# Korodegaga site-specific topic: The Productive Safety Net Programme

## Overall have regular food aid and credit-related interventions increased the asset-base of the community and reduced the number of households dependent on food aid?

No! The food aid and credit-related interventions are not properly implemented as the programme suggests and hence could not bring about the intended result that is, it could not increase the asset-base of the community.

## Do the interventions benefit poor people equally to the better-off?

The programme includes only the poor, excluding the so called better-off community members. To compare among the poor that are included under PSNP, the benefit obtained from the programme do not have variation based on wealth status differences. The benefit depends on personal initiative, availability of land and availability of grazing land that are important sources of asset formation.

## Is the credit system more efficient for richer people?

The credit is given only to the poor. At the same time, it is not only provided to those community members included in the aid/PSNP but also to that are not included in the aid. However, very poor families that do not get the aid may use the credit for consumption purpose rather than using it for business.

## What other things should be in place for the credit system to work well and grow?

The credit given is insignificant to bring about change by using it as an initial capital. Awareness creation and technical support by professionals should be in place besides increasing the amount given to ensure the effective utilisation of the credit.

## How have shocks (e.g. drought, deaths, increased prices of inputs) affected the use of food aid resources and credit resources?

During drought time the livestock farmers bought for reproduction my die due to shortage of fodder and diseases and the family is finally forced to pay the debt that further reduces the wealth of the family while the family sells other assets for repayment. When farmers use the credit for farming purposes in situation where the price of inputs like fertiliser and improved seed increased, they use other seed with low production and apply small amount of fertiliser below the standard, could lead to total failure of production or meagre output that could not cover the cost. During drought the crop may fail as it happened this year and debt repayment for the input cost highly affects the farmer.

## What projects and policies have best insulated households from shocks? Why?

Irrigation is the major activity that insulated households from shocks. As it is not dependent on rain, every household could produce food consumption for the family three times a year. According to informants, participation on irrigation is increasing this year being used as a coping mechanism to the drought. Households may not use their irrigation intensively before when the weather become good as they use rain fed agriculture to cover their consumption. This year they are using it properly. The other coping mechanism is working on investors’ farms in different activities as a daily labourer. There are considerable households that are compensating their food shortage from this task.

## How have the community’s coping mechanisms changed since 2003?

Previously the major coping mechanism was based on selling charcoal and fuel wood. Recently working as a daily labourer on investors’ farm has replaced the previous one. Hence selling fuel wood and charcoal as a coping mechanism have drastically reduced in the community.

## Effect of the PSNP on informal social protections systems

It has affected the social protection system in that households that were helping each other in case of food problem are now not helping each other. This is because everybody believes that a household could get aid if it faces a serious problem and hence do not expect and suspect of a person to fail in to serious food problem in the presence of the aid and do not want to share to another household what they have got.

## Has the PSNP increased dependency?

Due to awareness problem people assume that the aid will continue forever. Accordingly, as membership in the aid depends on one’s wealth that excludes the better-off households, these households who are not included in the programme started to sell their assets to be included in the program. This occurs also due to inappropriate implementation of the program. The kebele officials with the community evaluate the wealth of every household every year and include or exclude a person based on his wealth increment or decline. Those evaluated as their wealth increasing would be excluded and of whose wealth declined would be included. To tap this advantage and be included in the programme some households that were not in the programme started to sell their assets to be included in the aid to be considered as poor. Moreover, families that have sufficient food from the aid for their family are not initiated to work and improve themselves.

## Has the natural resource base of the community changed?

There is no such a significant change in the natural resource base of the community. However the terracing has reduced erosion.

## How have the PSNP and related interventions affected relationships with other communities?

People were requesting their relatives living in other areas food support and were fading up to help them. Now since the intervention they have stopped requesting for help and they know that we have sufficient food and consider us sons of government and started to respect us.

## What do people think of the community projects that has been done through Food-for-Work?

The major community works undertaken are construction of road and terracing. People have a positive attitude towards these projects. The community has understood the importance of terracing and now individuals are requesting the kebele so that the terracing work would include and/or done on his farm.

## What problems have there been related to the food aid, and the work programme?

The major problem so far observed is that household members are engaged on the work two days in a week throughout the year and it becomes every day when the time of the aid provision approaches. In this condition private farms of households are harmed as there is no person to care for as households are working full time. There is no person that waters crops and vegetables that reduces production to a great extent or sometimes resulting in total failure leading the family to more problem or poverty. Especially those households with many children below the age of 15 who could not support each other on the work programme are in a serious problem as the household head needs to work continuously on the work programme leaving private farm work.