# Interviews on non- farming by males in Oda Dawata, Arssi

## Trade

### Facts about trade

There is no large trader in the kebele, large traders are found in Gonde town.

## Cash crops

### Most important cash crop sold by big trader

N/A

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

N/A

### Big trader’s activity

N/A

### Most important cash crop sold by middle trader

**Wheat:** He traded wheat eight months of the year except in July, August, September and October due to unavailability of this crop during these months. He started trading eight years ago and he does not want to continue trading this crop in the future because its market has been not stable and there is no profit. There is no problem related with collecting and transporting this crop to large traders, since he buys at his store by Kg directly from farmers and large traders provide their own transportation and buy it from him. He buys this crop mostly on his own and sometimes borrows from large traders to whom he delivers what he buys at his store. Mostly he buys this crop from the same farmers and he also supplies the same large traders. The price is determined by market forces and also government, he sells to large traders by making five birr profit from each quintal accordingly, if he buys a quintal in at 600 birr he sells it 605 to large traders. In the last one year he made five thousand birr profit from this trade. His main problem in trading this crop is that there is no stable market for this crop sometimes the price goes up and down because of this he is not confident to buy many quintals fearing that the price might go down before he sells it while he bought it in high price. He said that this is the reason why he is deciding to stop trading wheat. Both the traders and farmers are confused about the market due to the absence of a stable market. For him government is responsible for market instability, so trading this crop is improved if government refrain from determining the price and also other interventions. Let me contextualise how government intervention has an impact on the market for example while we are buying wheat 600 birr a quintal the government import it from abroad and supply it to the flour factories at 550 birr. At this time we get in a crisis or are forced to sell the wheat for less than we bought it for. As a result we are confused about the market and always worried about it. I advise the government to withdraw from setting the price but they can monitor it, when the government stays away from the market there is always market stability. The government works on the behalf of the rich people, we make five birr profit from a quintal but the rich people those who have floor factories make profits of more than 200 birr from a quintal. In addition to this the government is subsidising them by importing wheat and selling it to them cheaply which he said is unfair and double standards. At least the government should provide the wheat for the market or customers and not to the floor factories if market stability is needed, which is making the rich to become more richer and the poor to become poorer”.

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

He traded beans with wheat eight months in a year except July, August, September and October due to unavailability of this crop during these months. He started trading eight years ago when he started trading wheat. There is no problem related to collecting and transporting this crop to large traders, since he buys at his store by kilogram directly from farmers and large traders provide their own transportation and buy it from him. He covers the cost of buying beans on his own. Most of the time he buys beans from the same farmers and sells them to different large traders, but he gives priority to his customers and those who pay in cash at the time of delivery. He said that some large traders pay them after selling what they bought from them. He decides the price similar to wheat most of the time he sells making five birr profit per quintal to large traders. In the last year he made a profit of only two thousand birr because beans were not as easily available as wheat to buy in large quantity. The problem with trading this crop is market instability created by the export of beans. He mentioned that previously beans were not exported abroad but now they are exported which makes market instable. If they want they say the price gets down in international market and they buy it from us with low price even there are times when we don’t make profit or loss due to such inconsistency. He said that the large exporters are determining prices as they want. Trading beans could be improved if government monitored the price, he said that he has not seen the reason why the prices fluctuates within two days. For example if we sell one quintal bean today in 700 birr in the next day they say the price is 600 birr, so such kind of things are troubling, I wish who ever concerned should bring stability to the market.

### Middle trader’s activity

In addition to the above mentioned crops he also sometimes trades peas and barley. He trades barley for some two months in a year because there is not enough supply for the market, the farmers mostly use it for food consumption. He also trades peas like that of beans eight month in year but they are not as consistent throughout the eight months like wheat due to unavailability. Wheat is the most profitable crop because there is enough supply we can make profit by buying many quintals but this does not work for other crops since there are limited supplies. He doesn’t trade livestock. For him the general price agreement between them and large traders is not fair, large traders always makes better profit than he does. To run his business he has some money and also borrows from large traders when it is needed. He makes total benefit of eight thousand birr last year. He doesn’t have any support from the wereda for his business and he did not employ anyone for this business everything is covered by him and family members. Besides trade he has been engaged in farm activities. When he started trading 8 years ago the market was stable and predictable but now things are changing from time to time due to market unpredictability and instability, so you always live in worry about what you bought until you sell it. The business could be improved if there was market stability. He didn’t engage in education last year.

### Most important cash crop sold by small trader

There is no small trader in the kebele because of the proximity of all villages to Gonde local market. Farmers sell their products themselves at Gonde town local market.

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

N/A

### Small trader’s activity

N/A

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

He trades wheat from August to September he has been trading since he started farming because he always sold whatever he produced in surplus. Things have been changing, even though the price has been improving since he started selling, but he has been spending more on fertilisers and improved seed, so in previous years it was more profitable than today due to high expenses of the inputs. There is no problem in transporting wheat since large traders buy it from him at home providing their own transport. In the last one year he makes profit of twenty-five thousand birr. He didn’t pay any market tax since he sells all of his production at farm gate or home. This trading could be improved by working hard and increasing productivity.

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

He trades potatoes in January, he has been trading since 2001 (Ethiopian Calendar). Things have been changing, it has been improving since he started selling, for instance he sells his potatoes at his farm gate to large traders which is more profitable by reducing the middleman but before two or three years they transport it to market by donkey transportation which reduces the profit due to poor transportation. In the last year he has made a profit of fifteen thousand birr. He didn’t pay any market tax since he sells all of his production at farm gate or home. This trading could be improved by working hard and increasing productivity.

### Self-trader’s activity

He also trades beans and peas, is the amounts are not significant as other crops because they use some for house consumption. He trades from August to September. Pulses are more profitable than other crops. He said he didn’t know how the price is set but he said he thinks the price is set up by traders, which he said is unfair because they buy the product as they want by setting the price. He finances his production farm and sells by his own. He makes three thousand birr profit per year from pulses. He is a farmer and has no other business to run only selling his farm products. He has not been involved in education in the last one year.

## Livestock trading

In the last twelve months he bought and sold not less than 180 cattle out of these 160 were local breed cattle, which are mostly or 70% of the cattle were masena (cow which stopped giving birth or unable to give birth after a while due to several factors) for butchery and others were bulls. The remaining twenty are improved breeds mostly masena all were sold for butchery. He started this trade before three years and he said that cattle trading are from September up to May, because during summer season there is no cattle market or cattle are not available as such and also it is difficult to manage cattle in rainy season. He buys cattle from Sagure market of Sagure wereda and Boru market of Hetosa wereda which are the neighbours of Tiyo wereda. But mostly he buys from Sagure market. He sells mostly at Boru market and butchers also buy from him coming home. Those traders who buy cattle from him sell it in Adama town and also they provide for butchers at Adama town. The price of the cattle is determined by the market accordingly when there is lack of cattle the price rise up and when there are more cattle the price gets down. The price of cattle decreases from October to December due to easily availability of cattle. Farmers easily fatten their cattle using available grazing land and sell it during this period. The price increases from January to May because during this period cattle fodder is expensive and not easily available, so it results to the price to increase. For example” the price of one quintal of fagulo (cattle fodder) is 650 birr this month (March) but during summer season grazing land is easily available so we don’t spend for animal fodder which results to the declining of price of cattle from October to December.” He wasn’t willing to tell me his total profit of the last one year but he tried to guess the profit he gets from a single cattle accordingly he makes profit of 200-500 from one cattle. He pays ten birr per cattle when he buys from the market. For each cattle ten birr will be paid when the cattle left market place at the gate of the market irrespective of who buy or sell it. He doesn’t engage on shoats selling. He would finance all cattle he buys but in case if he faces shortage of money he borrows from his friends. He doesn’t have business license. He didn’t employ any one all things are covered by family members. He is also actively engaged in farm activities in addition to trading cattle. He did not engage in education in the last one year and he started this business in 2002 EC. Livestock trade is a good business, if you work hard you can make some profit. But the price of cattle has been increasing from time to time, but he said I am not the victim of this because I would buy and sell with some profit. Livestock trading could be improved by fattening some bulls which results to a good price after it gets fattened. For example, one can buy a bull up to ten thousand and sell it after fattening from twenty to twenty five thousand, the fattening may takes some five months.

## Livestock products

### Male traders in livestock products

There are no middleman traders for butter in the kebele because there is a milk cooperative which extracts butter from the milk supplied by members and sells it to different customers and traders of Gonde town and shares dividends to members. There is no middleman for honey, the producers sell it themselves to shops and customers. There are two middleman trading eggs, they buy them from the farmers in the village and from farmers on their way to the market place. These middlemen sell eggs to cafés and restaurants at Gonde and Assela towns. In addition to this during holidays they also sell them at Adama to large traders. There is one middleman trading hide in the kebele, he is also a middleman for eggs, so he buys both from farmers on their way to market place. He sells hide to large traders at Assela town, who supply it to different tanneries in the country. There is no wool in the kebele.

### Interview with livestock trader

He is a middleman for two livestock products eggs and hides, he started trading eggs in 1989 EC and hide in 1996 EC. Seasonality affects the availability of eggs, they are mostly available during summer season because most crops are not harvested at this time so the people sell them and use the money to buy salt, coffee and other household consumables. Other times they use eggs for consumption rather than selling them. In addition to this, students also sell eggs during this season in order to buy their pens, exercise books, and clothes for September or for New Year.

Hide is not as affected by seasonality it is easily available during holidays and summer time. He buys both products from farmers on their way to market and also at the market place. He buys these products from different people who are going to sell their products. He sells eggs to cafés and restaurants at Gonde and Assela towns and also shops in Assela town. In addition to this during the holidays he also sells in Adama to large traders. He sells hide to large traders at Assela town, who supplies it to different tanneries in the country. He sells egg to different people but he has three cafe customers at Gonde town who he supplies regularly and he mostly sells hide to the same person at Assela town but sometimes he also sells it at Iteya town in iteya wereda. In the last twelve months he made five thousand birr profit and he finances everything to run his business and has no problem. He would pay market tax when he sells at market place seven birr for one day market. He didn’t employ any one he run it everything by his own. In addition to this trade he is also engaged in farming activities.

## Micro, small and medium enterprises

### MSME facts

There are no any crop or livestock processing enterprises and also there are no any medium sized productive enterprises in the kebele. There are no small productive enterprises which are thriving or have the potential to expand. No one is involved in subsistence productive activities they do not exist in the kebele.

### Skilled production

There is only one carpenter in the community who works full time and produces beds, bife (house hold furniture), sofa, chairs, tables, chest drawers and others. There are no people who are engaged in pottery, blacksmith, tannery, wool, block maker, basket maker. There are four weavers who work part time and produce netela (locally produced cloth by women). Those people who weave also spin their products. None of these skilled workers enterprises are thriving so far. There is no small building enterprise in the kebele.

### Livestock and products production

There are two people who buy cattle and distribute them to other people to fatten, the number of people engaged in this business has been increasing in the last five years. Five years ago nobody was engaged in the business and no one is engaged in the same business for shoats. There is a milk cooperative involved in the commercial production of livestock products like milk and butter. The cooperative extract butter from milk using a machine and sell milk, butter and yogurt. There are about 40 members of the cooperative that provides milk to on daily basis. The cooperative sells the above mentioned products and distribute monthly to members their dividend. Before five years there were no such cooperative in the kebele.

### Local drinks and food production

There are no people who engaged in large scale production of local drink and food.

### More detail on areki production

There are more than 100 women who are engaged in petty production of local drink called areki and sell it at their home.

### Non-farm male producer co-operatives

There five non-farm cooperatives who are engaged in stone production each cooperative has 20-30 members in the kebele. This was established in 2000 EC with just two cooperatives and others were established later on, from five cooperatives one started to function this year all of them produce stone. Two of them have been functioning since five years ago. As I have mentioned earlier each cooperative have 20-30 members, but of all the 5 cooperatives Hulegeb and Odadawata cooperatives have been the most successful. Although there are some drop outs in all cooperatives, each has at least 20 active members. The cooperative members do not employ anyone they work themselves, extracting stone and selling it at the place it's produced. The major constraints to these cooperatives is lack of capital, they only sell what they produce without adding value on it so the price is not good as such. If they had a stone crusher they would get good price for their production. There are middlemen who buy them stone and process it by crusher and they get a better price than the cooperatives. Thus if they have capital they want to buy stone crusher and increase their income and expand their business. The cooperative has been changing the life of the most people who are members and their families.

### Natural resource sale

Some 40 people are engaged in selling wood, they collect this wood from Chilalo mountain areas in Akiya and Chebote zone and the kebele has not tried to stop them yet. There are about ten people who are involved in charcoal making illegally and they are mostly poor people who do not have land in the kebele. They make charcoal from Akiya and Chebote zone and the kebele has tried to stop them but they do it mostly during night time. More than 50 people are involved in selling grass for livestock fodder and they get it from their own grazing land.

### Petty production

Did not exist in the kebele.

### Service enterprises

Did not exist in the kebele.

### Food-processing services

There is one grain mill in the kebele around health post of the kebele and no other food processing service in the kebele.

### Hospitality services

These did not exist in the kebele.

### Health services

There are no private clinics or pharmacies and traditional medical services in the kebele. there is one government vet which provides drugs.

### Shops

There were no shops in the kebele.

### Leisure services

Leisure services did not exist in the kebele.

### Petty services

In the kebele four people are involved in shoe shinning and there is one person who repairs TVs, mobiles, radios and watches. No person is engaged in selling second hand clothes and shoes

### Transport services

Some ten people provide transport using donkey mainly they transport stone from production place to customers, they also transport wood and different trees. Some 12 people provide transport using horse and cart, they transport both people and goods. There are no people who provide transport using bicycles, trailer, bajaj, motorbikes, cars, and trucks. No one is involved in repairing these different types of vehicle.

## Government support for non-farm activities

The government does not provide credit for any of these activities. The government gives land and also advices for different people who pursue the above mentioned activities for example cooperatives like stone cooperatives. The government does not provide any inputs for people involved in any of these activities. There is only land tax in the kebele and no other taxes. The government is not demanding those people who are engaged in the above mentioned activities to pay tax because none of them are strong in the kebele. There is electricity in the kebele but only carpenter use it for his production.

## Non-farm employment

Not less than 50 people resident in the kebele have formal government jobs, including teacher, health centre staff, agriculture office and vets, and kebele manager. There are about 90 educated people from the kebele who are employed further away. Some five people work in NGO’s but he doesn’t know where they work. Some six people work at local industry of flour factories. Seven people are employed informally by the kebele which includes five guards and two teachers. Some four people are permanently employed by traders or in productive or service enterprises. There are some 30 domestic servants in the kebele. There are no opportunities for non-farm work in the kebele including employment.