# Research officer daily diaries for Somodo, Jimma, Oromiya

## Fieldwork 1

### Female research officer

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| Sun | 17 | Travel |
| Mon | 18 | Woreda officials were in meeting and we were not able to get them. |
| Tues | 19 | The head of woreda administration was not happy with the letter we gave as he said it should be written for Jimma rather than Adama. As a result of this we faced difficulty to get a letter to take to the site (Somodo). |
| Wed | 20 | Head of woreda administration argued that the letter should keep its hierarchy as if first we need to submit the letter to zone. Then the zone should write letter to the woreda. Thus, still we found the woreda administration uncooperative. |
| Thurs | 21 | Head of woreda administration wrote us letter for kebele, mainly after noticing that my research partner is working in Ambo University and I was working in Jimma University (based on some evidence). This is because he perceives that the letter we have is invalid as Adama (zone of East shoa zone) is indicated in the letter but he noticed that Jimma has to be mentioned as the zone of Somodo is Jimma. |
| Fri | 22 | In Yebu (the capital of Mana woreda) I saw a woman crying severely as she does not know where her son, who is about 8 years old is. It has been a month since her son was stolen. As the woman is selling cabbage on the market he used to stay around. People think that somebody has stolen him and they advised the woman that he would come one day and as he is male he would not face a problem. However, if the stolen child was female she might expose to severe problem. By explaining this they were trying to council the women to reduce her concern about the child. People were very much sympathetic about the happening. |
| Sat | 23 | I found Somodo very different from my expectation. This is because I was surprised about the availability of electric light in the houses found on the main road and about the presence of many small shops unlike our expectation and the information we had (informally). |
| Sun | 24 | I was surprised to see houses throughout along the main weather road (full area of the kebele) without any gap unlike other rural areas. |
| Mon | 25 | I was surprised to see city bus that travel from Jimma to Belida town by passing Somodo in the morning and late afternoon (twice per day). This is because the only area next to Addis Ababa it is only in Jimma area where city bus gives transportation service.  I came across with two nurses who rented house in Somodo to open small clinic |
| Tues | 26 | I have seen the mobile court service given at Belida town (nearby town) so as to increase people’s access to court service for the nearby six kebeles, including Somodo kebele. |
| Wed | 27 | I came across a woman whose husband married a second wife without her consent/agreement. The woman came to the woreda women and child affairs office to discuss about what has been raised at court and gets advice on how to express her problem at court. As a result of this I explored about the prevalence of polygamous marriage in the area. |
| Thurs | 28 | All kebele officials were in meeting at woreda  I was surprised coming to meet with 55 years old woman who actively engaged in paid works. First I did not believe that she is old enough to be 55 but I notice the fact after she told me that she has a girl whom she gave birth in 1973 EC who got married and has three children. As she is strong enough she looks younger. In explaining this she said that still she is strong as she is hard worker, mainly involves in labour intensive work and she is joker. Sometimes she come with her husband and manually threshes teff for local farmers against wage. They stay in the villages until they finish the work. Otherwise they use to live in Jimma town. |
| Fri | 29 | All kebele officials were in meeting of at woreda. |
| Sat | 30 | All kebele officials were in meeting of at woreda.  I came across a girl, about 15 years old and who has a kid. Thus, I internalize the prevalence of early marriage in the area. |
| Sun | 31 | I have seen the cup, which the kebele got as a price (during the prior woreda level meeting, March 28, 2013) from the woreda for their best performance  I noticed that the name of people has been changing whenever they got married: for men the new name given has a prefix that implies being a father and for women the new name has a prefix that implies being a mother. Due to this the father name of many people has this prefix. However, as this name has no tangible benefit nowadays the practice of giving such name is reducing. |
| Mon | 1 | I have observed meeting of kebele council members at FTC, whereby Woreda officials attended the meeting and I was surprised that from the 59 women kebele council members none of them attended the meeting. |
| Tues | 2 | The same to April 1 I have observed meeting of kebele council members at FTC, whereby Woreda officials attended the meeting and I was surprised that from the 59 women kebele council members none of them attended the meeting.  I have seen a car announcing certain things but I did not catch up clearly as there was some noise. When I asked others they said the announcement was most likely about election as sometimes they used this kind of promotion for election.  I visualized that the main all-weather road area is covered by residential homes due to the availability of electric light in this area. Thus, people are buying or exchanging land so as to build residential homes in the area surrounding the main all-weather road to access electricity. |
| Wed | 3 | The same to April 1 and 2 I have observed meeting of kebele council members at FTC, whereby Woreda officials attended the meeting and I was surprised that from the 59 women kebele council members none of them attended the meeting.  I came across a case of attempted rape against a 13 years old girl, whereby the girl and her mother came to kebele to report the case.  I came across a young woman whose husband married another/second wife. She came with her father to the appointment to deal with her husband via kebele administrative bodies. But her husband did not come.  I heard the fact that most wives are named by their husband as their father like westernised (foreigner) |
| Thurs | 4 | The kebele administrative bodies have celebrated OPDO (Oromoo Peoples Democratic organization) at Belida, which is the centre for 6 kebeles, including Somodo.  I came across cases of divorce of 2 young couples. Due to this I explored and understood about the prevalence of divorce among young couple.  I observed that the small recently opened private clinic (which opened while we were in the field) started giving service informally though medical equipment is not completed and the business licence is under process |
| Fri | 5 | I observed that in the main school a Grade 8 student did badly beaten his English teacher who was giving a test to the students. As the teacher was actively watching students by standing up in the door the student beat him badly from his back. The student immediately ran out of the school compound by jumping the fence. The teacher was severely disappointed and he said he would resign from his job. Other teachers, mainly female teachers were highly disappointed and said how more severe if the student had beaten female teacher. As a result of this they agreed that they would not come to school unless otherwise the student is caught up and proper action is taken against him. |
| Sat | 6 | I observed a farmer who was in disagreement with the DA as he did not want to take improved maize seeds but the DAs were forcing him. The farmer used to say that he did not have money on hand. But the DAs did not accept his argument. They suspected that he planned to use or had already planted local seeds. Finally I met the farmer and asked the reason and he said that over the last two years he did not get good crop of maize as the improved seed is of poor quality. Due to this he had already planted local seeds. |
| Sun | 7 | Woreda officials visited the area and gave orientation for kebele officials about the process of election so that the kebele officials in turn orient the community members for the upcoming election**.** |
| Mon | 8 | A very rich and business person in the area unexpectedly mistreated the male research officer. He was disrespectful and undermining the purpose of the study. This happening highly disappointed the team. But later on the team understood that the reason he said so may be due to fear/suspicion that the team may investigate in a hidden manner whether he is working with a licence or not since he does not have a licence for his mill house. |
| Tues | 9 | I meet with a young woman who quarrelled with her husband and left her home and two of her small kids by taking her clothes. Formerly she migrated to Sudan and with the money she brought back from there with her husband she built a new home in the compound of his parents. But his mother was not happy for his son to marry her as she was from outside the area. This is because his mother associated that it is not good to marry a woman who was from outside the area/lived somewhere else.I got this as another indication for the prevalence of marital conflict or divorce among young couples.Her neighbours gave her psychosocial support and told her that she should contact him and advised her to stay at her home rather than living somewhere else (travelling to her family area). |
| Wed | 10 | I came across a woman client at the women affairs’ office. The woman’s husband married another wife without consulting her. First as the woman has an asthmatic condition through consultation with her husband they agreed that she would stay in the nearby town. Accordingly, she started to live in that town. As he was working in the farm he remained in the village but he married another wife. Then the first wife took the case to court and she was asking legal advice from the women affairs officers. The woman was crying very much. I observed that her psycho-social state is highly affected. |
| Thurs | 11 |  |
| Fri | 12 |  |
| Sat | 13 |  |
| Sun | 14 |  |
| Mon | 15 |  |
| Tues | 16 | DAs were waiting model farmers to provide training from the training they got at Zonal level but most of the model farmers did not come as the day was a market day in the nearby town (Belida). As a result of this the training was not given as planned. |
| Wed | 17 | DAs who got training at Zonal level gave training for model farmers. |
| Thurs | 18 | DAs who got training at Zonal level gave training for model farmers. |
| Fri | 19 | DAs who got training at Zonal level gave training for model farmers. |
| Sat | 20 |  |
| Sun | 21 | Travel |

### Male research officer

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| Sun | 17 | Travel |
| Mon | 18 | Today while I was waiting for the woreda administrator I met the vice chair of culture and tourism called Yakut Mohammed. He invited me at his office and explained that in the wereda there are many rivers, caves and shrine area, 12 in total. He also assisted me in locating I.M.X office and introduced me to the chair of water, mineral and energy office of the woreda called Ahmed Sharif. I had an interview with Ahmed Sherif. With the assistance of Yakut Mohammed and later on with Muradu (a good guy recommended by Yakut to locate me IMX) I found the office and talked to the chair of IMX called Mohammed Amin. Mohammed recommended to visit Oromia Saving and Credit association for the information concerning saving and credit in the woreda. Accordingly with the assistance of Murad I visited OSCA and met the chair called Silesh Guta. However, he was busy handling many customers and we agreed to meet some other day and he gave me his phone. However, I couldn’t find anyone who could help me in writing a letter to the kebele. The woreda chair and his vice were not in the town they were in meeting out of the town. Hence, I couldn’t make any more interviews on this day. |
| Tues | 19 | We have taken supportive letter written by Abdo (Chair of Mana woreda Administrator officer) for Somodo Kebele and I met the kebele chair called Jihad and briefly started my work in the kebele. |
| Wed | 20 | I took an appointment with the chair of Mana woreda Administrator officer on the day after tomorrow. I also contacted the chair of Somodo kebele and arranged to have interview with him on the next day. |
| Thurs | 21 | We couldn’t find the kebele chair, though we had appointment. We kept on discussing with the community members. |
| Fri | 22 | - |
| Sat | 23 | - |
| Sun | 24 | - |
| Mon | 25 | - |
| Tues | 26 | - |
| Wed | 27 | - |
| Thurs | 28 | Kebele officials are on meeting at the woreda for three days |
| Fri | 29 | Kebele officials are on meeting at the woreda |
| Sat | 30 | Kebele officials are on meeting at the woreda. I was informed that the settlement of the community is ethnic- and religion-based while I was discussing with poor youth age 16. Hence, this needs further investigation. |
| Sun | 31 | We met the kebele manager for the first time because he was not around. |
| Mon | 1 | I heard that there is regular land distribution for youth. I have to check this further and the proportion of unemployed landless youths. |
| Tues | 2 | MFI and the woreda have weak or no relation. The woreda have roads in almost all directions; no critical problem regarding roads (interview with Abdo, head of Mana woreda Administration officer) |
| Wed | 3 | I heard from interview with the community that consumable products come in the name of the kebele farmer cooperative but it is sold by the rich trader of the kebele. Needs further investigation. Today we travelled for an hour on foot to return back to Jimma at night as we couldn’t get transportation. |
| Thurs | 4 | - |
| Fri | 5 | A grade 8 student beat a teacher in the class room and jumped over the face and ran away. |
| Sat | 6 | I saw when two farmers resisted not taking improved maize variety stating that they do not have money to pay. |
| Sun | 7 | The DAs are assigned to provide training for militia at 6 election centres about election for three consecutive days which ends on Tuesday. |
| Mon | 8 | I met new crop DA who is assigned in place of the one who changed to some other place. |
| Tues | 9 | The kebele manager informed me that the easiest job in the kebele is collection of land tax from the community. (Check). Today, the richest individual of the community (called Tahir) tried to beat me while I was trying to have an interview with him. |
| Wed | 10 | For the following three days (Wednesday, Thursday and Friday) the DAs have a meeting at zone level (Jimma) about extension packages. |
| Thurs | 11 |  |
| Fri | 12 | - |
| Sat | 13 | - |
| Sun | 14 | I didn’t go for fieldwork as it was election day. |
| Mon | 15 | There were 6 election sites and no opposition party in the kebele. The kebele was scheduled to provide training for model farmers about extension packages (fertilizer, improved seed and coffee quality) but as people did not come the meeting was postponed for Wednesday. |
| Tues | 16 | - |
| Wed | 17 | The training about agriculture extension packages for model farmers started and ended on Friday at FTC. |
| Thurs | 18 | - |
| Fri | 19 | - |
| Sat | 20 | The agriculture package for the rest of the farmers will be given starting from tomorrow and lasts for three days. The training will be provided at each zone. |
| Sun | 21 | Travel |

## Fieldwork 2

### Female research officer

To conduct fieldwork at Somodo, Jimma zone of Oromiya region, I started travelling on Oct. 31, 2013 early in the morning from Addis by public bus. On my way, I met two small boys who are about 11 years old and learning in grade 5. They came to Addis before one week without their parents’ consent hoping that Addis is a better town to earn money and live. Their clothes are fairly good, their relative whom they stay with him bought for them, but their shoes are very old and plastic sandals. They came to Addis by bus since they had some money which they saved by buying and selling sugarcane after school. I enjoyed travelling with them chatting, asking their experience about life in Addis which is very ashamed for those small boys who are from rural areas and advising them to continue their education. When we arrived at Jimma after about 10 hours travel, I sent them to their village, Bacho Bore, a nearby kebele to Jimma, by minibus.

On Nov, 01, 2013, I and Tefera went to Yebu Woreda to submit our letter and get permission to conduct our fieldwork at Somodo. Then, we got a approval letter and went to Somodo. I got my research guidance and discussed with her about my interviewees. I got some lists of them and told her to meet three of them for the next day.

On Nov, 02, 2013, I interviewed good informants about different issues emphasizing on new happenings and changes since April. I had good chat about relations of different nations and religions in the kebele. I found that their relations are good and all the community have been living together without isolation. On Nov. 03, 2013, my interviewees were middle wealth household wives and the DAs; am interested on the issues of saving and the use of iddir beyond the burial insurance to help each other. On, Nov. 04, my respondents were female headed households, gender officer, school supervisor and the HEW on various issues and from which the change of services and issues of mothers and infants services are good. In addition the school supervisor raised the issue of quality education and related problems by the stockholders.

On Nov, 05 and 06, my respondents were iddir leaders and team leaders, young successful females, model female farmer and good informants by which I got important information on the issues of corruption that was difficult to get from other respondents. On Nov, 07 and 08, I interviewed a 19 year old female, rich married successful females and kebele representatives to identify important changes and on gender issue. On Nov, 09 and 10 I interviewed lead crop and coffee traders and lead business women and they told me that the situation of trade became very bad since April in relation with the absence of coffee harvest last year and their business especially connected with the product of coffee harvest. On Nov. 11, my respondents were female active sub kebele administration member, most active male and female developmental team leaders. From this interview, the community’s contribution to ensure mothers and infants health by supporting them after birth by their iddir members is attracting. Lastly, on Nov, 12, I interviewed crop DA and good informants to fill the gaps on all the modules. The DA’s intention to introduce irrigation and means of economic diversification is really touching.

Nov, 13, 2013, I travelled to Addis being very happy since I accomplished all my fieldwork duties and responsibilities.

### Male research officer

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| Wed | 30 |  |
| Thurs | 31 | Travel |
| Fri | 1 | Have permission letter from the woreda to the kebele and met different people on meeting and had started discussion with a group of four knowledgeable people. Interesting nuggets: I had a conversation with the head of the woreda and he was very interested and appreciated our work. Moreover, he wants to have our finding at the end of the day and requested me to give him a copy of the finding. |
| Sat | 2 | Have started interview with model farmers and also had a visit in somodo kekele together with lead research. Interesting: I was able to visit the boundary of somodo and the terrace made by the community irrigation farm of the investors that the community regularly mentioned. |
| Sun | 3 | We (I and other lead researchers) keep on visiting the rest of the kebele and had I interview with development team leader and youths. Interesting: I was able to visit the irrigation farm of the investors that the community regularly mentioned and see the stone production center of youth cooperative. |
| Mon | 4 | Had interview with middle and poor households and some youths. Interesting: nothing |
| Tues | 5 | Had interview with kebele manager, DAS and best youth. Interesting: the kebele manager (from whom I have gotten for the total area of the land and its utilization) and the DAs failed to give me explanation about the difference that exist between the total area and the utilized land of the kebele. |
| Wed | 6 | Had interview with rich and middle households. Interesting: nothing. |
| Thurs | 7 | I had interview with youth cooperative leader, best trader and the organizer of women saving. Interesting: nothing. |
| Fri | 8 | I had interview with one of the member of women saving, best trader and the DA livestock. Interesting: nothing. |
| Sat | 9 | I had interview. Interesting: nothing. |
| Sun | 10 | I had interview with kebele chair and a group discussion with 1-5 leader and other knowledgeable individuals. Interesting: During an interview with the kebele chair about job opportunity for youths, he provided me controversial idea. In the one hand he informed me as there is no problem of employment for youths and on the other hand he discussed as there are many youths who are idle and chew a chat. I suspect that the chair do so may be because if he informed me the reality (as there are many jobless in the kebele), he feel as if he accuse the government. Hence, in order to cover the government (role of the woreda’s regarding creating job opportunity for the youths), he prefer to say as there is no problem of job for youths but lack of knowledge for youths to engage on different activity. |
| Mon | 11 | I had interview with investor who have irrigation farm, the trader, the chair of the SC of the kebele. Interesting: nothing. |
| Tues | 12 | I had interview with model farmer and knowledgeable persons. Interesting: nothing |
| Wed | 13 | Travel |