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

## Cash crop trading

### Most important cash crop sold by a ‘middlewoman’ trader

The most important cash crop in the community is wheat. She started trading wheat in 2009 with a friend who encouraged her. When she was in low economic status; she did not have initial capital. Her friend lent her about 200 birr for this purpose and then she started to work with her. She repaid the debt within two months.

She engages in trading though out the year although she buys grain from November to March to store she sells it when its price increases. She collects this grain directly from farm gate and she knows the farmers. She provides the wheat to large trader at Gonde in quintal. If the grain is not full in quintal, it should re-sell it at market to the consumer.

She goes to Itiya and Boru town to buy grains and often sells it there unless she brought Gonde to sell for her customer. Her customer is a big grain trader who has a grain store and his own car. Sometimes he gives birr for the cost of the grain and the reverse is true she sells the grain to him on credit. Before going to market he informs her about the grain price he fixes the price. She communicates with him if there is a change of market price.

She records her expenditures and income to know the profit. But she uses the profit for daily purchases or household consumption. She gets 60/70 birr of profit per quintal, the amount of profit is not fixed that it varies with seasons. Generally, she estimates in the last 12 months she has made a profit of about 5000 birr. In addition to the profit used for household expenditure, it is used for renting farm land (2500 birr).

The main problems related to trading is lack of transportation access for loading the grain while she uses cart for long distance about 13km. There for she pays 16 birr per quintal for transport from both Boru and Itiya to Gonde.

To improve her activities in trading: access to transportation/lorry service would give her enough money to work more. But she doesn’t want to take credit from government credit services.

### Second most important cash crop sold by a ‘middlewoman’ trader

The second important crop is beans; there are very high demands for beans and so they are more profitable than wheat. But there is supply shortage to engage more. She buys directly from farmers in the market. The main buyers of this pulse are consumers. If it becomes full in quintal, it is sold to the large trader at Gonde town. She uses horse cart to transport the pulse from Itiya and Boru to Gonde.

Similarly with wheat the large traders fix the price if she bought more, particularly during harvesting season. She gets a profit of 1 birr a kilo on average. She uses the profit for other household consumption expenditures.

Due to high competition and supply shortage her activities are limited from becoming larger scale.

### Middlewoman trader’s activity

She tried to buy all other crops which is expected to profitable in the meantime. Usually she buys maize, barley, sorghum, peas, lentils and *misir* from farmerand sells to consumer in the market. She engages trading these crops throughout a year as they were available. Misir is very profitable and has more demands but due shortage of production she can’t engage more.

She engages only in in small scale grain trading except wheat. She didn’t know the total profit of these grains in the last year because she used it for immediate expenditure. On average she has got 50 to 60 birr profit in quital = 100kg, that mean she gets 50-60 birr of profit from 100kg (a quantal) a kind of grain. She has started to get involved in trading other crops through experience from wheat trading. She got money for those crops from the buying less wheat if those crops available in the market and having good prices.

She engages alone has and does not have servant or anybody to help with this activity. She never got any support from government and other concerned bodies. She has never had any education. In addition to this she is involved in farming activities as her husband is doing crop production.

The trading activity is important to improve the household life the profit helps her to rent land and buy inputs.

She said that if lorries were available at those towns and she had enough money, she could have done well. But she didn’t want to take money from credit services.

### Most important cash crop sold by small trader

She has started trading when she was young by selling flour. Gradually she shifted to trade different types of grains. Now sorghum is the important cash crop for her activities. She buys sorghum from large traders in killos and sells it in the market to consumers. She need not go to other places for marketing activity other than using two marketing days in Gonde town. Because now she is caring for her grand children whose mothers are in Arab countries (her daughter and daughter-in law).

Previously she went Boru, Abura, Itiya and Assela to sell and buy grain. Except Aassela, there were no market taxes, but where she paid from 2 birr depending on the amount of grain. She is involved in trading this crop at all times other than when agricultural activities peak.

She gets a profit of 40 birr in a week; 20 birr is paid for Equb contribution and the rest 20 birr used for Iddir and other expenditure. Once she took credit from a credit association for trading and the debt paid when she received Equb birr. Then she stopped the credit as she prefers Equb than credit because it has high interest rate.

She works alone and as she has many inter-related problems her activities have reduced. She cares for grandchildren, has got old, no one to do her domestic work therefore she limits her marketing activity to Gonde town.

She is participating in agricultural work both animal rearing and crop production. She has about 0.25 hectares of irrigation land on which she produces potatoes. From which she gets a good income with the help of her son.

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

Beans. Previously she bought beans from farmer and sold to large trader. Now the completion becomes high and she has not got the time as she is involved in agricultural and domestic work including child care. So she stopped trading pulses.

### Small trader’s activity

She didn’t engage on other trading activities as she is busy on agricultural activities. She also engages on selling her own product (potatoes).

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

Since she married her main source of income is her own production. Now she is around 50 years old, she sells wheat during harvesting season for household expenditure (land tax, clothing, social and political contributions). She sold a large amount of wheat to a large trader in the production season and then again in summer if some remains after seed and family consumption.

On the other hand she sells small scale on market days for daily household expenditures like coffee, sugar, salt, soap, iddir, religious contribution, and so on.

She didn’t know how much she sold or how much profit she got in the last 12 months from small scale. But generally she estimated the amount of crop sold was 15 quintals of wheat. The prices of the crop vary with different seasons to guess the total price of it, on average it could be 15\*600=9000birr.

No market tax. There is production improvement as the household follows the new techniques of production and inputs. She suggested that to be profitable during production season livestock would be sold to cover household expenditure. When in summer the price of wheat raises and better to sell it then.

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

The second important cash crop is bean and potatoes alternatively. In some years, it is good for potatoes production and other year better for bean production. Therefore planting both helps her as source of income. She sold potatoes from end of October to December. She produces potatoes by using rain water. During good bean production season, she sells it during sowing season when its price is higher.

A particular problem with potato production: the availability of rain affects its production. With beans sometimes production is better and at other times they fail within similar weather condition and inputs. She doesn’t know why bean production fluctuates. She sold 2 quintals of bean and its price 2\*1200=2400 birr. The potato production was not as significant last year.

### Self-trader’s activity

She sells all other crops which are produced in the household like peas and vegetables. These are sold when there was a surplus production in a year. In the last 12 months she didn’t sell these other than the above crops and sheep in October before production. Most of the time the livestock were sold by husband for a large household expenditure.

Every type of crop and vegetables are sold if she gets surplus production.

## Livestock trading

### Livestock trade

No women engage in livestock trade.

But almost all households keep at least one ox for fattening and then sell it and buy two bull or using money for agricultural improvement mechanisms. Similarly people keep more than one sheep to sell for holidays. Such kind of activities are common in the area.

## Livestock products

### Women traders in livestock products

In the area no middle women who engage on livestock products like milk, butter, honey, egg, hides and skin. There is a traditional tannery at Gonde town, the worker collects cattle skins for their product. Shoats’ hide was sold by the owner at market. All other products, except milk are sold in the market either to consumers or traders. Before 2004 milk was not sold in the area, except some people sold it to the tea house in the town

### Interview with livestock trader

No women participate in livestock product trading rather they sell their own produce at market.

## Micro, small and medium enterprises

In the kebele, there is a grain mill and dairy cooperative association. In the town there is flour factory, oil producing machine, bread baker house and near to the kebele there is Assela malt factory.

There are no productive enterprises in the kebele, but there is agricultural research centre adjacent to the kebele. Generally estimated the number of farmers who involve in subsistence and surplus agricultural activities are about 60% and 40%, respectively. They are engage in mixed farming (animal rearing and crop production).

### Skilled production

There is one carpenter in the kebele who produces furniture and beds. He works full time. In the past there were blacksmiths and tanners; two in number for each skill. But nobody wants to follow their skill/experience after they died. So no blacksmith and tanners in the kebele rather they engage more in the town.

There are about five weavers who weave part-time. They produce all cultural clothes which used for dress, varies sized scarves *(Nitela, anget-libis, Gabi,mekenet,etc*). No block and wool product maker.

Most Muslim women involve in making baskets to sell, particularly, in summer when they have time for such work. They engage spinning mean making a thread from cotton in traditional ways, the thread is used for making traditional clothes part-time. Amhara women are involved in spinning s for themselves.

### Livestock and products production

There is a person who buys oxen for and to distribute to women at Arssi-Negele to fatten. Then they share the profit. He has started this year. Nobody buys shoats to distribute to others to fatten.

Gonde-Mecro dairy product cooperative association was established with 18 members. FAO provided a cream separator and a churner with different accessories and spare parts. Now it has 60 members; 29 women and 31 men. They provide milk only in the morning (1-1:30 pm). The payment is monthly at 8 birr per litre, a person can provide 5 litres of milk as a maximum quota. Sometimes (fasting time) it should be reduced in amount because of lack of demand.

The cooperative collects milk up to 100 litres in a day; 70 litres in average. Once the dividend fund was distributed among the members, it was 12,885 birr in total. The distribution was dependent on amount of milk which was provided. Now they have 22,800 birr of profit which they will distribute in near future. The cooperative has three employed workers: two women (a collector and a processor) and a male (guard).

Some farmers are involved in egg production for commercial in different scale. For example about 20 farmers produce egg up to 80 in a week for sell. About five farmers produced honey as well for sell but others for subsistence.

### Local drinks and food production

Almost all Amhara women are involved in making Areki and selling it at home and in the market. Some women are involved in the large scale production of Areki. Those women are producing Areki at least once in a week; an average amount of 15 litres of products. Some women are involved in making Tela and selling it at home with Areki.

In the two sub-kebeles (Mecro and Begejo), there are small tea houses and “restaurants” (houses in selling something to eat). These are small in number however it is difficult to estimate the exact number.

Generally, on regards to the two sub-kebele, about 90% of women are involved in petty production of local drinks (Areki and Tela) and about 10% of them engage in petty food production.

### More detail on areki production

The residents of Mecro and Begejo women participate more in Aeki production in both large and small scale.

She is involved in Areki production throughout the year. On average she produces it three times in a month. She has own tools which she uses to make it, she buys the inputs (various types of crops including chaff) from the grain store in the town and market. Usually she makes malt but often she buys it from market. She paid about 300 birr for input prices for single production. Then she could get up to 150 birr of profit from that production.

She sells the product in the market to a customer (whole seller), who collects from the town to take to Nazareth and Addis Ababa. The price is fixed by those traders and also the prices vary depends on the quality of the product.

She has not got a licence. She was using child labour for these activities; they prepared fire wood, going to grain mill, fetching water and drying the malt and the like.

A problem related to this activity is the work is very hard and to produce it once takes 15 days for fermentation. It needs more production tools to produce once or twice in a week and the works more linked with fire. It needs labour through the whole process. As a result she gets illness of phenomena and heart problems.

### Non-farm women producer co-operatives

No cooperative production in the kebele.

### Natural resource sale

It is difficult to know the numbers of people who are involved in selling wood both for fuel and house construction. Particularly women from Chebote and Akiya sell fire wood as a source of income. Kebele officials attempted to stop the practice, while the frequency becomes reduced. Now most of them use the branches of eucalyptus tree to sell when men use the stem for house construction or sell. Eucalyptus tree is common source of income for the people, especially for men. They sell the large sticks *(Atana*) and stem for timber or splitting it for houses.

Making charcoal is forbidden by the government, so they couldn’t sell it. Even though, people make charcoal around their home it is for their own consumption and their relatives.

Nobody sells grass as most of the people have livestock and also there is no extra grass in the kebele.

There are about three youth cooperatives who are involved in stone production in the kebele. There is stone availability around the edge of Kulumsa River.

### Petty production

There is a young man who repairs mobiles, watch, TVs and radios. He is about 23 years old and lives in Begejo.

### Service enterprises

There is a farmer service provider cooperative in the community. This is providing food items like sugar and oil in addition to agricultural input provision.

### Food-processing services

There is one grain mill house in which there are six mills. No food processing services in the area.

### Hospitality services

No medium-sized hotel, restaurant and bars in the kebele, except very small cafes and tea houses. This may be 20 in number in both Mecro and Begejo. No employees for these activities.

### Health services

There is a health centre and health post, vet service in the kebele. The health centre and vet service centre are found in Mecro and health post is in Akiya (farthest sub-kebele).

There is Gonde holy water at the boundary of the kebele. Many people come from farthest weredas and kebeles to use it.

There is also a witchdoctor in Chebote who seems to be powerful and influential. He is the only person who has a generator for lighting and people call his compound “camp”. To know about detail people were not willing to talk about him, a man said that “don’t teach him/*Atinkubin*” when he heard about him during discussion with others.

### Shops

There are very small shops attached to people's homes. They sell soap, sugar, tea, coffee, salt, candies, biscuits, chewing gums, oil, kerosene, soft drinking, cigarette, etc. The rough numbers of those shops could be 30. This has doubled compared to 5 years ago.

### Leisure services

No table tennis rather it is found in the town.

Youths both girls and boys play handball and football in the school where there is available space for both. There is a school in each sub-kebele all have access to play either football and or handball.

Some of the farmers have TV, DVD/VCD player and few of them had a satellite dish. Their children and young people can watch movies and other programs they like. In addition to this boys have an opportunity to watch different programs which runs in Assela town. Programs like football, Athletics, big religious conference and political mission program and so on.

Mosques and church are used as place of entertainment. Most young people would like to go to either mosque or church to get different services in which they fell happy and relaxed.

### Petty services

No people who engage on selling second hand clothes and shoes. There are five children who involve on shoe-shining and repairing. One young man engages in repairing watch, mobile phone, radio, TV and dish.

### Transport services

Most farmers have donkey and horse, particularly donkey is more important. Donkeys are used for transport water, wood, gain to mill and market and it could use for cart to transport crops and agricultural inputs. Similarly horse-and- cart used for transport crops and agricultural inputs, in addition to this it uses to transport people.

Other than this no means of transport within the kebele.

## Government support for non-farm activities

Non-farm activities have not been given attention by government, except youth stone producer cooperatives. Among five cooperatives three of them on work and have got credit. One of them are provided 0.75 hectare of land. (Tolosa may have more about this as he interviewed this part).

## Non-farm employment

That was difficult to know the number of people who have formal government job outside the kebele because there is no recorded information. A respondent knows only about his place. Any how people who are employed by government in the kebele are:

Employed workers in the kebele

1. Teachers (M = 33, F = 40, Total = 73).
2. Health service provider: at health centre (M = 8, F = 9 , Total = 17)
3. At health post or HEWs (F = 2, M = 0, Total = 2)
4. Vet service provider one male
5. AI service provider one male this is explained from no. 1- 6
6. Development agents (M = 2, F = 1, Total = 3)

About 4 guards and 2 teachers are employed by the local community. The researcher heard that the model farmer’s daughter has NGO jobs. There are about 100 domestic workers in homes.



The total numbers of workers in the kebele in 2012: males = 680 and females = 433

The 2012 Kebele structure in rank:

Kebele cabinet = men= 6 (Female = 2; Total = 8

Party structure men = 16, Female = 4, total = 20

Zone 3, leaders in these zone male = 21, Females = 3

, Total = 29 (is equal to development team)

Development team = 29, male = 142 Female = 3, total = 145 (members)

Development Army = male = 160, Female = 3, total = 163

**Government organisation**

School = 5

Health centre = 1

Health post = 1

FTC = 1