# Interviews on non- farming by females in Somodo, Jimma

## Cash crop trading

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

Starting from 2004 EC during coffee harvesting seasons (October - November) I engage in trading of fresh coffee. It is not directly buying for reselling purpose rather I have many young men at different sites and farmers who sell to me the fresh coffee. These men/middlemen buy the crops from the farm gate and some farmers, who are my constant customers supply to me at my site. On the same day, every day the investor come with truck and collects the coffee from all sites to bring it to the processing machine. Thus, there is no problem in collecting and transporting the coffee to the investor. Mostly I work with /supply the same large trader/ investor. There is no problem in financing the buying in the sense that first I get the money from the investor to buy the coffee. Based on the national market every day the investor determines the price of coffee. Then after the investor tells me the price I adjust the price regularly. I have not faced any problems in trading this crop since every day the investor determines the price and takes the coffee I bought/collected without delay.

Last year I got about 4000 birr profit. As I worked with one investor only I did not collect more coffee and the profit I got is small as I buy with the money I got from this investor only. Thus, for the future I would better deal with two investors so as to buy more coffee by having many middlemen. By doing so my profit also would be higher. I want to continue being involved in this activity as it is very profitable compared with other activities.

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

The second most important cash crop traded in the community is Chat. However, this woman does not involve in this trading. Only men involve in trading chat.

### Middlewoman trader’s activity

This trader is not the one interviewed for the most important cash crop above (M5.1).

I trade crops (maize, sorghum, teff and dry coffee). Throughout the year, mainly during the summer season I trade these other crops. The prices are fixed based on the information obtained from larger traders in the nearby towns. I feel the price is usually fair. Dry coffee is more profitable than the other crops. However, farmers do not bring me more dry coffee. Usually they bring small amounts so as to take/buy some consumption goods such as oil, sugar etc. with the money they get from selling the dry coffee. I also engage in shop trading. I used to sell the crops next to my shop. I sell the dry coffee for traders in the nearby town. People who buy the crops are end users. People (from Somodo and other neighbouring areas) frequently buy small amounts of crop from me and take it to the nearby mill. I do not employ anyone in doing these activities; I am the one who runs these different activities simultaneously. I do not involve in trading livestock. For my business I did not get any support from the wereda. First I started trading by borrowing from my relative then I started to use the money obtained from trading and expanded my business. Initially, around 2000 EC I involve in trading maize only. Then I started trading other crops. Since 2003 I opened a shop and started to buy commodities from Jimma and sell at shop.

She estimated that in the last 12 months she got about 8,000 birr profit. She suggested that the business would be improved if she could get more working capital. As an example she mentioned that rather than buying grains from traders in nearby towns she would be better off buying larger amounts of grain from the trucks that transport grain from Limu Genet to Jimma at a relatively lower price. But they do not sell in small amounts. Thus, if she was able to do so she thinks she would get more profit. In the last year I did not get involved in any education.

### Most important cash crop sold by small trader

Starting in 2001 EC I buy dry coffee; I manually grind the coffee (making the coffee ready for end user) and sell it to middle traders in Jimma. I engage in these activities throughout the year. But I do not do it regularly due to shortage of working capital. I buy dry coffee from the market or a middle trader when I get money from sale of the readymade coffee. Sometimes the middle traders who take the coffee from me also give me the money after he sold the coffee. So, sometimes I do not get money on time. But if I have adequate money at hand it is better to buy whenever farmers sell small amounts of coffee. As they mostly use to sell to middle traders they do not bring to me. However, over time if I started buying from them they would use to sell to me. Thus, rather than buying from traders with a bit higher price it would be more profitable if I could buy from farmers. With regard to transporting the readymade coffee to the market there is no problem. First I started this trade by borrowing from one trader. Then I paid back the money and have been using my profit to trade. Even twice a week I started to buy and sell grain on the market in Belida and Somodo. As the amount I trade is small I do not pay tax. I estimate that in the last 12 months I got about 3,500 birr profit (from all the crops).

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

The second most important cash crop traded in the community is Chat. However, women do not involve in this trade; only men involve in trading chat.

### Small trader’s activity

In addition to trading coffee as mentioned in M5.1 I also trade crops (maize and sorghum). I involve in this twice a week as I buy and sell grain on the market in Belida, every Tuesday and Somodo, every Friday for 2 hours. As the amount I trade is small I do not pay tax. I estimate that in the last 12 months I got about 3,500 birr profit (from all the crops). First by borrowing from my neighbour I started to buy coffee and manually grinding it for sale. Then simultaneously I started to use the money obtained from trading coffee to buy and sell maize and sorghum. The prices are fixed based on the information at the market. I feel the price is usually fair. In the last year I did not get involved in any education.

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

Eight years ago we started to produce and sell coffee. Especially from September-December I and my husband sell fresh coffee to traders. But we do not sell a lot of fresh coffee as we dry it and sell whenever we need cash. We sell the cherry coffee in Somodo for collectors, who in turn supply the investors. In most cases I am the one who sell dry coffee in Belida throughout the year so as to buy other consumption goods. I do not face transportation problem as on every market days there are many cars that give transport service to travel to Belida. I do not pay market tax and have no license as I am not a trader. When I estimate last year approximately my household earn about 3,500 birr profit from coffee. This profit is small since the coffee price has been reducing starting from last year. I think my household would earn more if the coffee price improved/increased, at least to the level it was before last year.

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

The second most important cash crops traded in the community is chat. However, women do not involve in trading/self trading chat; only men involve in this.

### Self-trader’s activity

Though we produce other crops such as maize and teff we do not sell them; we used them for household consumption. Coffee is more profitable than other crops for trading. The price of fresh coffee is usually fixed by the investors, who collect the coffee from traders. The price of dry coffee is determined by traders based on the market conditions. Formerly the price of coffee was good. But, since last year the price has been declining. I have enset (false banana). During the summer season sometimes I get an income by preparing Qocho and selling at Jimma. Last year I got about 800 birr. There is no other economic activity I was involved in during the last 12 months. In the last year I did not get involved in any education.

## Livestock trading

### Livestock trade

There is no female livestock trader. Very few men are involved in this activity.

## Livestock products

### Women traders in livestock products

The selling of livestock products such as milk, butter, eggs etc is not common except very few women who sell their own products so as to cover small consumption expenses. In rare cases a few women sell eggs to shop owners and in return get other goods, mainly oil, sugar, salt etc from the shop. These shop owners sell these eggs for end users/consumers. During annual holidays there is one woman buying eggs from the market (mostly from Belida and sometimes from Somodo) and selling at Jimma.

Recently as bee keeping with modern beehives has started very few farmers have started to produce honey. Some needy end users buy honey from these farmers. In other cases these farmers sell the honey at Jimma. However, there is no trader that buys and sells honey in the area.

### Interview with livestock trader

Not applicable as there is no successful livestock product middlewoman

## Micro, small and medium enterprises

There are no crop or livestock processing enterprises in or near the kebele. There is no medium-sized productive enterprise in the kebele. However, in the nearby areas (Yebu town and Kenitary) investors have coffee processing machines. The presence of these processing machines has enabled Somodo’s farmers to sell their fresh coffee on time without any problem. Two individuals have opened a small enterprise and started producing household furniture very recently. They have bought machine used to cut/prepare wood to prepare furniture by spending about 10,000 birr. It seems that this small enterprise would have the potential to expand.

### Skilled production

Participants have mentioned that there are many male carpenters (about 25) who are involved in house construction. More of them carry out this activity on a part-time base. A few of them are also involved in producing wooden made household furniture such as Bercuma (traditional small chair) and beds. Two individuals have recently bought a machine used to cut/ prepare wood to prepare furniture by spending about 10,000 birr. These two individuals have started production of furniture together. While the ROs were in the field they have produced around 15 chairs for the kebele, which the kebele will use when they start to work in the newly constructed rooms. They make each chair at a cost of 300 birr. It seems that this small enterprise would have the potential to expand as mostly local people have been travelling to Kenitary to order wooden made household furniture while now they may get these products from this enterprise.

In the past there were potters, blacksmiths and tanners. However, they were facing social isolation and uneasy interaction with the community. The local people were labelling potters as ‘fugi’. As a result, many were not willing to continue involving in such activities. Thus, over time they stopped doing that. No one acquired such knowledge and skills from them, and so there are no potters, blacksmiths, tanners, weavers, block makers, basket makers and no one who make wool products and spinning in the kebele.

### Livestock and products production

There are a few people who engage in rearing and fattening a few shoat for slaughtering and selling at holidays. Most farmers rear cattle primarily for farming. There have not been people who buy cattle and shoat for distribution to other people to fatten. However, since 2008G.C as people lack fodder very few individuals give out their cattle on share-rearing basis (locally called ‘rebi’) to others who reside in remote areas and may have access to grass. The owner and the person that keep the cattle share the new born calves and milk together. Thus, people do not target commercial production of livestock products. There are very few individuals involved in commercial production of honey. But the amount of honey they produce is very small. There are no individuals or co-operatives involved in the commercial production of livestock products.

### Local drinks and food production

In one of the sub villages, in Hibreteseb zone around the church and Kusho Zone, around Gerdi area where Orthodox Christian followers reside there are about 25 Orthodox Christian women involved in small-scale production of local drinks (Areki). Sometimes also they buy Areki from Jimma and sell at their home. Few of them also buy beer from nearby towns and sell at their home. They do this mainly in the coffee harvesting time as people get income and use to drink beer then. In Abujedi Zone there is one person involved in production and selling of Tej.

Around Abujedi Zone (near the kebele office) and in Hibreteseb zone a few women (three and one respectively) are involved in production and selling of food (injeera with wat). However, there are many individuals, about 25, mainly shop keepers, who produce and sell Biscuit. Very few of them also boil and sell coffee and tea.

### More detail on areki production

The participant who producesthe mostexplained that *a*bout 25 women are involved in the production of Areki in the kebele. She produces Areki throughout the year. She finances the buying of inputs from her own money. She does not have any problems in this regard. She gets the main inputs such as maize and malt from the nearby town. In addition, as in the locality there are a few women who prepare malt from wheat and barley she sometimes buys malt from them.

On average she produces and sells about 5 litres per day during the non-fasting season. But in the fasting season she sells about 2 litres per day only. She produces and sells it to needy customers at her home. In most cases they use to drink after work (in the afternoon up to 7pm). Few also use to drink before work so as to be energetic for work. Some customers also buy and drink at their home. The customers are adult male and a few male youths of Orthodox Christian religion. The price is fixed at the local level with other producers. She does not have a licence and she does not pay tax. She does not employ anyone; rather she does this with her mother. On average (by estimation) she stated that she gets a profit of 750 birr month. In addition, she uses the residue for livestock fodder. The problem she faces is that as the majority of the local people are Muslim they do not drink. Due to this the demand for Areki is limited as only Orthodox Christian religion followers buy and drink Areki. Moreover, during fasting season the demand for Areki is low. Due to these reasons it is not possible to expand the production. Furthermore, she stated that the work is very heavy.

### Non-farm women producer co-operatives

There are no women’s co-operatives in the kebele. There are three youth male cooperatives involved in the production of stone.

### Natural resource sale

Officially there are no people who are involved in selling wood. A few poor farmers during the summer season when they lack money are involved in making charcoal illegally. The kebele has tried to stop it. Accordingly, a few were punished at their sub village level. Irrespective of such effort participants stated that there still might be a few poor farmers who continue making charcoal illegally during the summer season secretly. There are no people involved in the sale of grass. There are three male youth co-operatives involved in the production of stone for sale. As it is the kebele who organized the youth local people do not think about this as exploitation of natural resources for sale rather they focus on the aspect of enhancing youths’ livelihoods.

### Petty production

Not applicable as there are no people involved in petty production.

### Service enterprises

In the kebele there are shops, mill houses, tea houses, shoe shining, hair dressing, barber, mobile phone repair and transport services, local drink (Areki and Tej) houses, one private clinic that started providing health service but the license is still under process. Many of these service enterprises are described below.

### Food-processing services

There are 7 grain mills but there is not any other food processing service in the kebele.

### Hospitality services

There is no medium sized hotel or restaurant in the kebele. However, there are 7 mill houses. There are also many individuals, about 20, mainly shop keepers who produce and sell Biscuit. Very few of them also boil and sell coffee and tea. There are about 25 and 1 Areki and Tej drinking houses respectively. Sometimes, mainly during coffee harvest season there will also be beer in these local drinking houses. Such traders do not compete on price rather they use to sell at the same price though consultation. Except in one of the tea houses the others do not hire employees and work only with their household members involved in the activities.

### Health services

There is no private clinic but while we were in the field one clinic was opened and started functioning although their service was not official as their licence was still under process. There are about three traditional medical service providers who give service for some health problems, which people think that traditional medication is better to cure. These health problems include and haemorrhoids etc. Participants also mentioned that there are a few individuals who perform FGM as well as genital cutting for male. In the kebele there is no drug shop for veterinary medicines but the farmers get drugs from the vet as well as from the nearby town and Jimma.

### Shops

As compared with 2008 there is great change as at that time the number of shops found in the kebele was very small, about five. However, the number of people opening shop has been increasing over time and now there are about 30 shops (this may not be exact as with respondents we counted the shops). Few of them are medium level while many are small in size. All of them sell different consumable products including cooking oil, sugar, salt, soap, exercise books, pen, pencils, dry cells and other commodities. In addition to these items medium level shop owners sell soft drinks, plastic/glass packed drinks (Juice), onion, tomato, rice, pasta, macaroni and more consumption goods.

### Leisure services

There are no table tennis, bar football, billiard or chess board (games to rent) in the kebele. However, there is one football station where young male sometimes play football. Formerly one man from the woreda capital (Yebu) used to come regularly and he was training male children and youngsters in Marshal Arts for a monthly fee of 30 birr. However, this is not found now. In general, as now some people have bought TV and very few have bought satellite receiver people watch TV. Those who do not have TV also watch from their neighbours or at tea houses. Even some people perceive that chewing chat and drinking local alcohol as a leisure activity.

### Petty services

There are three boys who provide shoe-shining service on a part-time basis in front of the kebele office. There are also one mobile phone repairs shop, one radio repairs shop, one hair dresser and two barbers. Those who did not access electricity get mobile phone charging services from those who have already accessed electricity. However, there is no one selling second hand clothes and shoes and lottery tickets and doing shoe repairs in the kebele; rather local people get these services from the nearby towns.

### Transport services

One of the richest traders has a minibus that gives transport service, mostly while travelling from Jimma to Limu Getnet. Local people use this car like any other car when they come across. Another businessman has a Toyota whereby he gives transport service while taking grind mills from place to place. He also gives transport service when shop owners buy commodities from Jimma. He also gives service to take anything people buy from the nearby town.

During agricultural harvesting time, mainly during coffee harvesting season there is an estimated 45 individuals who provide transportation service using donkey. There are also two individuals who provide transportation service using a horse-drawn cart on market days. There is no other means of transport service provided by the local people.

## Government support for non-farm activities

The government does not provide exceptional service (credit, training, land or any other inputs) for non-farm activities. However, if needy persons organize in groups and seek credit, after assessing the ability of repaying of each of them they can get credit from the Oromia credit and saving share company to use for the activities they want to undertake. However, as it has interest most people do not seek this credit. Thus, people are involving in different non-farm activities through their own initiation and capital without any support from government. However, in the kebele some youth got land on a group basis as the kebele gave it to them from communal land and they have been extracting stone for sale. But as they did not get any other support (training, advice, technical support or any other input) their success is questionable.

Most of the shop owners have business licenses and pay tax annually. Other traders do not have business licenses and they do not pay tax. This is because they are not working regularly but involve occasionally and their non-farm work is not strengthened. However, government is now forcing many traders such as grind mill and tea shops owners to have business licenses so as to pay tax annually.

Some parts of the kebele have electricity. With access to electricity the number of grinding mills, which there were two six years ago has now increased to 7. In addition, formerly they were working with fuel but now they are working with electricity. Because of the availability of electricity also shop owners sell and people grind grain up to 9 pm in the evening.

## Non-farm employment