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

## Trade

### Facts about trade

The most important grain crops which are traded at the present time include maize, teff and sorghum in order of importance. Red-pepper and nug are also cash crops. Moreover, mango, banana, tomatoes, onions, potato, sugar cane and coffee are also important cash crops in the last five years. Chat is sold and consumed mainly by the Muslim communities.

The main trading seasons are from November to April. This is the season when farmers sell their crops to pay the debt, land tax, education cost, etc. the main cash crop in the community is maize. Its profit is good and it can easily be sold to the national market in Addis Ababa. Now the price of a quintal of maize crop from the farmers is 390 birr. The smaller traders sell it to bigger traders at the price of 395 birr. Last December, the price was 320 birr and it is increased to 390 in March. It seems that it will continue to increase in the coming months. Red- pepper was 20 birr per kg in December and now it is 23 birr. Its price also increases from time to time. It is profitable because we can get a profit of 1-2 birr per kg. Red teff was bought with 700 birr per quintal in December; now it is about 900 birr. The profit is 300. Nug was bought with 900 birr per quintal in December; now it is 1000 birr. The profit is 300-500 birr. The problem is that there is a shortage. Only few farmers produce nug in the community. So, we cannot get large amount of the crop. Most of the farmers already sold their nug crop and after now it is difficult to get it from the farmers. We may stop trading with this crop until the next harvest season.

The larger traders of grain crops are six in the community. All of them trade with more than one crop. Almost all of them trade maize, teff and sorghum. The information about the market price is obtained from largest traders in Addis Ababa. There are brokers who check the price for us every day. We communicate with them by telephone.

There is competition among the farm product traders in the community. The competition is good for the farmers because it leads to an increase in the price of the crops. It is harmful for the traders as the increase in buying price leads to loss. There is no cooperation among the traders. Each works their own business and no one cares about the business of the other. We do not discuss to determine the market price. Each of us gets the price for each crop from our respective brokers in Addis Ababa. However, the price of the nearby market also impacts on our buying price. Though the price in Addis Ababa is low, sometimes the local market price may increase unexpectedly. So, we are obliged to consider this local price changes as otherwise the producers do want to sell to us. So, we adjust our price to the existing situation in another nearby markets. Again, sometimes when one trader increases the price of the crop, we have to immediately adjust to his price.

The traders cannot make the price low in order to get excessive profit. The price is determined by the market price on both the national and local market. The prices of the farmers have not risen with the inflation. It has rather declined because when the price of other items increases, traders face more costs including an increase in transport costs, labour costs, renting costs (cars), etc. as a result, we try to reduce the price of the crops as otherwise we will face loss.

As explained above there are price variations during the year. From December to February, the price of food crops are low because these are the harvest times and farmers sell large amounts of their produce to pay debts, to buy other necessary things, to pay taxes, etc. The price starts to increase during the summer season because this is the time when only few farmers take their crops to the market (most farmers have shortages at home) and some farmers start to buy food crops from the market instead of selling. The local traders mainly sell to the big traders in Addis Ababa. The price is determined through the involvement of the brokers. Once the price is fixed, we send the crop directly to Addis Ababa, and the big traders send the money through the bank. To be sure that the money is sent, we go to the Bako and take out the money from the Bank. Sometimes, the big traders may reduce the price after we sent the crop to Addis Ababa. They give the reason that the quality of the crop is not good. As a result there are times when we enter into losses due to the traders changing their minds about the price. Sometimes, we also sell the crops to the service cooperatives in Tibe town or the farmers union in Bako town. This is mainly true when they can buy at higher price.

There are no traders involved in the selling of trees in the community. However, there are traders who sell charcoal on the roadside to passing drivers and passengers.

There are cattle traders in the community. They do not buy the cattle directly from the local farmers rather they buy the cattle from one market when the price is cheap and sell to another market where the price is expensive. The two most important cattle markets in the nearby areas are the Jaji (to the east) and Shoboka (to the west). The traders buy cattle from one of them and sell in another one. The traders trade mainly bulls and heifers but sometimes they trade with oxen and cows.

There are also dedicated shoat traders. They buy the shots from the local famers and from the market and sell mainly in the nearby town of Tibe. Sometimes, during the holiday they sell on the roadside to drivers and passengers traveling to Addis Ababa and other big towns.

There are no chicken traders in the community. There are also no honey bees traders. People sell eggs to the market but there are no egg traders in the community. There are butter and milk traders. These items are either consumed at home or directly sold in the market without the involvement of the local traders. Traders do trade in honey.

While the involvement of young men in trade activities has increased in the last five years, the involvement of women in trade activities has not shown major changes though there are many petty trading women in vegetables and crops.

## Cash crops

### Most important cash crop sold by big trader – maize

The most important cash crop in the community is maize. The main problem with this crop is that the farmers do not give due attention to the quality of the crop. Most of the time, the crop is affected by unexpected rain during the harvesting and threshing time. Sometimes the crop is affected by the pests in the storage. Some farmers do not use pesticide for the storage which impacts on the quality and price of the crop.

We buy the crop directly from the farmers on the farm gate, and some farmers bring their crop to our shop. We have scales to measure the amount of the crop. We do not buy it from the market. The price is determined through the information we have from the market in Addis Ababa and also the price of the same crop in the nearby market.

We sell the crops mainly to the traders in Addis Ababa. We sell the crop by renting a car passing through the community from the west. The driver will deliver the crop to the traders and they communicate by telephone. The big traders in Addis Ababa send us the money back through a bank.

We buy the crops with our own money. We do not get any credit from the government or any micro-finance institution.

We do not get involved in the cleaning and processing of the crop. We directly sell the crop to the traders. Even we do not know the final destination of the crop. We do not store the crop for a longer period of time assuming that the price will increase. We need the money to buy the crops now and then. To stop buying and store crops needs huge amount of money. We do not have big amount of money to buy the crops in bulk. So, we need to buy and sell in short period of time. We sell the crop to different traders. It is the price that matters rather than the trader.

### Second most important cash crop sold by big trader – red peppers

Red-pepper is the second most important crop he traded with. The main problem with this crop is that the production has been declined from time to time. Many farmers stopped producing this crop because it has been affected by pests in the last five years. No pesticide is available to protect it from the pest. The extension workers and farm experts also are not able to help protect it from being affected by the pest. In addition it is being affected by unexpected rain during the harvesting time. Rain can easily spoil it, and this reduces the quality. The decline in the quality impacts on the buying and selling price. We sell the crop to big traders in Addis Ababa without processing it. The transportation and price information is similar with that of the maize mentioned above.

As we have a shortage of capital to buy the crops in bulk, we do not store the crop for a longer period of time. So, we sell it at the current price. We do not store it expecting that the price will increase in the future. No brokers are involved in the selling of this crop. We discuss the price with the buyer by telephone. Once agreed on the price, he comes and transports the crop to Addis Ababa.

In the last 12 months, I got a profit of 2,000 birr from red-pepper alone. I sell the crop to different traders because I need the one who will buy with the best price. The supply of this crop is good during the harvesting time (December to February) but now the supply declines drastically. Most of the farmers already finished their crops and some still store it to sell in summer when the price is expected to increase.

### Big trader’s activity

I also trade in teff and nug crop. I do not trade in livestock. I trade in honey only during the meher time (not all time). I use my own money to do the business. In the last 12 months I have got up to 5000 birr profit from the business. I have a trade licence. I got it from the wereda trade and industry office. Last year I paid 1,300 birr in tax. This year I paid 1,270 birr. My licence is only for trading in farm products. I got the licence in 2004 and I paid 300 birr at that time for the licence.

I have not obtained any support from the wereda or the kebele administration regarding my business. The wereda does not give any training or advice on trade business. Their focus is on farming activities.

I do not employ any workers for the running of the business. I do it by myself and with my family. I started the business in 2004 and I have accumulated huge experience in trading and related things. So, I want to continue with this business in the future as well. I want to be a successful trader. Since the time I started the business, it has been expanded from time to time. In the first three years I faced serious shortage of capital to run the business. I started it by borrowing some money from neighbours and relatives. Since the last five years, I have been trading with my own money. This indicates that my business has been expanding from time to time.

In the last 12 months, in addition to trading, I have been involved in farming and cattle herding activities. I am one of the leading farmers in the community. In farming I produce maize, teff, beans, wheat, and nug. I breed cattle, (cow, oxen, bulls), and shoats (sheep). I have a farm labourer who can perform the farming activities. His salary is 7 quintals of maize crop every year. He is a young man so that he can perform the activities effectively and efficiently.

In the future I want to improve the business. I want to buy crops and store to sell them when the price increases. This will depend on the capital I have but I believe that my capital will increase. I have a plan to save money and I want to produce more crops (both irrigated and rain-fed) which I plan to sell and accumulate more money from own farming products. This will help me to expand the business. I have about 4 hectares of land it we cultivate it properly we can produce extra products.

I want also to take credit from the wereda saving and credit association. The problem is that the association do not give more than 10,000 birr (maximum amount). This is a very small amount to run big business.

### Most important cash crop sold by middle trader – red pepper

The most important crop I have traded is red-pepper. I started trading with this crop 10 years ago. Still I am trading it and I want to continue to trade with red-pepper. I buy the crop from the farmers in the community and sell to distant markets.

In recent years I am facing the problem of getting the crop in sufficient amount. The production has been reducing from time. People are more converting the red-pepper farm into other kinds of crops due to the fact that the red-pepper has been affecting by a pest called ’cholera.’ The pest affects the plant at its infant stage and results in the reduction of the production. Farmers have tried to use pesticides at different times but no practical solution has yet been obtained. Farmers also used traditional methods to protect the crop from the cholera but it this has also failed. The pest will never be affected by the pesticides. This condition forces the farmers to reduce the production of red-pepper.

The other problem with the production of this crop is that it can easily be affected by the rain when the rain comes during the harvesting season. The rain spoils the production and this results in a reduction in the quality of the red-pepper and reduction in price.

Regarding trading, I buy the crop from the farmers during the farming season and I sell it in the market. I travel around the villages, negotiate on the price with the farmers, then take the produce to be weighed by the big traders in the community and they buy. I pay 2 birr to have 17kg of pepper weighed. The main trading season of this crop is from January to May because this is the season when the farmers sell the pepper. After May, most farmers finished harvesting their crop and it is difficult to get it.

I borrow the money, for buying the pepper, from relatives and neighbours without interest. I also borrow money from individual farmers. I borrow the money, buy the crop, take it to market, sell it, and then I immediately return back the money to the owner. Sometimes, I negotiate on the price and take the crop to the market without paying the money to the seller. Then I give the money when I return back from the market.

I buy the crop from all farmers who are interested to sell to me. I do not buy only from the same farmers. I also sell the crop to the different buyers in the marker though there are some known customers to whom I sell most of the time. But when my main customers do not have the money to buy or when their store is full or when we do not agree on the price, I can sell to any new buyer.

My main market place is called Olomkomi. It is located between Ambo (zone capital- 115km) and Addis Ababa (235km). The selling price is good there as there are only few traders. I take up to 10 quintal of peppers there each time I go. I use trucks travelling to Addis Ababa to transport the crops. I sell the crop to larger traders who have storage and red-pepper mills.

The price of the crop is decided by the demand and the supply. The market decides it. No brokers are involve in the selling of this crop. I directly negotiate the price with the traders it is nice to avoid unnecessary costs for the brokers.

I buy one kg of red-pepper with 25 birr from the farmers and sell at 27 or 28 birr at the market. The transport cost for one quintal is 20 birr. The loading and unloading cost is 4 birr for a quintal. So, the profit from a quintal may be more than 50 birr and I can get a profit of 500 birr 10 quintal. I pay market tax only sometimes. Most of the time I tried to hid my crops from the tax collector. The market tax for a quintal is 5 birr. As I use the profit for family expenses, I do not know the annual profit. I have never faced major problem in trading this crop except the price fluctuation and shortage of crops.

In the future I want to buy my own scales and increase the trading.

### Second most important cash crop sold by middle trader - maize

The second most important crop is traded is maize. I stopped it 4 years ago. I started it 10 years ago at the same time when I started the trading with red-pepper. I buy the crop from the farmers. I travel around the village and negotiate the price and take it to the scales.

One of the problems with this crop is that sometimes rain affects the quality of the crop. Moreover, most of the farmers do not use pesticides to store the crop. So the crop is affected by pests. When the farmers use pesticides for storing the crop, the quality is good. Most of the time, I buy the crops which are not affected by pests. Some farmers use threshing machine to thresh their crops which helps to improve the quality of the crop. Those who produce maize from small plot of land use manual way of threshing which reduces the quality.

The buying price is carried out through negotiation. However, the selling price is mainly checked by telephone. I have been reducing trading in maize because the price fluctuating from time to time. Also the transport price has been increasing (50 birr per quintal).

However, I can continue to be involved in trading in maize when the price becomes good. The price is determined through negotiation and by assessing the market price before selling the crop. I sell maize at the Gudar and Addis Alem markets (some 80-100km).the selling price is good in these markets. I use the trucks travelling to Addis Ababa to transport the crops.

### Middle trader’s activity

I have been involved only in the trading of red-pepper and maize.

### Most important cash crop sold by small trader - maize

I am mainly involved in trading maize crop. I have been trading with this crop in the past four years. When I started the business, the buying price of maize was 288 birr per quintal and the selling price in the above market towns was 350 birr. Last year and this year the buying price have been almost 400 birr per quintal and the selling price is 520 in the distant markets.

Therefore the price of maize have has been increasing from time to time due to 1. the increase in the price of inputs which forces the farmers to increase the production price, 2. the demand for maize crop has been increasing which impacts on the price.

The profit from the trade is not promising because we incur a lot of costs when we transport the crops to distant markets. When I started the business four years ago, the transport cost for one quintal was 30 birr but now it is 50 birr. The loading and unloading cost is 10 birr per quintal. There are also people costs such as accommodation, food, transport, etc. When I calculated the net profit it is about 60 birr per quintal.

When I started the business I was buying and selling only 10 quintals of maize but last year I was able to buy and sell 40 quintal at a time.

Last year a serious blow happened to my business. It was around January 2013. I was travelling back to home by minibus car after selling my maize in Ginchi market. It was in the evening. I put 14,000 birr in my pocket. Unfortunately I slept in a car. When I reached in Bako bus station and checked my pocket, I realised that my 14,000 birr was stolen. I was shocked and fainted. People took me to a clinic and I was seriously sick. I have tried to recover from the shock, but still I have not totally recovered from the stress. Since then my business has been declining from time to time.

I started the business by selling my sugar cane. I also sold some maize which I produced on my farm. Through time the business expanded. I have had good relationships with other traders, so they cooperated with me to help me expand the business. I have also good connections with the people in the community. As I do the business genuinely, they trust me and they sell to me the crops even with credit and I do not pay interest.

The fluctuation of market price has been the important factor which impacts on my profit. Sometimes, the buying price increases while the selling price declines. In the past 12 months, my total profit is about 15,000 birr. I pay the market tax of 2 birr per quintal. Sometimes, the tax collectors do not force me to pay market tax as I give them a bribe. I have a very nice connection with the tax collectors.

### Second most important cash crop sold by small trader – sorghum occasionally

I mainly trade with maize. I am involved in sorghum trading only sometimes when I get to buy this crop. There is a shortage of this crop in the community. It is mainly available during the harvesting time. So, I trade with sorghum only sometimes. The buying price of this crop is 700 birr while the selling price is from 800-900 birr per quintal. The profit is not as lucrative as for maize. Like the maize I sell the sorghum to the largest traders in distant markets of Holleta and Ginchi in the East.

### Small trader’s activity

In addition to trading, I am involved in Agricultural activities, the main economic activity of my hh. In my rain fed farming I produce maize, red-pepper, and teff crops. I also produce sugar cane on my irrigation farm. It is located on a small river called Hubo in Alemgenna zone of the kebele. The river finally joins with another two and called Facha’a which then joins the big river of Gibe. I produce vegetables by using traditional irrigation method. There is no modern irrigation dam constructed on the rivers in the community so we are forced to use it in traditional way.

In addition to farming, I am involved in cattle rearing. I have one ox, 3 cows and chickens.

I started trading in crops four years ago. Initially I started trading in mango fruit (in 2010). Then I transferred to trading in maize and sorghum. I bought the grains from the farmers in the community. As I do not have big budget to run big trade activities, I buy the crops in small amount and sell them in distant makers such as Holleta, and Ginichi (150-200km). I do not buy the crops from the market but I sell in the market. Most of the time I buy the crops from the local farmers but sometimes when I face shortage of the crops, I buy from local big traders who buy and store the crops for selling during high price. When I buy the crops from the farmers, I use a balance, as I do not have scales; I use the scales of the bigger traders. I have to pay 2 birr for the scales to measure a quintal of the crop.

The market price increases during the holidays, and in summer time. In summer many farmers also start buying food crops from the market. The price declines during the harvest times. We can get the crops in cheaper price during the harvesting seasons. Also farmers start to sell the crops during the time of farming seasons to buy fertilisers and improved seeds. So, the supply increases during this time and the price is cheaper.

The most profitable crop is maize because its price does not show major fluctuation throughout the year. I believe that the price fluctuation is not good as it affects both the traders and the consumers. The government should intervene in the market and try to stabilise the price. The wereda officials have discussed this issue several times but no practical action has been taken yet. The government should play a role to fix the price.

I have not been involved in education in recent years but in 2010 the government gave training at the kebele level focusing on how to improve agricultural production and how to get involved in non-farm activities.

I have no trade licence. No government officials asked me to get the licence. Actually I am not a formal trader. I trade when I get the crops and I stop when there is not crop. I am involved in the trade as a secondary activity as my main activity is farming.

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

The most important cash crop I produce is maize. I produce it partly on my father’s land and partly on rented land. I sell the crop in Tibe town to bigger traders. The larger traders sell it to other bigger traders in Addis Ababa. They mainly buy the crops from the farmers and transport to Addis Ababa, Adama and Harar using trucks.

I can sell up to 15 quintals of maize every year from own farm. I sell it during the summer time when the price increases. I store it until the summer. I use pesticide to protect the crop from pests. Now the price of one quintal of maize is 380 birr. In summer, I can sell it for up to 500-600 birr. One of the problems of this crop is that it is easily affected by pests unless we properly use the pesticide.

The other major problem is the market and the price. I cannot take it to distant markets where the price is better and locally the price fluctuates from time to time. Even in summer, sometimes, the price is cheaper. The other problem is that the production inputs are expensive. I buy 50kg of fertiliser with 795 birr. To buy this I have to sell more than two quintals of maize. I also rent the land which is an additional cost.

I use horse/mule cart to transport the crop to the market. The profit I got from the maize last year was 1,200 birr. This year I expect to lose because the production was reduced due to a shortage of rain. The rain came very late and stopped very early which impacted on the production. It showed great reduction.

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

In addition to maize I am involve in the production and selling of vegetables. I produce various kinds of vegetables in the irrigation farm of my father. I also rent some land. I started producing and selling tomatoes three years ago. I also produce green pepper and sell it in the Tibe market. As I am the only male child for my family, I can cultivate the farm of my father as I like. I stopped the production of tomato this year because the price is very cheap while the prices of inputs (improved seed, fertiliser, pesticide and weed-killer) are expensive. There is also a huge competition from bigger traders who produce/buy tomato and sell to big markets like Addis Ababa. So, I cannot compete with them.

Now I am producing peppers. This season the price of the peppers is good (70 birr for 25 kg) which is considered as a good price. When many farmers produce this crop, the price goes down up to 25 birr for 25 kg. I am going to sell it after one month and I cannot predict the profit but I expect that I will get good profit.

### Self-trader’s activity

In addition, I produce potato crop. I am going to sell it next month as well. I expect that I will sell a quintal of potato at 200 birr. This may be a cheaper price. Our major problem is that the price is cheap as compared with the cost of production.

Last year I paid 270 birr for market tax. I have no trade licence but I pay market tax when I sell the crops in the market but I do not pay it when I sell the crop to bigger traders. For example, as I sell the maize crop to big traders, I do not pay any tax. When I sell to the big traders, the tax collectors do not know that I sold the crop.

In the future I want to improve the production of the different crops and to increase my income. I already bought an irrigation motor pump and I want to rent more land and produce more vegetables on the irrigated land in the future.

I save the money when I sell crops. I am also involved in the transporting of farm products to the market using my mule cart. So, I get income from renting the cart as well which is an additional income for me and my family.

For home consumption, I produce teff crop. I rear cattle (oxen, cow, etc), shoats (sheep and goats), and chickens (though affected by disease in different times of the year).

## Livestock trading

### Cattle

I trade with cattle, and sheep. In particular, I trade with cattle (mainly bulls and heifers). I buy the bulls every week from one market and sell to another market. There are two major market places for cattle (shoboka and Jaji). I buy and sell between 3 and 4 bulls/heifers every week. The age of the bulls and heifers is 2 years and above.

Most of the time, I trade with bulls and only trader in heifers intermittently. All of the animals are the local breads. I have never traded in improved breeds. Most of the people in the area breed the local breeds. I cannot find improved breeds in the market.

I am involved in the trading of cattle every week throughout the year. I started trading with cattle five years ago and I have never stopped it. I have a plan to increase my involvement in the future as well. Most of the time, I buy the bulls and heifers from the market of Jaji (3 hours walk to the north-east of the community). On Saturday, and sell them again in the market of Shoboka (2 hours walk to the west of the community). I sell them to the breeders and big traders. Most of the time, I sell them to the traders. The traders transfer them to another distant market where the selling price is expensive. Actually I do not know exactly the market to which the big traders sell these cattle.

The price is fixed by the market. They are sold through the negotiation between the buyer and the seller. The price fluctuates from time to time. When there are large numbers of buyers in the market, the price increases. When there are small numbers of buyers in the market, the price increases.

The price of cattle also changes from season to season. The price increases during the winter because people buy bulls during this time to fatten them during the summer and to sell to other places.

I do not know the total profit I obtained from the trading of the cattle. I use the profit for hh consumption. I do not save much and I do not know the amount of the profit. What I know is that I can get up to 50 birr profit from the sales of the bulls and heifers every week.

I pay the market tax of 10 birr per cattle. I pay up to 40 birr market tax for 4 cattle. I do not know the amount in a year. I pay it when I buy the cattle. I do not pay the tax when I sell them.

### Shoats

I improve in the trading with shoats (sheep and goats) during holiday. I trade them only during the holiday. I buy them from Jaji, Shoboka and Tibe markets. I sell them in the community on the road to Addis Ababa to drivers. I trade with the local breads. I do not know the total numbers I sold in the last 12 months. I pay the market tax of 5 birr per shoat. Most of them are the male shoats.

The price is determined through negotiation. The price is expensive during the time of holidays, such as Easter, Christmas, etc.

I can get a profit of up to 50 birr per shoat. During the holiday, I can sell up to 6 shoats.

Generally, I borrow the money from the neighbours and relatives. I borrow it without any interest. I borrow every week and I return it back immediately after I sell the livestock. When the livestock is not sold at one time, I explain it to the people who lend me the money. I have no business licence – I don't even know what it means. I do not employ anyone to help in the trading activity. I buy the cattle myself. I take them to the market myself. I sell them myself.

In addition to trading in livestock, I am involved in farming and cattle breeding. I produce maize, teff and red-pepper. I have my own farmland. I also do share cropping with other famers.

I have not been involved in education in the last 12 months. I dropped out of education from Grade 6 two years ago because there was no one to support me. My father died two years ago, and I am the first male child for the family. I need to work and feed the family. I have young siblings and my father to support.

Since I have started trading in livestock, the business has been increasing from time, I want to continue to be involved in this business.

## Livestock products

### Male traders in livestock products

There are no male livestock products traders in the community.

## Micro, small and medium enterprises

### MSME facts

There are no crop or livestock processing enterprises in the community. As a whole there are no livestock enterprises in the kebele. The people in the community are mainly involved in farming and livestock breeding.

### Skilled production

There are about 10 people who are involved in carpentry. They make chairs, tables, doors and other household furniture. Although their main activity is farming, they do carpentry as a subsidiary activity and they earn income by selling the furniture.

There are no pottery workers in the community. People buy pottery products from the Shoboka market where the pottery materials are available in bulk.

Only one blacksmith man is available in Tibe town but he is originally from Oda Haro. He has a family and farmland in Oda Haro.

More than 10 weavers are working in the community. They are mainly concentrated in Boto zone. Most of them are ex-prisoners persons they were trained in prison in Ambo. Only two of them are descendants of the weavers’ family in Oda Haro. Those weavers who took training in the prison are more effective in making good quality cloth. They use improved weaving machines to make clothes.

There are no people who make wool products. There are also no block makers in the community.

There are some people who make baskets. They live mainly in Boto zone of the community. There are many people who make Gotera (grain storage). They make it mainly from eucalyptus tree. They make it and sell to the community members.

### Livestock and products production

* No one buys cattle and distributes them to other people for fattening.
* But there are cattle traders in the community as discussed above.
* Of course in the last five years trading in livestock has not changed much. Still the traders trade with local breads. The only change is that the price increases from time to time. There are traders specialised in the trading of different livestock. Some trade in bulls and heifer; other trade in shoats, still others trade in donkeys and mules. There is no commercial production of livestock products.

### Local drinks and food production

There are some women who are involved in the production and selling of local alcoholic products such as Areki, and tella. But there are no big enterprises involved in these activities. There are no traders involving in the selling of food stuffs except some smaller tea houses which sell tea and biscuits. As a whole about 90 people (women) engage in the production and selling of local drinks.

### More detail on areki production

The number of women involved in the production of Araki in the community is about 60. They either produce the drink at home or they buy from other traders and sell at their home.

### Non-farm male producer co-operatives

A youth cooperative was established in Boto zone three years ago to engage in the planting of new trees and to protect the existing trees on the Gona Mountain in the community. The role and duty of this cooperative is to help the youth work and earn income from the sale of forest products and at the same time to give protection to the widespread invasion of the Gona mountain by the farmers from different communities. The members of this cooperative are not active in the political and social activity of the community. They are not even not involved in meetings organised by the kebele. Of course they have planted some new trees on the mountain but their activity is not as active as expected. The kebele and wereda administration do not give them proper support.

### Natural resource sale

Some women are involved in the selling of firewood - they are about 20 women. Throughout the community there has been widespread production and sale of charcoal. There are large numbers of people engaged in this activity. The wereda repeatedly announced that selling charcoal is illegal but the control is not effective. The kebele administration says that the controlling of the charcoal selling is the responsibility of the wereda police rather than the duty of the kebele administration. Of course, some times the police men have been sent to control the charcoal sellers but they confiscate the charcoal and sell to the drivers passing through the community to Addis Ababa. It seems that this system lead to corruption.

So the illegal activity of producing and selling charcoal continues and this has resulted in a huge decline in the area covered by forest. There are some smaller traders who buy charcoal from the producers and sell to the drivers, passengers and traders on the road side to Addis Ababa. They also sell to people traveling to Ambo, the zone capital. Most of the time, the police and the wereda administrators have kept silent when they see people selling charcoal along the road. The DAs who are also responsible for to controlling the forests buy charcoal from the illegal traders. The kebele administrators have totally stopped controlling the burning and cutting of the trees.

There are some people who also sell grasses in the market of Tibe. Most of them are from the Alemgena zone of the community where there grasses grow nicely. The kebele administration has also about 8 hectares of land where it grows grasses and sells them to individuals.

There are no stones or sand in the community for selling. But in one point in Ebicho zone (near the Sama River), one iddir sells pure water to the people in Tibe town. People come with mules and fetch the water, and they pay one birr for a plastic container holding 20 litres. It is natural water which is poured from the ground under a hill. People started to drink the water from this place long time ago but recently the wereda administration drinking water office upgraded it as gravity on spot spring and installed a pipe for it. The people said that the water from the place is very safe and good for health. In Tibe town hotels and restaurants put this water in the refrigerator and sell two litres with 2 birr. Some mule cart owners also buy this water (20 litres with 1 birr) and sell at 3-4 birr in Tibe town.

### Petty production

No petty production in the community.

### Service enterprises

There is no private education available in the community. But some parents send their smaller children to private kindergarten education in Tibe town. There is one private maize threshing machine which people rent at the price of 4.5 birr per minute to thresh their maize crop. There was also another one which was rented by the service cooperative but it is no longer working due to lack of maintenance.

### Food-processing services

There are no grain mills in the community. Grain mills are available in Tibe town. Four of them are owned by two farmers from Oda Haro. While two of them have one grain mill each, one person has two grain mills.

### Hospitality services

There are no bars or restaurants in the community. In some places we find tea houses which sell teas and biscuits. One hotel and some restaurants and bars are available in Tibe town.

### Health services

There are no private clinics or pharmacies in the community. People use the health extension office or the private clinics in Tibe town for medical services. There are 6 private clinics in Tibe town.

There is only one traditional healer in the community who helps in maintaining broken bones. There are no drug shops in the community but they exist in Tibe town.

### Shops

There are three smaller shops in the community. They are located on the roadside closer to the Tibe town. They sell all kinds of items including salt, soap, coffee, onion, processed lentil, food oil, kerosene, biscuits, highland water, candy, pens, pencils, exercise books, cigarettes, etc. Before 2008, only one shop was available in the community.

There are 6 crop trading shops in the community. The owners of the shops buy crops from the local farmers and sell to big traders in Addis Ababa as discussed above.

### Leisure services

* No table tennis tables
* No bar football tables
* No play stations
* No billiards
* No games to rent
* No place to watch TV in the community but young people watch TV, films and football games in Tibe town. They mainly go to the town to watch British football games.
* Smaller male children and young men swim in the Sama River. We observed this while the children swim in large number (see pictures). Young people also play football in their neighbourhood with their friends.

### Petty services

None of these services are available in the community.

### Transport services

There is a mule cart service in the community. It was started five years ago. It has been expanded from time to time. Most of the carts are available in Almegena zone followed by Ebicho Zone. It was started in Boto zone last year with the construction of internal road by the public with some financial support from the government. The construction of the internal roads greatly contributed to the expansion of the carts. To buy one cart, it costs up to 14, 000 birr.

## Government support for non-farm activities

The government provide credit through the Oromiya saving and credit association which is located in Bako town. It can give up to 10,000 birr based on the proposal provided by an individual with a supporting letter from the kebele. The association can give credit for any of the above activities. The problem is that the amount of money is small to expand the business. The person who wants to take credit should be the member of the association. To become a member of the association, the people should be organised into 1-5 structure and 14 such smaller organisation from any kebeles in the wereda can come together and become one cooperative. If one of the members from the 1-5 structure fails to pay back the money, it is the responsibility of the remaining 4 to pay it back. If these four also fail to pay back the money, it is the responsibility of the cooperative (which has 70 members= 14 x 5) to pay it back. When one person wants to become a member of the association, he/she should agree to abide these and other rules and regulations of the association. When the members want to take credit, he/she should provide a warrant and propose the amount he/she wants to take. That does not mean that the association will give the amount asked. Though the maximum amount which an association can borrow is 10,000 birr, most of the time this is not given. They always reduce the amount. It takes into account the capability of the person to pay back.

In general, the credit association helps to move many people from poverty. But there are some people who fail to pay back their debt.

The interest rate is 15%.

The government do not give training or advice on these activities. And there is no land available for the enterprise activities and services.

There is no electricity service in the community. The electric line passes through the community [see pictures] but the people complain that they are suffering from lack of electricity and this contributes to the widespread destruction of the forest lands in the community.

## Non-farm employment

One person from the community is employed in the kebele primary school. He is employed with community contributions on a part time basis.

There are some educated community members who are employed in the wereda administration as officials. For example, the wereda education office head is from this community. There are also those who work as teachers and health extension workers in other kebeles of the wereda and outside the wereda. These can be about 15 as a whole. Four people are employed as guards in the local primary schools. The kebele manager is also from the community and he is the only salaried kebele official.

Some people already started business in Tibe town. One person has a clinic and private school. Four people have grain mills in the town. Some young men also opened a men’s beauty salon and smaller shops.