# Interviews on farming in Oda Dawata, Arssi

## Place

### Altitude and terrain

Altitude affects the farming system in the community, because such landscape is very difficult to plough by ox, even though it is farmed by ox such farming will be risky for the health of the ox. In addition to this, such landscape is exposed to soil erosion which reduces soil fertility and productivity of the land. The land terrain is very important for effective agricultural activity, for instance ***woina dega*** area is important for most agricultural activities while ***dega*** area is less advantaged for most farming activities, it limits what can be farmed in this area for example, ***zengada***, maize, ***teff*** and other products cannot be grown in the ***dega*** areas of Akiya and Chebote zone. There are different improved seeds and seedlings available for different temperatures in the kebele, for instance in the ***woina dega*** area there are improved wheat seeds which are called ***danda’a*** and ***dekeba*** while there is ***galama*** for the ***dega*** area.

### Soil

There is no variation in the kind of soils which are found in the kebele, throughout the kebele there is ***tikur marare*** (black silt loam). Until the recent past the soil in the kebele was very fertile, but now the fertility of the soil is declining following potato farming and over farming in general. They believe that farming potatoes reduces the fertility of the soil. In addition to this the frequent usage of different fertilisers and pesticides reduces the fertility of the soil, people say it is “burning our soil”. ***Dega*** soil is suitable for barely, potato, beans and peas production while ***woina*** ***dega*** is suitable for wheat and maize. Despite the different temperature zones in kebele there are only DAP and UREA fertilisers which all farmers in the kebele have been using. The improved seeds and seedlings available in the kebele are suitable for each of the different soil (temperature zone).

### Ecosystem

There is no significant forest coverage in the kebele, but the community is getting some benefit from the scarcely existing forests mainly by serving as source of traditional medicine and grazing for their livestock. This is insignificant as there is no adequate grazing land in the kebele. There are different wild animals which attack their livestock and crops. Monkey and ***Jart*** eats or attacks different crops whereas fox and hyena attacks livestock. Crops and livestock can be protected by household members, but some rich farmers employ servant who can take care of it. ***Wag*** is the known crop disease in the kebele which affects wheat, beans and potatoes frequently. There are also known pests like ***kish kish*** which affects beans and peas, the other is ***til*** which affects maize, beans, peas and onions. None of these diseases and pests are new to the area. Cattle in the area are affected by different disease like ***aba sanga***, ***fure*** and ***ye gimal beshita*** (camel disease) and pests like ***alkit, majiger***, and also a type of bird called ***chiri***. Both cattle disease and pests have been common in the area.

There is ***dodao*** disease which affects shoats in the kebele and also pests like ***majiger*** and ***kimanjir***, none of the shoats disease and pests are new to the area. Poultry in the area have been affected by known disease called ***fangil*** and pests like ***kinkin***, both are common in the area. Bees in the area have been affected by pests like ***kuchaci*** or ***zemamit***, diseases like bees cholera and animal known as ***shelemetmat***, all are not new to the area.

Watershed work started in the area last year (2004 EC) and the community has been engaged in different terracing activities mainly organised and conducted by development teams and development armies in the kebele. Rain-fed farming is common in the area. There are insignificant traditional irrigation systems in the kebele. Farmers in the area expect rain to fall in ***yekatit*** (March). There has been a longer run change in the raining time of the area, in previous times it regularly rains in **tiri** and ***yekatit*** (February and March), but these days it has been raining in ***megabitt*** (late march) , sometimes even in ***miaza*** and ***ginbot*** (April and May), this year it started raining in ***megabi t*** (late march).

There is regular flooding in the community which affects ***meher*** farming mainly wheat and barley production. Every year there has been flooding even though the extent of its damage varies throughout kebele. In addition to this wheat and barley also suffer from wind and frost in the kebele.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | How good/bad was the rain? |
| 2008 | *Belg* | It was good |
| *Meher* | It was good |
| 2009 | *Belg* | It was bad |
| *Meher* | It was good |
| 2010 | *Belg* | It was good |
| *Meher* | It was good |
| 2011 | *Belg* | It was good |
| *Meher* | It was good |
| 2012 | *Belg* | It was good |
| *Meher* | It was good |

## Climate change

The climatic condition of the kebele has been changing gradually but the kebele is not affected yet or there are no visible affects. The area is becoming hotter than before, though it did not affect people’s health so far. But it has been affecting farm production by creating conducive environment for different pests like ***kish kish, mesek*** and ***til*** this reduces productivity. Similarly when it becomes hotter it results in the expansion of livestock pests like ***majiger (maziger), alkit****, and* ***fure***which reduces livestock production. There is no ground water in the kebele but the changing climate has been reducing the discharge of rivers and springs.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  **Year** | **Belg rain** | **Meher rain** | **Unexpected rain** | **Heat** | **Frost** | **Wind *describe*** |
| 2001EC | Very poor | good | no | average | Average | Average |
| 2002EC | Good | good | no | average | Average | Average |
| 2003EC | Too much | good | no | average | Average | Average |
| 2004EC | Good | Too much | no | average | average | Average |
| 2005EC | Poor |  | no | Hotter than expected | no | Average |

## Land

### Land for smallholder farming

About 90% of the community land is devoted to small holding farming which has been increasing from time to time, because culturally the community of that area gives land to their son when they establish an independent household or marry. This has resulted in smaller holding farms for both those who offer and receive land. There are pressures on land mainly from the youth since they do not have land. There is no pressure from investors so far. The largest, average and smallest land holding of the kebele is seven hectares, two hectares and one timad (0.25 hectare) respectively. This land holding has been declining since the last five years due to increasing family size of farmers. There is no farm land owned by cooperatives and outside investors in the kebele.

### Access to land

About 40% of the community is landless in the kebele because there has been no land distribution and redistribution since the previous regime. There are sporadic land encroachments in the community whereby farmers use nearby common lands for farming by expanding their farm deep into the common lands illegally. The kebele has the profile of land registration but no action is taken so far. There is no land leased for both short and long term in the kebele and they don’t think that it is possible to lease for short and long term due to scarcity of land in the area. Share cropping is common, especially elders and those who do not have the capacity to buy seed and fertilisers give their land for share cropping.

## Crops

### All crops

Here I have listed all the grain crops grown in the community in order of importance: wheat, barley, teff, maize and *zengada*. None of these grain crops are farmed using irrigation, but more than 50% of farmers use improved seeds for farming these grain crops and sell all of these grains in Gonde town local market. The agricultural extension workers have role in production of these grains by giving advice and also by introducing modern farming techniques like sowing in lines. FAO support the growth of wheat crops in the kebele by providing improved seed by credit and cash for those who are engaged in wheat farming for lower prices.

Peas and beans pulses grow in the community in the order of importance. Both of them are not grown on irrigated land and have no improved seeds. Both are sold at Gonde town local market. The agricultural extension workers have a role in the production of these grains giving advice to farmers. No other actors are supporting the growth of these crops.

Potato, redroot and carrot are root crops grown in order of importance in the kebele. There is insignificant irrigation land in the kebele which are mostly used for potato farming and there is no irrigation farming for other root crops. 10% of the root crops are grown with improved seeds. All are sold at Gonde town local market, except potatoes which are sometimes sold at farm gate if it is in large farm. The agricultural extension workers have a role on production of these grains by giving advice to farmers. No other actors are supporting the growth of these crops.

Lentils and ***gomenzer***are the oilseeds grown in the order of importance in the kebele. There are no irrigation and improved seeds for either of them. Both are sold at Gonde town local market. The agricultural extension workers have a role in the production of these grains by giving advice to farmers. No other actors are supporting the growth of these crops.

Onion and cabbage are vegetables grown in order of importance in the kebele. There is no irrigation or improved seeds for either of them. Both are sold at Gonde town local market. The agricultural extension workers have role in the production of these vegetables by giving advices to farmers. No other actors are supporting the growth of these crops.

There are no fruits grown in the kebele.

***Abish*** and ***tikurazmud*** are the spices grown in order of importance in the kebele. Both of them are not grown on irrigated land and no improved seeds are used. Both are sold at Gonde town local market. The agricultural extension workers have a role in the production of these grains by giving advice to farmers. No other actors are supporting the growth of these crops.

### New crops

Eucalyptus and coniferous trees are grown by smallholders in order of importance in the kebele. Neither are grown on irrigated land and no improved seeds are used. Both are sold at Gonde town local market and abundantly at the farm gate. These trees are grown throughout the kebele, there is no separate area. The agricultural extension workers have role in the production of these trees giving advices to farmers. No other actors are supporting the growth of these crops.

The agricultural extension workers have no role in the production of coffee grown in the kebele and no other actors are supporting the growth of coffee. 1% of coffee is grown with improved seeds.

1% of small holders grow chat on irrigated land and there is no improved seed for chat in the kebele. The agricultural extension workers have role on production of chat giving advices to farmers. No other actors are supporting the growth of these crops.

There are no new crops that have been introduced to the community since 2003 in the kebele.

### Declining crops

There are no declining crops in the kebele.

### Subsistence crops

Wheat, barley and *teff* are the three important subsistence crops in order of their importance in the kebele.

## Cash crops

### Change

Potato, wheat and pulses are the three important cash crops in order of their importance in the kebele.

### Potatoes

#### Potato production

In the past potatoes were only farmed around the garden, but know people are allocating more farmland for it. The farm land allocated to potatoes has increased more than 80% compared to ten years ago. Most of potatoes produced in the community have been exported out or sold at local and other places in the country. The community consumption is less than 1% for this product. The main risk in producing this crop is a disease called ***wag***which reduces productivity significantly and also animal called***jarti*** whicheats or attacks the production before it is harvested. Potatoes require a huge labour from ploughing up to harvest, which is mostly conducted by hiring labour in addition to household labour.

#### Potato inputs

There is no improved seed for potatoes in the community, so they mostly buy the seed from other farmers or market places. Only two or three people get the improved seed through their friends from Holeta agricultural research institute recently. There is no improved potato seed before in the kebele. DAP and Urea are the only fertilisers that the farmers use for growing potato and the number of people who use fertilisers has been increasing due to the awareness created by DA’s and the declining soil fertility. ***Wag*** has remained the main disease of potatoes, and pests like ***til*** and animals like ***jarti*** which affects the crop. The main pesticides used for preventing and treating potato diseases and pests are ***karate*** pesticide and ***ridomill*** for disease has been widely used. The problem is that these pesticides are not easily available in the market and the traders increase the when farmers need it. Most of the farmers buy it themselves they don’t need credit for buying it. Only a few farmers receive credit from ***WALQO*** (Credit provider) to buy fertilisers and improved seeds and there is no debt problem in the kebele so far. Similar to other crops the DA’s gives advice on how to plant it, usage of fertilisers and symptoms of pests and diseases and there is no intervention from the wereda at all. It has been ploughed using ox so far.

#### Potato sales

The crop is mostly sold at farm gates, the traders come and buy it providing their own transport. They sell it in different parts of the country like Addis Ababa, Harar, Diredawa, Jijiga and so on. More than 90% is exported for sale outside the community and ends up in the above mentioned areas. There is no local processor for the crop in the area and the sale didn’t affect the subsistence farming.

### Wheat

#### Wheat production

More than 30% of the farmland has been allocated to wheat farming than it was ten years ago. It wasn’t exported but the community sell their wheat at the local market to middle and large traders at their store by Kg. They sell about 80% of the total production, these large traders sell it to different flour factories in the country and the remains is used for seed and consumption. The main risk in producing this crop is a disease called ***yellow wag*** and wind attack which reduces productivity significantly. Wheat requires a huge labour from ploughing up to harvest, which is mostly conducted by hiring labour in addition to household labour, some also use tractors.

#### Wheat inputs

The main source of wheat seed in the kebele has been from the service cooperative, but some people also buy it from farmers and a few gets it from FAO. More than 50% of wheat grown in the kebele is from improved seed. Due to awareness created by DA’s the number of people who are using improved seed has been significantly increasing from time to time. Some improved wheat seed wasn’t as effective as expected. Also the price of improved seed is increasing consistently which results in a reduction of the number of customers for improved seed.

DAP and UREA are the main source of fertilisers for wheat production, but people use more DAP and less UREA for wheat farming. DAP and Urea are the only fertilisers that the farmers use for growing wheat and the amount of fertilisers used has been increasing due to declining soil fertility and the awareness created by DA’s. Diseases called **wag** and wind attack have been the major wheat diseases in the last five years which were affecting productivity. There are different pesticides which the community have been using for pests like, ***24D (two four D), topic, and palace***. Most of the farmers buy improved seed themselves but only few farmers receive credit from WALQO to buy fertilisers and improved seeds, there is no debt problem in the kebele so far. Similar to other crops the DA’s give advice on how to plant it in lines, usage of fertilisers and symptoms of pests and diseases and there is no intervention from the wereda at all. It has been ploughed using ox and some farmers rent tractors from Iteya wereda. Even though most farmers are more interested in using tractor than before, these days it has become very difficult to get a tractor to rent than it was five years ago.

#### Wheat sales

Most of the wheat harvest is sold at Gonde town local market, whereby traders buy it at their store by KG and sell it back to large traders who supply wheat to the floor factories at different towns of the country. More than 90% of the product is exported out of the community and sold to different floor factories in the country, but the local flour factories found around the kebele use some 30% of the total wheat produced in the kebele. The increased sale of the crop so far didn’t affect the subsistence farming of the community because they only provide surplus product to the market.

### Pulses (mainly peas)

#### Pea production

The community allocated more than 50% of their farmland for peas production in comparison with it was than ten years ago. More than 90% of the product is exported out of the community and only 10% of it is used for house hold consumption and seed. The main risk in producing this crop is that it is vulnerable to disease called ***wag*** andpests like ***kish kish and til.*** Peas require labour from ploughing up to harvest, which is mostly conducted by house hold labour and only few hire labour.

#### Pea inputs

So far there is no improved seed for pulses and peas in particular, so the farmers buy it from each other for seed and not from the market because it is not reliable. The main source of fertiliser for peas is DAP, the amount the community has been using it for their peas is increasing. This is due to the fact that the soil is losing its fertility and also increasing the amount would result in good production. A disease called ***wag*** and pests like ***kish kish*** and ***til*** have been the major wheat diseases and pests in the last five years which were affecting productivity of peas and wheat. There are different pesticides which the community have been using for pests like, ***karate, malatayin*** and ***heralat***. Most of the farmers buy seed themselves and they do not need to receive credit for buying it. Similar to other crops the DA’s gives advice on how to plant it, usage of fertilisers and symptoms of pests and diseases and there is no intervention from the wereda at all. It has been ploughed using ox.

#### Pea sales

Most of the pea harvest is sold at Gonde town local market, whereby traders buy it at their store by Kg and sell it back to large traders who sell it in Adama and Addis Ababa. More than 90% of the product is exported out of the community and sold to different towns in the country and there is no local processor in the area for the product. The increased sale of the crop so far didn’t affect the subsistence farming of the community because they only provide surplus product to the market.

## Livestock production

There are about 5,030 cattle out of these only 1,020 are improved breeds and the remaining are local breeds. There are about 3,360 locally bred sheep, there are no improved breeds. 235 goats, no improved breeds, 95 horses, 2 mules, 1,180 donkeys and 3,650 chickens out of these 500 are improved chickens.

### Cattle production and fattening

#### Cattle production

There were more cattle in the community ten years ago than today, mainly due to lack of grazing land and the introduction of improved breeds which should be kept at home and give more milk than local cattle. So most people are selling their three or four local dairy cows are and preferring to have one improved dairy cow due their high productivity. So the cattle are of better quality than ten years ago due to cross breed and artificial insemination. It is not common in the area to fatten ox at the same time as using them for ploughing, though it is possible. This is because it requires resources and time after ploughing, but the community identify cattle for fattening and keep them from ploughing, so that they do not plough with the one they have identified for fattening.

The main risk in rearing cattle is different diseases like ***Furi, aba sanga*** and ***camel disease,*** mainly the improved breeds do not have the capacity to withstand diseases like local breeds or they have low resistance which makes them vulnerable. In addition to this the improved breeds need more fodder which is expensive and bought from different places. There is shortage of fodder which prevents most people from having more improved bred cattle in the kebele. To rear cattle it requires shelter, labour to clean their shelter, provide them different fodders and care for them. In addition to this vaccination and Vet advices is required. There are problems in keeping traditional breeds because there is not enough grazing land also they are less productive. They are not productive in giving good milk and do not deliver calves regularly, so keeping them at home like improved breeds providing them fodder is considered as loss in comparison with the resource, time and labour spent on them. There is no problem as such in keeping the improved breeds in comparison with their productivity, even though it is expensive to buy their fodder unlike traditional breeds, they are more productive which compensates for what is spent for them. They also need more time, resources and care than traditional breeds and more vulnerable to disease.

The labour involved in managing cattle are that it needs someone who takes care of their cleanness, who provides them with fodder, who cleans their shelter and milks them. These labours are mainly provided by household members and only few rich farmers have servant who could help them in this labour.

#### Cattle inputs

The main source of fodder for improved breed are ***fino, fagulo***, salt, elephant grass, crop residue and ***dirkosh*** (dried injera). The traditional breeds are provided with some crop residue and also use grazing land. In previous times there was more grazing land, so that the community used the grazing land for free but now due to the lack of grazing land the community is forced to keep their cattle at home mainly the improved breeds and provide them with fodder. The community own the improved breeds in different ways some bought from wereda agriculture office, some gain by artificial insemination and cross breeding. Cattle gets vaccination services from vets in the kebele. Farmers do not use fattening medicine in the area but they get medicine for their cattle for disease in the kebele vet. When it is not available in the kebele they buy it from private drug vendor at Assela town. There is no epidemic disease in the last five years. ***WALQO*** gives credit for everyone for multi-purposes who fulfils their criteria, so one can borrow money to buy cattle. There is a vet service in the kebele which is found in Makero-Bagejo zone (sub kebele) but, the people are not happy with the quality of services they gets from the vet. They said that it is very expensive, even private vets are cheaper than the government vet in the kebele. In relation to cattle rearing there is one trained individual who is not a government employee but engaged in artificial insemination. This has become more effective in the production of the improved breeds in the kebele in consultation with DA’s, but in other services DA’s not very effective. The wereda agriculture office has a role in assigning and allocating budget for the kebele and also working with FAO who provide everything required for artificial insemination in the kebele.

#### Cattle sales

The non-fattened cattle are sold at Hetosa wereda, in Boru market, where the farmers sell it to farmers, traders and butchers. The large traders sell cattle mainly at Adama and Arsi negelle for those who fatten and also for others. The fattened cattle are sold at Boru market, but the large traders sell them at Adama and Addis Ababa. Some butchers also buy them at home. More than 95% of the cattle are sold at Boru market. The price of cattle vary seasonally accordingly, the price gets low during rainy season of September, October and November because animals fodder is easily available during this time. Also they can easily access grazing land in their compound. But the price goes up during the dry season of, April, May and June because animal fodder is expensive and not easily available during these time, so indirectly the price the owners spend for their animal fodder is added onto the price at sale. The price of cattle in the last 5 years has been highly increasing, due to the overall inflation in the economy of the country. The purchasing power of money is reduced and that is why the price rises up.

### Shoat production and fattening

#### Shoat production

There are less shoats in the community today than there were ten years ago because of lack of grazing land and labour to look after them, children are sent to school and employing a herder for shoats is uncommon in the area. Qualities of shoats are declining due to the shortage of grazing land which is the main source of their fodder in the area. The main risk in rearing shoats is their vulnerability to diseases like ***sal, ikek,*** and pests like ***majiger* and *dodota.*** Shoats needs shelter, vaccination and grazing land, they are not provided fodder at home like cattle because it is not beneficial. The only labour required for shoats is herding which is provided by household members.

#### Shoat inputs

There are about 3,360 (three thousand three hundred sixty) sheep and 235 (two hundred thirty-five) goat in the kebele all of which are local breeds, there is no improved breeds for shoat in the area so far. The main source of fodder for all is grazing land, there is no change on their fodder so far except that the grazing land is becoming scarce from time to time. Vaccination and treatment for diseases is available for shoats at kebele vets and there is no medicine to fatten shoats in the kebele. There is no epidemic disease in the last five years in the kebele. ***WALQO*** gives credit for everyone for multi-purpose who fulfils their criteria, so one can borrow money to shoats. No emphasis is given for shoats both at the kebele by DA’s and at wereda level.

#### Shoat sales

Both fattened and non-fattened shoats are sold at Hetosa wereda, in Boru market, so the farmers sell it to farmers, traders and butchers. The large traders sell them mainly at Adama and Addis Ababa. More than 95% of the shoats are sold at Boru market. The price for shoats varies seasonally accordingly, the price is cheaper during June and July because most farmers sell at this time to buy different farm inputs, rather than this the price of shoat is expensive throughout the year and it is most expensive during the Easter holiday. The price of shoat has been highly increasing in the last five years, due to the overall inflation in the economy of the country. The purchasing power of money is reduced and that is why the price rises up.

### Chickens

#### Chicken production

There are more chickens in the community than there were ten years ago, but most of the time their number has been threatened by epidemic diseases which reduces their number significantly. The quality of chickens has been improving due to the improved breeds and creation of awareness in the community to provide them with different balanced fodder than before. The main risk in keeping chickens is that they are more vulnerable to regular epidemic diseases It is very difficult to engage in poultry production due to this frequent disease called ***fangil.*** Chickens production requires building a hut and providing them fodder, so there is no special labour needed for chickens unlike other animals.

#### Chicken inputs

There are high bred chickens in the community, which the people access through wereda agricultural office and others buy from market. The wereda agricultural office in collaboration with kebele DA’s have been trying to help in chicken production by supplying improved breeds so that the farmers can buy them, but they are unable to rescue chickens from the epidemic disease and they have no other role in resourcing.

#### Chicken sales

Farmers produce chickens for sale but they are not effective in production due to the frequent epidemic disease which reduces their chickens number. The farmers sell their chickens at Gonde town local market, they sell it to customers and traders. The traders sometimes sell them in Adama and other towns.

### Bees

#### Bee production

There are more bees in the community than there were ten years ago, it has been improving because of awareness created by the DA’s and they are of better quality with the introduction of modern beehives. The main risk in keeping bees is that of pesticides used for pests on the farmlands, which kill bees and this is becoming a big risk. They are also vulnerable to some disease. Bee keeping requires hives and a safe compound. The beehives require care or protecting it from other animals labour is only required for extracting honey.

#### Bee inputs

Farmers make their beehives ready and the bees enter in it, every group of bees has their own queen. Modern beehives have been expanding in the community and honey should be extracted by trained farmers not by everyone as that of traditional beehives. They put beehives in their compound and construct a shelter. Wereda agricultural office in cooperation with kebele DA’s have contributed a lot in introducing modern beehives and its management, but they have done nothing towards resourcing them.

#### Bee sales

There is no buying and selling of bees in the kebele.

## Livestock products

### Cattle

#### Cattle products

Milk and butter are cattle products in the community, there are more dairy cows in the kebele than there were ten years ago and also they are of better quality due to the improved breeds. The main risk in keeping dairy cow is that of their vulnerability to a disease called breast infection which comes from pest called ***majiger*** and unclean shelter. Shelter, fodder and water are the required infrastructure for dairy cows. The main labour required is milking which is done both by men and women household members, but the butter is extracted at service cooperative by machine.

#### Inputs for cattle products

Equipment necessary for milking in the area are jug and water pot made from plastic most of the butter in the area has been extracted by machine, but there has been also a traditional way of extracting butter using a pot, which is shaken by women in the household. The wereda agricultural office in cooperation with DA’s gives advice on how to keep the milk and milking material clean rather than this they do not have role in resourcing.

#### Sale of cattle products

There is milk cooperative in the kebele at Makero-Bagejo zone in which all members of the cooperative supply the milk and the cooperative sell it at their shop for customers, cafés and restaurants in Gonde town. There is no milk enterprise that processes it in the kebele except the milk cooperative which community supply their milk to which can extract butter using a machine and sell it to different customers. Sometimes traders buy them and sell it in Adama and other towns to large traders in the country. It is difficult to guess the amount of butter exported for sale out of the community because the milk cooperatives sell it from their shop located in the kebele, so that they can sell it to different people including traders. The price also varies seasonally accordingly, it becomes cheap in September, October and November because of easily availability of fodder for cattle following summer season and it becomes expensive in other months due unavailability of fodder for cattle and its increase in price. Farmers do not sell cattle hides individually in the kebele.

### Shoats

#### Shoat products

No shoat product in the kebele except skin and meat.

#### Inputs for shoat products

The equipment used for producing skin is a knife and there is no wool product in the kebele. The wereda agricultural office in cooperation with DA’s in the kebele gives advice of how to effectively produce skin without damaging it and there is no role in resourcing it.

#### Sale of shoat products

Some traders buy skins from farmers on their way to Gonde market and sell them at Assela town to large traders who supply it to different tannery factories in the country.

### Chickens

#### Egg production

Improved breed chickens are better than the local chickens in laying eggs.

#### Inputs for egg production

Egg layers need special food like mixture of maize, grinded bone and sand. The wereda agricultural office in cooperation with DA’s gives advice to provide balanced fodder for chickens, so that they lay good eggs regularly. Rather than this advice they do not give any resource for egg production.

#### Sale of eggs

The community sell most of their eggs on their way to Gonde market to traders and some also sell them in Gonde town local market to customers and traders. These traders sell eggs to different café and restaurant at Gonde town and sometimes they sell it in Adama to large traders.

### Bees

#### Honey production

Honey is prepared for market by KG in the community, white and red honeys are the two types of honey which are found in the kebele. The wereda agricultural office in cooperation with DA’s gives advice on how to extract honey effectively without letting the bees go unlike before and there is no role in resourcing it.

#### Inputs for making honey

The equipment necessary for processing honey is that of honey filterer and no any other input is required to process it.

#### Sale of honey

The community sell honey at Gonde town local market and also at Assela town to customers and large traders. These large traders sell it to tej bet and other customers.

## Farm labour

### Smallholder farm labour

In previous times most of farm work was conducted by household members. Nevertheless, currently more than 70% of farm work in rich households including herding is done by servants and wage labourers and only the remaining 30% is done by family labour. Ten years ago it was mainly done by family members but now this has been changed due to low family size (families are sending their children to school, so they don’t have time to help them). Wages have changed significantly in the last five years, before five years it was so cheap, but now it is very expensive. Most of the daily labour in the kebele is done by local daily labourers, there are different rates for men and youth mainly on potato harvesting while men and women are paid up to 60 birr a day youth of both sex below 18 years are paid only 30 birr a day. Some 30% of waged labour will be done by in-migrants from Shirka wereda and Bokoji areas in Arsi zone they stay for up to 10-20 days in the kebele. The difference among rich, middle and poor household in employing labour is that the rich employ more because they have capacity to pay whereas the middle and poor employ people based on their capacity which is lesser than the rich, the middle employ more than poor. But the poor do most of the work by themselves and employ only few people for harvest due to the vulnerability of crops to perishability if they are not harvested on time.

### Customary work exchanges

Customary work exchanges in the area are ***wonfel*** and ***jigi. Wonfel*** is customary work exchange in which there is labour exchange, but in ***jigi*** there is no labour exchange and people who engaged in labour should be served food and local drinks. The large working parties and reciprocal work between small numbers of farmers have been declining in the last ten years because people are heavily relying on wage labourers. Labour exchange between two farmers is relatively alive in the community than other customary labour sharing and is similar with what it was ten years ago. Share cropping has been increasing than the last ten years, because those people who rent out their land before preferred share cropping than renting out due to the benefits they get. Share rearing has been declined because no one wants to engage in such business mainly related to a lack of grazing land in the area. Ox sharing is also declining significantly than it was ten years ago.

## Diversification

### Combining farm with non-farm activities

Most of the community or more than 90% of them make their living totally from farming. There is no other activity in which wives of rich house hold engage on rather than domestic work and milking, but the wives of middle and poor might engage in wage labour and producing local drink like ***areki***. Young men and boys from rich households also engage in farming activities with their family and the same is true for poor and rich households. But most of the poor young and men engage in wage labour in addition to their farm work at home in order to get by. Young women and girls from rich households engage in assisting their mother different domestic work, which is similar to poor and middle households, except that most young women and girls from poor house hold engage in wage labour and making local drinks.