them could buy from nor distributed to people in the community. There is one dairy cooperative involved in collecting members’ daily milk production for sale to a private dairy processor from Chacha. There is also the same private milk collecting shop at the border of the kebele buying milk from non-dairy cooperative members in the community. The dairy cooperative has a cream/butter separator machine provided by Land olyx, USAID, but this stopped functioning due to some faults 2 years ago. The cooperative didn’t provide dividends so far, but planned to start in the next year.

### Local drinks and food production

There aren’t any persons involved in large scale production of local drinks, or food, just a few women producing/selling Areqe on a small scale.

### More detail on areki production

Male respondents reported that Around 8 women are involved in the production/selling of Areqe. One of them is well known to be working more regularly whereas most of the other were involved on and off.

### Non-farm male producer co-operatives

There aren’t any non-farm productive cooperatives run by male youth/adult groups.

### Natural resource sale

It was reported that all farmers in the community sell live trees on their farm to traders coming from the towns, and to farmers in the community who would buy for house construction, and/or chopped and dried wood from own eucalyptus trees which is taken to Debrebrhan/Chacha towns on donkeys. Many people are also involved in collecting and selling fallen dry leaves from their own eucalyptus or leaves and twigs from cut down trees. Around 3 men were reported to have been involved in producing and selling charcoal from their own eucalyptus trees. It was indicated that there are no people engaged in illegal charcoal making as there isn’t any natural forest trees.

Many respondents said that every farmer take dry grass and threshed crop stakes for sale in Debrebrhan market in one year or the other if they could collect more than enough to feed own livestock. It was also reported that some farmers could sell stones on their farmland as it was required for construction projects in and near the kebele.

### Petty production

None

### Service enterprises

None

### Food-processing services

There is only one electric powered private grain mill near the kebele centre. There was another gasoline powered mill in Milki sub-kebele until 3 years ago when the owner dismantled and took it to Debrebrhan, because he couldn’t make any profit due to price increase for gasoline compared to electricity. There are also electric grain mills nearby outside the kebele in different directions, in and around chacha, at ILCA, and Tebase. The people of the kebele use the nearest from their respective residence. It was also reported that there are some private dairy processors and group managed beans roasting businesses in and at the out- skirts of Debrebrhan

### Hospitality services

There aren’t any hotels, restaurants, and bars other than small Areqe drinking houses working on and off.

### Health services

There aren’t any private clinics/pharmacies, but there are around two traditional bone setters and herbal medicine providers. There are no private or government veterinary drug shops

### Shops

There is only one small shop selling biscuits, matches, pen, pencils, exercise books, coffee beans. A young boy who failed grade 10 started it this year, at the kebele centre.

### Leisure services

Football, volleyball and tennis are available only for students at the schools, and there is only one person, the kebele chairman, who has a TV set, extending electricity from the grain mill.

### Petty services

None

### Transport services

People use only own donkey for household goods transportation, and there are two students who have bicycles for personal use to and from the school

## Government support for non-farm activities

They insisted that there wasn’t any government support for non-farm businesses, except helping some farmers to get credit from ACSI for sheep rearing/fattening

## Non-farm employment

They estimated that the kebele residents permanently employed in and near the kebele are: 4 guards within the kebele; around 6 by the Amhara Agricultural research centre (former ILCA) at one edge of the kebele (10 minutes from the centre).

Respondents agreed in estimating the number of people from the kebele who are employed outside the community to be around 80. Around ten people are employees in Debrebrhan wool and blankets factory; there is one grain mill operator; around 8 farm work servants paid in cash or in kind (grain or a plot of land). Some farmers also could be involved in stone quarrying, or cutting down and splitting trees (1.50 birr/tree) and loading them when traders come from the towns with trucks for stones and bulk eucalyptus trees.