# Girar site-specific topic: land given to 150 farmers on contract basis

## Interview with Kebele chair and DA Natural Resources

There was land given to 150 farmers on contract basis. They are not allowed to cultivate permanent crops like coffee, enset and eucalyptus trees. However, they can only cultivate crops and horticulture. Though they are given the land in contractual basis, these farmers are not paying anything for their land. Rather, it was said as contract since they would give the land back to the *kebele* whenever the *kebele* wanted it. The contract is for three years with the possibility of extension if there is not many people applying to be part of the contractual service. It has been two years since the current people are given the land. In 2003 E.C, they are supposed to renew their contract if they are interested to continue. If they are not interested to continue, they can graduate from the service and another people could take the land for another contract year.

The HEWs and DAs closely work with these farmers. The DAs do follow-ups if there is any idle land from their land. They also give them improved seeds and fertilisers. According to the DA the extension workers give more emphasis to work with these farmers. The rationale behind is that if they do not use their contract land properly, they might be tossed out by the kebele and will be replaced with other farmers.

The chairman mentioned that the climatic condition of the kebele is not that much conducive for crop production. Therefore, they are not expected to be much successful. But, doing something is better than doing nothing. The contract land is allocated in a way that people could work together in the form of Debo. Accordingly, four people are given one hectare land in a share. Though the DAs supported these people with different agricultural inputs, they do not pay their loan on time. The kebele also repeatedly asked them to pay back their loans. When they failed to pay back after the kebele’s request, they are taken to the social court. Recently, there have been 20 farmers whose case is handled by the social court and resolved.