# Research officer daily diaries for Oda Haro, West Shewa, Oromiya

## Fieldwork 1

### Female research officer

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| Sun | 17 | Travel: We reached at Bako town during the night and my family in law welcomed us from Bako bus station and we went to *Boroo fis Barri* bar and restaurant to have dinner including bed service. We spend the 1st night in this hotel. |
| Mon | 18 | In the morning, we went to the Woreda office and we introduced ourselves to the Vice chairman and agriculture head as the head of the Woreda were not in the office during our arrival in the Woreda administrative office. The vice head told us, the head of the Woreda was at a meeting at the region. The vice chairman welcomed us warmly and he wrote us a letter in local language in order to help us to get a permission and full support from the Kebele administrative official in Odaa Haroo Keble during our field work.  The same day, we had to return back to the sites nearest town Tibe and took a taxi from Bako bus station to go to Tibe town. The transportation systems from the Woreda to different kebeles are usually white shade minibuses that can seat at most twelve people where two people are responsible for each taxi, the driver and a weyala who collects fares and calls out the taxi’s destination. However, the traffic regulation is not taken serious and respected. This is because of the less surveillance and poor control of the traffic officers in the area. Some people told us most of the traffic officers in the Woreda did not take a serious action over those drivers who break the rules. This is because most of the traffic officers are corrupted and get money by negotiating with the drivers. As a result of this, most of the minibuses in the area carry over the normal number of people for its seat and force people to pay higher tariffs. As a result of this, in this day we saw the minibus carried out twenty six people including driver and weyala. I was chatting with people informally and they told me the weyala set a different tariff frequently. For instance, before the construction of the new road and during the rainy season they forced the local people to pay off up to thirty birr for a single trip just from Bako to Tibe. However, the official tariff from Bako to Tibe is six birr but people could be forced to pay from seven up to ten birr and forced to sit over the seat, which is very crowded often.  However, very recently as some people said, the traffic officers has received a direction to stop the minibuses throughout every bus stop to investigate whether they are working legally and to check on the amount of money which people paid for the single trip. However, what actually happened was the officer would take the driver a bit away from the bus stop and negotiate with him on the amount of money he could give him in order to allow him to continue the trip. So this is additional benefit is to the traffic officers as they get money every day in bribes from the drivers. They only care about the amount of money they could get not about peoples comfort and safety. Moreover, the people are forced to say a false amount when they are asked by the traffic officers during the trip i.e. if they are asked to pay 10 birr then they have to say they paid 6 birr. This shows how people have no right even to claim on their right. |
| Tues | 19 | We went to the Kebele office and the chairman and manager received us warmly. They facilitate some informants according to our criteria and they provided us with two guide lists including male and female guide/translator. The Kebele office is a new and recently constructed building located in the Ebisho zone. I started interviews in this day. |
| Wed | 20 | In this day, my translator, assigned by the chairman and his wife told me she is not willing to continue the translation work, she said, “the per diem is very small amount which does not fit with the job allocation. I don’t even want to work with 100 birr. One respondent get 50 birr for short interview time but I conduct maximum of 4 people the whole day which is not fair”. After she told me her decision, I contacted a new translator and solved the gap immediately.  The same day, there was a large meeting at the Kebele level with 30 young males who had completed grade 10, 12 and TVT college education and become unemployed because of less job access. This meeting was held to discuss on how to create jobs by organising them into cooperatives. Some business issues had been raised including livestock fattening and farming.  After the discussion, the Kebele promised to give them a plot of land by sharing from the communal grazing lands located in Ebicho zone. They also planned to seek credit and saving services from the OCSCC Saving and Credit Association. |
| Thurs | 21 | It was a good working day and didn’t face any special occasions in this day. |
| Fri | 22 | In this day, I was working on young female 13th age interview at school. During the break time, students were coming out from class and were very eager to see what is going on around us. A bit far from the interview place, a group of girls were standing and look intently at us. In the middle of my interview, I saw a small boy whose age would be about 13years old ran off after intentionally touching a young female’s breast who was standing in the middle of the group. The girl was not that much surprised but she tried to cover up her breast using her exercise book and turned her face towards us with a beautiful smile. |
| Sat | 23 | This day, back to from the field work we saw Muslim marriage ceremony in Tibe town next to our residency. It was a night time wedding. There were a number of minibuses up-and-coming on the main asphalt road in the town. It is a rich peoples wedding since there was many minibuses on the main road. People told us, the groom is a returnee migrant from Arab countries after a long stay. People told us the groom got deported for unknown reason. He built a good house and bought minibus after he returned back. He also has a brother in USA. The bride is a beautiful girl grown up in the town. |
| Sun | 24 | This was not good working day because people go to church but I met some respondents and conducted some interviews in the respondent’s house. |
| Mon | 25 | This day, I was conducting the interview in my translator compound located in Abicho Zoen. We were having a break after long interview hours and one truck stopped at the gate of this compound. Then after minutes, two guys entered in the compound driving two very big and new vehicle tyres and my translator told me it was stolen from the Chinese camp and that is common for those workers in the Chinese camp. She also said, it is not Ethiopians but Chinese who have been stealing some materials including fuel and tyres. She said, they will sell the tyre above 8,000 birr for both. They hide the tyres in back side of the house. This story happened in the large trader’s compound. |
| Tues | 26 | Doro Wot: It is in the Muslim house; I just assumed the woman is going to give me Doro wot as she knew I haven’t eaten anything the whole day. I was thinking how to convince her that I am not hungry and don’t need food. This is because I was suspecting that she is going to serve me Doro wot since the family were eating doro wot during lunch time. Actually I was very hungry but refused to eat because it is in the Muslim house. Finally, she forced me to eat and I said ok and it was not what I expected. She served me misitr/lentile wot with tow boiled eggs. Somehow, I got relief after I got served with the food but I just felt dishonour because of my feeling. I remember, I used to eat meat in my Muslim friend’s house while I was in the university. But I couldn’t get any clue why I become concerned this much during this time. After a while, the household wife said, it is forbidden both in Christian and Muslim religion to eat which has been slaughtered by Muslim or Christian. Thus, we don’t serve meat or Doro for Christian strangers as it is Harm to eat Muslims meat for Christians and the vice versa. |
| Wed | 27 | The same people, who brought the tyre in the last two days, came to my translator house to take back the tyre to Addis Ababa and hide it under many quintal crops for trading on the big truck. |
| Thurs | 28 | There was a large Keble meeting in the community. Many people participated in this meeting including female heads of households and those with different sectors expertise. The main issues raised in this meeting were no how to re-establish the adult education, planting of seedlings of different trees and so on. Some informants told me, there was adult education program given in the Kebele which was started in September 2012 but it stopped after one month for as some women and adult students become reluctant to continue the education. Finally, people agreed to re-establish the adult education very soon and keep working hard in collaboration with different sectors. |
| Fri | 29 | There was no special event, just it was good interview day |
| Sat | 30 | My guide took me to a respondent’s house in alemgena Zone, soon after we reached the house I started conducting the interview for module 7 middle large household wives and in the middle of the interview, I found that the woman is not proper person for the interview. Then I checked with Ato about the situation on the phone and we agreed to change the respondent. Then, I cancelled the interview immediately and went out from the compound. On the way we were looking for another household, we found someone who invited us to enter to the next door to join the coffee ceremony on mehaber celebration. In the middle of the coffee ceremony, while were chatting with the household, I become aware this household is the one listed for the interview by the Kebele chair and manager. It was just confusion of the similar names that my translator took me the first house and same with Ato’s guide. This confusion was happened along with our guides/translator without information exchange between them; it was just a coincidence. And finally, after we finished drinking the coffee, I asked the wives and went out under the mango tree shade to start the interview with the senior wife. |
| Sun | 31 | As it is Sunday, many respondents did cancel my appointment I gave them in the other day. Everyone in the household often go to church during this day. However, I found some orthodox and Muslim respondents to continue my job. |
| Mon | 1 | In this day, we saw a bridge on the Sama river which was used by the community to cross to the Kebele office, legesama river, health post, farmer’s houses and other parts of the keble including to cross to the main road to Tibe Town. The bridge had been constructed by the China Road Construction company during the Nakemite-Addis Ababa road construction in order to serve people to use it as an alternative road during the construction season. However, the company started to dismantle this bridge that day. |
| Tues | 2 | There was no special event, just it was good interview day |
| Wed | 3 | A person who was 50 years old and a father of 8 children committed suicide action subsequent to his disagreement with his son on economic issues. The deceased person had been in a quarrel with his eldest son who already established independent household. The father had trees that he was using as supportive income source for his family. One day, the father did cut many trees and stored them to take it to the market. However, the son sold all of the wood without getting any consent from his father. As soon as the father identified his trees have been sold without his permission he become very angry. Then he went to Kebele social court to accuse his son. Then, he couldn’t get any solution from the social court and he became very upset. And the other day, he tried to hanged himself in his home but people come to the house after hearing a shout from the relatives when they suddenly observed what the man was doing. People from the neighbourhood reached to that home and tried to save him. For that moment he was breathing and people took him to private clinic in Tibe town but the next day he couldn’t survive because of a serious harm while he was hanging on his neck. Finally, almost all the Kebele people including my respondents went to attend to the burial ceremony on 03 April 2013. The burial ceremony took place in the afternoon. |
| Thurs | 4 | I was conducting the interview in the school and the school was under re-construction. It is just to change the mud floor to cement floor. There are some daily labourer workers including male and female who come from Tibe town but students were also participating by fetching water. Additionally, girls were cleaning the rooms. |
| Fri | 5 | The kebele cabinet participated in a training organized by the Bako Agricultural Research Centre in Bako town. The training was focusing on how to transform the traditional farming practice and enable the farmers to use modern farming technologies in order to improve the quality and quantity of farming products. |
| Sat | 6 | The training of the cabinet members at the Woreda level has continued for the second day. |
| Sun | 7 | We went to Senbete Mahiber/ local social events during the saint day ceremony in Tibe town. People visiting the house and served with traditional bread, barely kolo and local drink ferso /tela. |
| Mon | 8 | There was Kebele meeting concerning AGP budget. AGP is government-led Agricultural Growth Programme that financially supports farmers to participate on small-scale agro possessing enterprises. The Woreda announced the special budget about 11, 300,000 birr which is allocated for 17 kebeles which have already established FTCs. The DAs and the Kebele officials were pleased as this budget was announced because they expect it will help to bring a lot of changes in rural agriculture development. |
| Tues | 9 | There was no transport service to Bako Woreda because of the minibus car drivers made strike not to give public services unless otherwise the transport tariff increased or number of people should get added at most up to 15. Then they stopped their minibuses and appealed to the local government to give them a solution. So, in this day there were no transport services in the town. |
| Wed | 10 | There was school fundraising program organized by Woreda women and child affairs office, at Bako high school. As the head told me during the informal chat, the purpose of the fundraising programme is in order to create financial capacity to support potentially capable girls’ student in providing tutorial class and supplementary material to encourage them for a better performance. |
| Thurs | 11 | Woreda interview went well. |
| Fri | 12 | We visited Boto Zone and we found local cafeteria and got served with tea and biscuit in Boto zone |
| Sat | 13 | The Woreda and Kebele officials started preparation for the Kebele and Woreda election. Woreda sent election supplies to the Kebele. A polling station was prepared in the Gudina Haro primary school. Message was transferred using public speaker to call and alert people to go to the polling station in the next day. The notice was insisting people should come early in the morning together with their 1-5 members as it enables them to return back early. |
| Sun | 14 | Again, the notice maker start to agitate people to go to the polling station at about 05:30am in early morning. They were informing people should not forget the election card and to come together with 1-5 cell members. Many people including men and women participated in the election and all voted the candidates of the ruling party. |
| Mon | 15 | The election board posted the result and notify that the candidates of the ruling political party won both at Kebele and Woreda election. |
| Tues | 16 | Rain started during this day and it was not that heavy. People were expecting the rain to come very early but it just started today. They also said the amount of rain is declining every year and they are suspecting this could affect the productivity of their farming in this year too same as the last year happened. |
| Wed | 17 | I had interesting group discussion with 5 knowledgeable people in the community. The discussion was too long but important issues have been raised. All my informants were very happy to discuss in such community issues and they explained me they have learned a lot just in that short discussion. They told me that, they would love to do more discussion on different community based issues in their community. |
| Thurs | 18 | There was no special event, just it was good interview day |
| Fri | 19 | There was no special event, just it was good interview day |
| Sat | 20 | We visited Tibe town market. It is a big market where everything can be found there. There was poultry, livestock, cloths, vegetables, fruits, butter, crops, and grains and so on. |
| Sun | 21 | Travel-arrived home safely. I really loved this field trip. I spent time with family in laws and they facilitated a lot of things for us. We were attending coffee ceremony every day, morning and night where we mostly made informal chatting with people on different issues. The other thing, I also was very happy working with Ato. We had a lot of experience sharing and discussion after each interviews. He is funny and hardworking. People in the community were very supportive and they facilitated everything for us. Especially my translator is a very good women and she was very helpful during my field work. |

### Male research officer

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| Sun | 17 | Travel |
| Mon | 18 | We went to the Bako-Tibe woreda administration early in the morning to get permission to go to the research site, OdaHaro. As the head of the woreda was not in the office, we submitted the support letter to the vice head and the head of Agricultural office. He warmly received as and wrote us another letter in Oromiffa (regional language) to the OdaHaro kebele administration informing them to give us full support during the fieldwork time. Immediately after we left his office, we went to the woreda transport station to go to Tibe, the nearest town to Odaharo.  When we left the station with a minibus car, it carried 12 passengers and a driver and his assistant, a maximum number of people to be travelled with this kind of small minibus car. We felt a bit happy as we expect will breathe a fresh air in the car amidst the hot temperature of the Bako-Tibe woreda. Particularly Bako seems a very hot place in the area. After we travelled a few kilometres, the driver started to stop everywhere and added more and more people in the minibus. Soon the number of people in the car reached 26 including the driver; three of the young men were travelling by standing in the car. As the roof of the minibus is short, they were forced to bended down. This is my first experience when people were travelling standing in such smaller cars. Our heart beat started increase, and the temperature in the car has risen. As the assistant driver warned me to bend my legs, I could not stretch them until the end. As Jerry got the chance to sit with the driver in front, she was better than me.  Then I started to talk to a person near to me about the traffic rules and the role of traffic police in the area. He said that the rule allows only 12 passengers on this kind of cars excluding the driver and his assistant but they always travel with more than 25 people. The regulations are not respected and the traffic policemen are so corrupted that they do not take any action. He added that before re-construction of this road had been finished (when it was under construction few months ago), the drivers forced us to pay up to 30 birr for a single trip from Bako to Tibe (only 16km). The tariff was changed to 7 birr very recently but still we are forced to pay more than 7 birr and we are forced to sit in a crowded way like this. He continued to add that the traffic police had stopped the cars all the times in the middle of the trip, and they only asked us the amount of money which we paid for the trip. Then he would take the driver father away and discus with him and then allow him to continue the trip. The police did not ask the driver why he put this large number of people illegally in the car. He said the police and the drivers know each and they meet during the evening to dive their share, so the police did not care about the life and safety of the innocent people who are forced to travel this ways due to lack any possible option.  An instruction from the assistant driver disrupted our discussion. He was passing an instruction to everybody in the car that they had to say we paid only 7 birr when the traffic police asked us. Then everyone agreed to respect his instruction. I was surprised that people had no right to even say the truth. The person next to me said that if you complain they will drop you in the middle of the trip, so you have accepted their instruction rather than complaining it. I continue to talk with the previous person, and he said that this is an indication that there will policemen in front of us. He laughed and asked me to follow the next events. As he said two policemen stopped the driver and asked him to come out. One of the policemen asked us the amount of money we paid for the trip, as per our earlier agreement we said 7 birr each. He counted the number of extra person in the car and told to the driver that you have 8 extra persons in the car. But he knowingly deducted 4 people- the exact extra persons in the car were 12. Then he took away the driver farther away and started to discuss. No one was hearing what they were talking but we realized that they were dealing with the amount to be given to the two policemen for this particular trip. The second traffic police was just standing on the other side of the car attentively looking for another coming from both sides of the road. Immediately, a person with civilian cloth was coming by driving a motor bicycle. When he reached there, he started to talk with the second traffic police. We realized that he a controller from the Woreda Road Authority. As continued to discuss with the second police, the first police rashly penalized the driver 800 birr (100 for each of the 8 extra persons he counted). This shocked the driver but people in the car seemed to be happy with it though they knew the penalized was only due to the presence of the controller there. After this we continued our trip to Tibe and we were forced to pay 8 birr each though we told to the police we had paid 7. As the driver became anger with the penalty, we increased the speed and we were all praying to the God to save from any bad event.  I also realized the driver did have a driving licence. He gave to the driver collections of penalty papers. |
| Tues | 19 | We met with the chairperson and manager of OdaHaro kebele in their office. After we had given them the letter from the woreda, they agreed to facilitate everything for us. They listed down for us some people whom we are going to use as guide and translators. They also listed for us some people from the kebele administration which we want to interview (for some of the modules).  Then we were able to identify the appropriate guide person and a translator and arranged an interview for the next day. |
| Wed | 20 | They kebele administration conducted a meeting with some 30 young men who had completed Grade 10, 12 and college education and had no job in the kebele or elsewhere. The meeting was carried out in the kebele office. The objective was to discuss with the youths on how to organized them into cooperative, and help them to start some business such as animal fattening, establishing flour mills, etc. The discussion included to give them some plot of land from the communal grazing lands used by the Ebicho zone, one of the three zones in the kebele- the pace is very closer to the town of Tibe. They also discussed one they secure the land, they would get the credit from the woreda Saving and Credit Association. At the end of the meeting, they agreed to make a second meeting with them to change the plan into practice. However, this meeting had never carried out while we were there.  The young men involved in the meeting said that this was not the first time to discuss with the administration on the establishment of youth cooperatives. The repeatedly raised the issue but no concrete action had been taken yet, and they still have a doubt on the current discussion. |
| Thurs | 21 | In an informal discussion with the kebele chairperson that there was a conflict between some people from Gudina Walkite kebele and one family from the Odaharo kebele very recently. The cause of the conflict was on the small private land of a farmer from Odaharo Kebele. Since in the past, some people from Gudina Walkite water their cattle from a small stream which located near to the private land of this person. Sometimes, they use his land as a path to go into the water point of this stream.  Some months ago, this farmer cultivated his land and planted vegetables. The people from Gudina Walkite accused him at the woreda level. Three people came from the woreda and instructed the farmer to dismantle his vegetables from the path used by the farmers of Gudinal Walkite (according the Odaharo chair person, these three people from the woreda were originally from Gudina Walkite and they decide in favour of their own people without properly investigating the case). The farmer refused to dismantle the vegetables from his own farm land claiming that this is the land which has been using for long time and paying tax for it. Then the officials told to the people Gudinal Walkite to bring their cattle and graze the vegetables. When they brought the cattle to destroy the vegetables, his wife tried to protect the cattle from entering the vegetables. The owners of the cattle seriously beat her and broken her hand. The officials from the wereda who were there did want to protect her. The vegetables were destroyed by the cattle and some of them were dismantled and thrown into the river.  They took the case to the concerned woreda officials including the Women, Youth and Children office. The women, Youth and Children office tried to help them to get justice but as the other sectors, mainly the rural and agricultural office supported the stand of the Gudina Walkite farmers, their case was totally rejected and they even considered this family as creating insecurity in the area. The family again took the case to the zone to seek solution from the higher officials. The zone returned the case to the woreda instructing to investigate the case properly and gives appropriate solution to the case. The woreda returned the case to the two kebeles (Odaharo and Gudina Walkite).  Officials of the two kebeles met in the presence of officials from the woreda on 21 March 2013, to investigate the case and to pass solution. The officials from the two kebeles went there to explain the situations and ownership of the land to the woreda officials. I asked the views of the Odaharo kebele chairperson on the issue. He said that the land belongs to the Odaharo kebele and the owners of the land have been using the land for producing vegetables and seedlings. He said that he felt very sad for the siding of some woreda officials with the Gudinal Walkite farmers who committed crimes against this family. He also felt disappointed with the policemen who investigate the case but decided in favour of the crime makers.  As there had been a huge push from the woreda to decide in favour of the Gudina Walkite kebele, it was boldly decided from the Gudina Walkite farmers to use the farm land as a path to drink their cattle. Even no alternative solution was proposed to help the harmed family to get replacement for their farm. All the actions taken by the farmers against this family were considered legal and appropriate (there may be details about the right issues of the women from Jerusalem’s diary report). |
| Fri | 22 | We participated in the coffee ceremony in the house of one of the leading farm products trader in the community. More than 10 people were participating in the ceremony. We also drank the coffee. Most of the participants were Muslims and traders. The business person and his family are also Muslims. Later on, we realized that the family are followers of the Wahhabia sect of Islam and attending the Wahabiya Mosque in Alemgena zone, where there have been large Muslim population concentrated. It seems that the participants may discuss issues related to business and religion while drinking coffee. We also realized that most of these participants also chew chat in the home of the traders in the afternoon.  People told us that this kind of coffee ceremony is common in the community since the past. People from the neighbourhoods come together and drink coffee and discussed different things together.  This indicates the presence of strong social bonds among the people in the community. I also realized why the 1-5 cells is also called coffee drinking group in the community, which seems to be effective in bringing improvement in the livelihood of most people. |
| Sat | 23 | There was a marriage ceremony in the town of Tibe. The bride and bride glooms were touring the town with a nice private car followed by more than 10 minibus cars and one private car. They are Muslims in religion. People went out to the road and observing the ceremony. It seems that these kinds of ceremony are very few in the area and only be possible by rich people. People told us that the husband had lived in Saudi Arabia for some time and was deported for an unknown reason. Recently he has been becoming richer and richer. He bought a new house and a minibus car. He has a brother in USA who is sending him the money to improve the family business. |
| Sun | 24 | Early in morning when I was walking to the kebele administration for interview, I observed some 15 people carrying a sick woman using a traditional bed. They told me that they are coming from the Alem Genna zone of the kebele and they were taking the sick women to the private clinic in Tibe town for delivery. They told me that HEWs had no sufficient skill, knowledge and experience to help women in delivery time. In addition, the HEWs live in the town so that they could not get any help when the women are sick during the night. They said that due to these problems they are forced to use the expensive private clinics in the town, and they are still forced to carry sick persons on their shoulder to get medical service in town.  They complained that the health extension workers are not efficient and effective in providing services to the people. On the other hand, they told me that in the past people gave birth using traditional birth attendants. But the advice and training from the wereda health office and kebele HEWs, they are aware that they have to stop using traditional birth attendants and to use modern health services for delivery. Thus, this day, they first go the health centre/private clinic in Tibe town, if the case is beyond the capacity of the health centre/clinic; they are referred either to the wereda health centre in Bako (which is more advanced than the Tibe health centre) or the hospitals in Nakamite or Ambo cities. They told me that though the health centre in Bako is more advanced in having medical equipment, it lacks professional doctors. They said the construction of a hospital was started 4 months ago in Bako, which they believe that it will reduce the problems of referring to distant hospitals.  I followed the case of these particular women, and people told me that she was able to give birth in a private clinic in Tibe. People told me that private clinics are providing better services than government health centres. |
| Mon | 25 | In the interview with the livestock traders, I understood that men do not get involved in the selling and trading with animal products such as butter, milk, eggs, honey, etc. They said that these are purely the works of women since the ancient times, and still left for the women. According to them, men even do not know the price and costs of these animal products. It is surprising that it has been continued a gender specific activity in the community.  While we were informally chatting with the large farm product trader and his wife in the compound of their grain shop, we observed a truck came and stopped on the gate of the compound. Then three young men went out of the car and brought two new truck types into the compound. The trader told them to put on the back of the grain shop. The name of the type was written in Chinese language indicating that they are imported from China. I asked the trader why the young men brought the tyre into his compound, and he told me that they had stolen them from the Chines road construction company’s camp, and they begged him to hide for them until the night. He admitted that he committed a mistake in accepting their request but he said as they would take out the tyres during the night, it would not create problem to him.  On the next day, we did not see those tyres in the compound, as probably they were sold or taken to some other place. But still we observed that many other old car tyres were loading on a truck and transported to Addis Ababa together with the maize products.  People told us that stealing of car tyres and construction materials from the Chinese road construction camp (which is found on the grazing lands of the Ebicho zone of the community –very close to Tibet town) have been a common phenomenon. They are mainly stolen by the workers of the company (both Ethiopian and the Chinese). They said the company has little mechanism to control its properties. |
| Tues | 26 | Early in the morning people were gathered in the Gudina Haro primary school to thresh the teff and maize crops of the school. Both the teff and maize were produced on one hectare of land each, and the people from the Ebicho and Alemgena zones are responsible for farming, harvesting and threshing of the school farmland.  Each household to contribute labour for the threshing of the teff crop. The school rented a threshing machine for the maize crop but people need help in collecting the crops into the machine and to collect the produce.  I observed that while the people were threshing the teff crop, students mainly girls (see photos) were levelling the land for threshing the maize. At around 10am, the rented threshing machine (rented from a private person) was brought by mule cart and started to thresh the maize. It took 1hr 20 minutes to finish the maize crops collected from a hectare of land. The price per minute for the machine was 4.30 birr, which was considered by the people as expensive. At the end they were able to put the produce into 33 quintals. Due to the shortage of rain in the last farming season, their product has greatly reduced. People said last year they were able to produce 66 quintals from the same land, indicating that this year the produce is reduced by one third. Students and some young men were involved in the threshing of both crops.  More than 40 heads of cattle were involved in the threshing of teff crop. While some people were rolling the cattle of the teff crops, others were involved in separating the produce from the thresh products. Finally they were able to produce 9 quintals of teff product from the hectare. People said that even the teff product has reduced this year because the rain came late and stopped early.  Maize was cooked and coffee was prepared for the people to eat and drink during their lunch time. Female students of grade 7-8 and female teachers were involved in the preparation of the food. |
| Wed | 27 | There was a big meeting under a big tree closer to the kebele administration. All the hh heads from all the three zones, (Ebicho, Alemgenna, and Boto) participated in the meeting. The kebele leaders, school directors, HEWs and three DA’s were also participated.  The main agendas of the meeting included how to re-start the adult literacy, planting of seedlings of different trees for the coming summer, and to make preparation for the purchase of modern inputs (fertilizers and improved seeds).  The meeting was carried out for the whole day starting from the morning. The adult literacy education was started in September 2012 and continued for one month. It was stopped in December due to resumption of the public work (terracing check dams) which was carried out for one month. After the end of public work, it was not re-started as no one took the initiative to start it. Now, they make detail discussions to re-start the education in which the teachers, DAs, and HEWs involved in providing the education focusing on their area of specialization. Though the officials and the people agreed to re-start it, no practical actions have been taken until the end of this field work. People openly say that after the death of the late Prime Minister Melese Zenawi, the woreda and kebele administration had not given proper attention to the implementation of the different programmes and packages- they start one thing and pass to another without finishing the previous one. They put the issue of adult education as an example.  The other issue of the meeting is to expand the preparation of seedlings of different types of trees for planting on public lands and private lands. They agreed to prepare the seedlings on some communal lands in the irrigation field, in the school compound and privately.  Regarding the fertilizers and improved seeds people agreed to receive it through the service cooperative but the farmers also complained that the price of fertilizer and improved seeds are very expensive and adversely affects them to buy them in sufficient amount. They said that the cost of fertilizer is 1588.70 birr per quintals. |
| Thurs | 28 | There was a big meeting under a big tree closer to the kebele administration. All the hh heads from all the three zones, (Ebicho, Alemgenna, and Boto) participated in the meeting. The kebele leaders, school directors, HEWs and three DA’s also participated. Two people from the woreda administration participated.  The main agenda of the meeting was on how to establish a service cooperative in the community. Until now the service cooperative has been situated in the nearest town of Tibe and it has given services for more than 10 kebeles which make the service provision inefficient and ineffective. People also complained that the service cooperative is corruptive as it sells the consumption items like food oils, sugar, corrugated tin, soap, etc. to the traders at higher price while the objective of the cooperative is to stabilize the market by selling such items directly to farmers at fair price. The other problems related to the service cooperative is that dalliance of items, additions transport cost for the farmers, etc.  So, the people wanted to have a service cooperative in the community as this has a lot of advantages- reduce the transport cost, reduce dalliances, reduce corruption as they can control it by themselves.  The meeting was ended by agreeing to have a separate service cooperative in Odaharo and the people to provide a place for the construction of the building for the cooperative, and to contribute money, labour and construction materials. The officials also agreed with the idea of the farmers which will be decided in the near future. |
| Fri | 29 | In an informal discussion with the DAs, I realized that there have been gaps in resolving the different problems of the farmers. For example, the farmers reported that their mango trees have been affected by a disease locally called ‘cholera ’in the past two years but the DAs and woreda agricultural officials have not helped them to reduce the problem. The disease dries the leaves and spoils the fruit of the mango trees. The DAs said that they reported the problem to the woreda office before a year and they did not get response from the woreda ta that time. However they did not re-report or follow up what the higher official were doing with regard to the disease. It seems that they had even forgotten to re-report the problem to the woreda though they have been observing that the mango trees are suffering from the disease and farmers are losing the important source of their income every year. According to one DA worker, the mango disease was started in few kebele before two years and gradually expanded to affect all mango farmers in all the 32 kebeles of the woreda including the mango trees in the woreda town; so he wants to say that the woreda officials know the problem and no need to report to them. He wants to put the blame on the woreda officials who have failed to find solutions by reporting to the zone and regional agricultural bureaus.  I understand similar gaps have happened in the disease of red-pepper and chickens, in which the farmers are suffering in loosing many chickens and the red pepper products every year due to lack of proper support from the government to treat them. |
| Sat | 30 | A big meeting was carried out in Tibe town. This is part of the annual meetings officials of different categories from 9 kebeles involved to identify major problems happened in their respective communities’ during that particular month. They identified problems which would be presented to the general meeting to be carried out next week- in which all people from the 9 kebeles participate to discuss mainly on the security issues in their communities and to share experiences on how they have managed the crimes and other security problems.  Today, kebele leaders, extensions workers, iddir leaders, religious leaders and model farmers from the 9 kebeles were participated in the meeting. Officials from the woreda security office were leading the meeting. The main focus of the meeting was on how to improve the security of their respective kebeles. As discussed above the meetings have been carried out every month on 21st of the month in Ethiopian calendar, and the general meeting is carried out on 27th of every month (E.C). They discussed protecting the main bridges along the Addis Ababa –Nekemite road, to cooperate on protecting robberies and major crimes such as organized theft in the kebeles. |
| Sun | 31 | The day was on Sunday when followers of the Orthodox and protestant Churches attend church programmes and the rest of the people were enjoying themselves in the towns. Though we had arranged to make interviews, at the end we could not get the respondents due to the above problems, thus we were forced to return back to our rest room without doing anything.  We realized from this that most people in the community give much of their time to religious activities on Sunday. Particularly the protestant religious followers (adults, youths, children, and old people) attend the church programmes. |
| Mon | 1 | In the first 15 days of our stay in the community, there was a bridge on the Sama river which was used by people to go the town of Tibe and other parts of the kebele. The bridge had been constructed some years ago, by the China Road Construction company, when the Nakemite-Addis Ababa road re-construction was started. It was constructed as an alternative road to be used by both the cars and people at that time. It was totally made from metals. After the finishing of the re-construction of the road (with a new and big bridge was constructed on the other side of this alternative bridge), the old bridge continued to be used by the people as the new bridge was not comfortable for people to cross.  However, the company started to dismantle this bridge though people are very eager to use it. Many people felt so sad for its destruction. The company wanted the materials for another project. The dismantling took more than a week (see this bridge on the photo). |
| Tues | 2 | Until I talked to the head of Suni Mosque on April 02, we could not get clear information about the presence of tensions between the followers of the Suni and Wahhabia sects of Islam. In my discussion with the head, who believed Suni is the main Islamic religion followed and practiced by the whole Muslim communities in the kebele until recent years, I realized that the Wahhabiya Mosque was constructed in the Alemgenna zone of the kebele few years ago by a person coming from Addis Ababa. This person was originally from the neighbouring kebele and then migrated to Addis Ababa. He was responsible for the expansion of the Wahhabia religions in most of the area. His name was called Badiru. Now, about 100 followers of the Wahabia followers live in the community and they attend only the Wahhabi a religion. The members of this sect do not go to the main Sunni Mosque, which is currently attended by about 200 people. |
| Wed | 3 | One person from the community committed suicide, and all the adult community members went to the funeral ceremony. The person had been quarrelling with his eldest son who married and started leading an independent life. The person had trees which he had sold to finance the hh consumption. Some days ago, he cut some trees and made them ready for selling. However, his son sold them without getting consent from his father and used the money for his own purpose. Then the father became upset with the action of his son and accused him at the kebele social court. It seemed that he did not satisfactory decision from the social court, and then he decided to commit suicide. While he hanged himself in his home somebody observed him and shouted to the neighbouring people to save him. When the neighbours reached him he was alive and they immediately took him to a clinic in Tibe town. However as he was harmed seriously, he didn't survive and buried on 03 April 2013. Most of the people from the community and outside the community participated in his burial ceremony. |
| Thurs | 4 | When we reached in the community on the 18th of March, the floors of the two classrooms of the Gudina Haro full cycle primary school was made up of mud and soil. We observed that students brought water and mud from their home and labelling them every Friday. We recognized that Friday afternoon was a day of cleaning and no teaching and learning. At the same time we observed that the school also ready signed an agreement with a small constructor from Tibe town to make the floors cement. During our stay in the community, the contractor engaged in the cementing of the two classrooms which would be a great relief for the students.  In my informal discussion with the head teacher of this school, I realized that the budget for this work was obtained from the government as part of the school grant. Totally it cost 33,000 birr to cement the floors of the two big classrooms. Students felt happy for these as they have been suffering from the dust in the classroom and students in particular got relief from bring dung from their home and water from the river when the school pump water is not working. |
| Fri | 5 | The kebele cabinet participated in a training organized by the Bako Agricultural Research Centre in Bako town. The training was focusing on how to lead the farmers to use modern farm technologies and to improve the productivity and production. All cabinet members from Odaharo and other kebeles in the woreda participated in the training. The training continued for three consecutive days. The cabinet member said that the training is very important to expand their knowledge of improved technologies. |
| Sat | 6 | The training of the cabinet members has continued for the second day. In an informal discussion with the kebele chairperson, the training was carried out by the Bako Agricultural Research Centre in coordination with the Bako-Tibe woreda administration. All Cabinet members from all the 28 rural kebeles of the woreda participated in the meeting. The second day training was focusing on how to expand the agriculture development programmes in the rural areas and on how to make the Growth and Transformation Programme (GTP) more successful. |
| Sun | 7 | The training at the woreda continued for the 3rd day. At the end of the meeting the woreda announced that 11, 300,000 birr was allocated from 17 kebeles which already established FTC in in order to boost the development programmes in these 17 kebeles. The budget was allocated from the Federal government as part of the Agricultural Growth Programme (AGP). It was reported to the cabinet members that the money was donated by the World Bank for the sustainable development of the farming activities and to strengthening rural services. Odaharo is one of the 17 kebeles which will be benefited from these donations as there is a FTC service in the community. The 17 kebeles are going to share the 17,300,000 birr. The cabinet members were instructed to carried out a meeting with their own population and identify the main priority areas in which people can participate in the form of cooperative. |
| Mon | 8 | The kebele administration made a general meeting with the people of the community to identify the main priority areas which can help them to improve their livelihood by using their share of the 11,300,000 birr. Before the general meeting was started the cabinet members met and decide to give a replacement land for a farmer who should give his land for the demonstration of the FTC activities. They decided to give him a replacement from the communal grass land.  In the meeting, people agreed to form cooperatives in different activities based on their interest and their success stories. |
| Tues | 9 | The kebele meeting continued for the second day. All kebele officials, HEWs, teachers, DAs, all hh heads of the kebele. The objective was to identify the major priority areas to use the new budget allocated to the kebeles and to assign people according to the identified priorities. They identified the following as the main areas to change the local economy:  1. To establish a big irrigation motor pump on the Sama river and to organize interested people according;  2. To buy threshing machine for teff and maize (in a group);  3. To be organized to work on the breeding of new breeds of honeybees using modern honey hives;  4. To be organized to grow improved trees and fodders on highlands areas, and places prone to flooding and erosion.  5. To be organized to breed and fatten livestock.  6. To establish mills for grinding spices and grains.  These new plans also include landless and jobless young people. |
| Wed | 10 | In a discussion with the woreda administration, I realized that this new budget will be realized next year. But the woreda and kebele officials are engaged in identifying the farmers priority areas, and then to give training to the farmers on how to implement the priority areas and how the budget will be managed. He added that after the priorities are identified and farmers took training, the woreda Agricultural office and DAs will design projects showing the details on how the budget will be allocated, etc. |
| Thurs | 11 | In the last three days the minibus car drivers went on strike requesting the local government either to increase the price per person from Tibe-Bako or to increase the maximum number of people to 15- the existing law says only 11 people can travel with the minibuses excluding the driver and assistant. The strike was started when the local government started to control the amount of payment and the number of people in the car. As reported earlier above, the drivers put up to 26 people in the minibus and asked for additional payments. The strike control forced all the drivers and some minibus owners from the Tibe and Shoboka towns to stop giving services to the people. They tried to put pressure on the woreda administration to do something in this regard.  Finally in a meeting with the car owners, the woreda made it clear that the woreda cabinet has not responsibility to formulate laws and regulations. This is the right of the federal government and the regional government. It made clear that the responsibility of the woreda administration is to implement the law and regulations and polices. So, it warned the car owners to provide proper service to the people with fair price (6 birr from Tibe-Bake) and with the maximum limit of 11 people in the car (excluding the driver and assistant). We observed that some traffic police aware the people to pay only 6 birr and to report to the police in case the drivers put more than 11 passengers in the minibus.  Though this seems to be a strict stand on the part of the woreda officials, still we observed (and we paid) people are forced to pay 7 birr instead of 6 birr, and more than 11 passengers were carried in the minibus when there was no traffic police in the area. |
| Fri | 12 | The profitability of the vegetables depends not only on the amount of production from the farm but it is also dependent up on the current price of the particular vegetable. We heard that the prices of some vegetables, mainly of tomatoes and onions have started to increase at the national market. Those irrigated farmers who have just started harvesting these crops are becoming happy as the price increase helps them to get good profit. We heard that the tomatoes price was increased by three fold. Those farmers who already sold their vegetables were regretting. One local investor who was producing tomatoes on 3 hectors of land was felt very happy as he just started collecting his tomatoes crop. As the price increased by three fold, he expects to get up to 300,000 birr profit from the farm. He is producing the vegetables by renting land from other farmers. |
| Sat | 13 | The woreda and kebele officials started preparation for the local and woreda election. Election materials were sent to the kebele. A polling station was prepared in the Gudina Haro primary school. People were informed to go to the polling station starting from early in the morning and they were informed to go to the station together with their 1-5 members. |
| Sun | 14 | People start to go to the polling station for the local election in the morning. Some of them go together with their 1-5 members. Men and women participated in the election. As there was no opposing political party participating in the election, people elect the candidates of the ruling party. |
| Mon | 15 | It was posted on the election board that the candidates of the ruling political party won the local and woreda election. |
| Tues | 16 | I heard that some cattle were stolen from the OdaKorma kebele, one of the neighbouring kebeels of OdaHaro. People from this kebele were searching for the where about of the cattle in the last 3 days. They also reported to all the nine nearby kebeles with which they agreed to share information and to control the security of the people in all of these kebele. After three days, now it was announced that the cattle and thieves were caught in the Gudina Gibe kebele. As the owner of the cattle to stay in Gudina Gibe kebele for some days to follow the case, the people from OdaHaro were collecting grains and other necessary things which will be sent for the owner of the cattle. He will eat these grains while he is there. This according the rules agreed at the general meetings on the 29th of the general meeting of all these kebele residents. They provision of the grains and other things are made turn by turn when such incidents are happened. This time it is the turn of the Odaharo kebele. The grains are collected through the iddirs. |
| Wed | 17 | The contractor completed the cementing of the floors of the two classrooms of Gudina Haro full cycle primary school. This resolved the problem of the dust in the classroom.  We also observed that the tap water pump of the school was maintained by a plumber coming from the woreda. It was broken some months ago. |
| Thurs | 18 | In an informal discussion with one community elder, I understood that there have still been widespread deforestation activities in some areas of the community which results in the gradual decline of wild beasts. He said that the deforestation activities are higher in the Boto and Alemgenna zones of the kebele. In Alemgenna, people are hunting Dikula which can be active enough to escape during the long dry seasons like this year. He said that though some people try to stop the hunting of this animal, young men continue to do it and he is very concerned that in the coming few years, they will reach a level not to see Dikula in the community as the case for some of the other wild beasts which were already disappear. The other striking thing he told me is that the feeding habits of some wild animals have recently been changed due to changes in the local environment. He said that in the past Hyenas did not eat any crops as it is a carnivorous animal. But recently they observed that Hyenas start to eat maize seeds in the farm. According to him, the numbers of Haynes have been increasing during the harvesting season of the maize crops as they start to depend on eating maize. According to him, this change in the feeding habit of the hyenas is probably due to the decline of other wild animals which were previously eaten by Hyenas. |
| Fri | 19 | No major event observed. |
| Sat | 20 | There was a wedding ceremony in Tibe town. People told us that the bride was voluntarily abducted last week and she and her husband had stayed in the house of the husband’s aunt during the week. While the new couple were in Tibe, discussions were made with the parents of the bride through the elders. Both the bride and the groom are from the Oda Korma kebele, a neighbouring kebele of OdaHaro in the south east. It seemed that the parents of the bride agreed with the marriage because today the couple completed their preparation to go to the house of the groom’s parent. Two mules (one for the bride and one for the groom were made ready and a number of young men with beautiful clothes accompany them. The bride and the groom were also fashioned very well (see the photos). It seems that both of them are very happy as we observed smiling on their faces. Both the bride and the groom were skilful in driving the mule, and after touring in the town for some time, they left the town for Oda Korma around the evening. |
| Sun | 21 | Travel |

## Fieldwork 2

### Female research officer

Not Available.

### Male research officer

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Wed | 30 | **Travel** |
| Thurs | 31 |  |
| Fri | 1 | In an informal discussion with the poor farmer and the wife of leading business man, we realized that a meeting was started in the kebele to train the farmers on the agricultural development plan for the year 2006 E.C. |
| Sat | 2 | In a discussion with two woreda experts who came to the community to train the farmers, I understood that the woreda have been conducting a training conference in each of the kebeles in the woreda. The training focuses on evaluating the performance and weaknesses of the 2005 agricultural and community development activities and to discuss and approve the 2006 agricultural development plan. The training would last for 10 days. The discussion mainly focuses on improving the rain-fed farming, irrigation activities, environmental protection, health, education, safety and security. I observed that about 300 people engaged in the meeting on this day. Both men and women participated in the training but the numbers of women are small as compared with men. |
| Sun | 3 | The kebele chairman and zone leader told me that the training was to transform the livelihood of the people. They reported that more than 400 people participated in the training meeting. As a well-known old man died in Tibe town, people asked the trainers to make the meeting for half day and they went to the burial ceremony of this person. So, the meeting was conducted only for half day. Supervisors from the woreda came and observed how the training was carried out. They recommended that as still large number of people have not participated in the meeting, it is important to continue to carry out the training at the zone level. |
| Mon | 4 | Today the training was given only to the political party members. According to the woreda trainer, there are about 179 party members in the Odaharo. The objective is to help the party members to understand the main activities of the government in relation to agricultural development, social development, political participation and security. The issue of the next year national election was also the topic. The party members were told to agitate the people to side with the government in the 2007 National Election. At the end, they changed the Boto zone party organizer as he was not activity in mobilizing the party members for the local development. They also elected a new party organizer for this zone.  There was a construction of a Church for Ethiopian Orthodox Church. Men and women participated in the construction [(women fetch water to moisture the mud, carrying the mud to the place where the church was constructed, etc.), men engaged in preparing the mud and making the house with mud and wood). This is the second church in the community. It was constructed in Abicho zone. Last year, there was a temple at this place and now they constructed a big church next to the temple). The people participated in the work are the followers of the Church. |
| Tues | 5 | I observed the areas where the terracing check dams were constructed last year. It seems that the terraces have helped to reduce the running off of the soil in many places where the terraces were done. In some places the Gravliia trees were planted and they are grown well but they are not fenced and they may be exposed to destruction by the cattle. Some of these places are grazing areas and already cattle are grazing around these places which may be a threat to the plants. Moreover, the trees have not been planted on all areas of the terraced areas.  In some places the terraced check-dams were destroyed/taken away by the floods. But in other places they survived the floods and they protected the flooding of the farmer down streams. |
| Wed | 6 | The farmers training conference moved down to the zone level. It was conducted in all the three zones (Abicho, Boto, and Alemgena). Some people said that the participation of the people was better at the zone level. The meeting agendas were similar with that of the kebele meeting. |
| Thurs | 7 | The farmers’ training conference continued at the zone level. |
| Fri | 8 | The meeting of the farmers’ training conference continued in each zone |
| Sat | 9 | The training was completed by approving the 2006 agricultural development plan. The farmers agreed the implement the plan and to improve the production and productivity of their crops. |
| Sun | 10 | Many people were gathered in Tibe town on the opposite side of where we stayed. It was early in the morning. People told as those 20 years ago two people were relatives were quarrelled and one of them was killed. The killer was imprisoned for the last 20 years and recently released from prison. Now these people try to arbitrate killer with the families and relatives of the deceased one. The process of the reconciliation is called Guma and this is a known tradition of reconciling in Oromia region and it is a tradition of reconcile people when one party kill the other. The gathered people were praying to the God for bring peace to the area, and to help them to reconcile the two party. I was told that elders from different kebeles and Tibe town were engaged in this process. They were more than 30 people. I observed that the Chairman and manager of Odaharo kebele also participated in the process. There are also some women in the gathering. Religious leaders from the three major religions in the area (Orthodox, Protestant, and Islam) were also represented by the heads of the religions in Tibe town.  Finally, three people from the deceased person side came and stand in front of the gathered people. The elders told them that they will come back again next week and until then they have to tell to their relatives and other family members and to come to same on the morning of next Sunday.  People told us that the reconciliation will be made after elders from both sides meet and agree on the amount of compensation to be paid to the deceased person families. |
| Mon | 11 |  |
| Tues | 12 | **Travel** |