

INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY

**A STUDY ON THE IMPACT OF DAIRY COOPERTATIVE UNION ON
WOMEN FARMERS; THE CASE OF BEFTU BERGA DAIRY UNION,
WESTERN OROMIA, ETHIOPIA**

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DEDICATION

I gave this research project for Mr. Haile Gebre, former director of Federal cooperative Agency and the late Mr. Worku Mekasha, former Country Director of ACIDI/VOCA-Ethiopia; to their extraordinary contribution for cooperative development in Ethiopia and their talented experience and skill they imparted to strengthen cooperative movements in the nation. Fortunately, I have been getting the chance of working with these respected citizens in the same office and I got very important and tremendous experience and lessons from them. I thank them very much, and I am so happy to dedicate and offered this research work to both of them, in order to give recognition to their efforts for cooperative sector in general in my part.

DECLARATION AND CERTIFICATE

Declaration

First of all, I declare that this thesis entitled “A STUDY ON THE IMPACT OF DAIRY COOPERTATIVE UNION ON WOMEN FARMERS; THE CASE OF BEFTU BERGA DAIRY UNION, WESTERN OROMIA, ETHIOPIA is my original work and that all sources of materials used for this thesis have been duly acknowledged. This thesis has been submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for an MA degree, Rural Development in Indra Gandhi Open National University. And, I soberly declare that this thesis is not submitted to any other institution anywhere for the award of any academic degree, diploma, or certificate. Brief quotations from this thesis are allowable without special permission provided that accurate acknowledgement of the source is made. Requests for permission for extended quotation from or reproduction of this manuscript in whole or in part may be granted by the university and the proposed use of the material is in the interests of scholarship. In all other instances, however, permission must be obtained from the author.

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ABBREVIATIONS

ACDI/VOCA	Agricultural cooperative development international/volunteers overseas cooperative assistance
ADF	African development forum
ADLI	Agricultural development-led industrialization
AI	Artificial insemination
BoARD	Bureau of agriculture and rural development
CSA	Central statistics authority
DA	Development agent
FYGTP	Five year growth and transformation plan
FGD	Focus group discussion
FHH	Female headed household
FTC	Farmers training centers
FAO	Food and agricultural organization
GDP	Gross domestic product
ICA	International cooperative alliance
IYC	International Year of Cooperatives
IFPRI	International food policy research institute
PASDEP	Plan for Accelerated and Sustainable Development to End Poverty
PADETS	Participatory demonstration extension and training system
MoARD	Ministry of agriculture and rural development
SPSS	Statistical package for social sciences
SMS	Subject matter specialist
SHA	Self Help Africa

SNNPR	Southern Nations, Nationalities, and people's region
TVET	Technical vocational education and training
PA	Peasant association
MHH	Male headed household
MDG	Millennium development goals
MoARD	Ministry of agriculture and rural development
UNRRA	United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration
USA	United states of America
UN	United nations
UNCEF	United nations commission for education
USAID	United states agency for international development
UNRRA	United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration

ABSTRACT

The role of cooperative boldly underlined and recognized as one of paths to development with other sectors in rural and agricultural policy of Ethiopia. The culture of cooperation is not new phenomena to Ethiopians, but the ways of its development is not successful as a result of many bottlenecks. Since a new proclamation of cooperative 147/98 enacted a number of cooperatives were established and operational all over the nation. Among these cooperatives the secondary level cooperatives the so called unions are the emerging institutions in modern Ethiopia cooperative movement. The dairy unions are one of the institutions that backup smallholder farmers that comprises more than 90 per cent of livestock output producers of the country. This study was targeting this sector and focusing on Bifetu Berga dairy cooperative union that all members farmers are smallholder dairy producers.

The objectives of this study was to assess the participation of women members in the cooperative society, to evaluate the income and employment generated by the union to member farmers. The study evaluated the service rendered by the union to its members. On top of this, it offers suggestions based on the findings. For this research project purposive sampling was used and 75 respondents that are all of them are women members from three member primary dairy cooperative societies were selected and interviewed. Focus group discussions for cooperative leaders and women group was used to have first hand information.

The research methodology followed during this time was, primary data collection methods that includes; focus group discussions, household surveys and researcher own observation. In addition to this, secondary data were collected using document survey like reports, studies, publications, websites and other relevant sources.

To analyzes the collected information through various sources; descriptive statistics; mean, medium, mode, percentage and frequencies were employed. In relation to this, after coding the collected data, SPSS was used to have reliable and consistent information that enriches the findings .

Based on the research findings, it is revealed that the performance and service delivery of the union to members were unsatisfactory. The major reason for this were: the overall capacity of the union were poor to address the members needs on the areas of improved feed, AI, improver heifer and etc service deliveries. The major shortcomings are capital, professional employees, credit and related problems. The other important result of this study is; the participation of women on decision making in cooperative matters were very poor, and the leaders of all societies under investigation was men biased. The percentage of women board members in the union and at each primary cooperative society was below 20% and 33 % respectively. Unfortunately, there were no women

board directors for two cooperative societies. Only one primary dairy cooperative i.e Telila Berga; all members were women, no men members, as a result all boards of directors were women. As far as the income of women members are concerned , most of respondents revealed that their income from the dairy product positively increases just after become member of their cooperative societies.

The study also revealed that although most 80 percent of livestock related activities are performed by women farmers almost the larger members of cooperative societies in the study areas were men dominant (71 %). This shows that most women dairy farmers were not benefited from the income as well as employment generated by dairy cooperative societies at two levels were insignificant.

This research study made some recommendations based upon the empirical analysis done deploying the study at the union and primary cooperative society level. These recommendations are: the needs of leading the union with professionals on the managerial and technical positions, the input provision of the union should be strengthened, brining more women board of directors to leadership positions at both primary and union level through redesigning the cooperative bylaws in order to favors women members, intensive promotion and awareness building endeavors will be pertinent to have more number of women cooperative members, the accessibility of members to credit, market, feed, AI service needs special attention in order to serve more members. Thus, the union and its affiliates improve their service delivery mechanism to forge competitiveness of the dairy value chain.

1 INTRODUCTION

In Ethiopia 11.7 million smallholder households account for approximately 95 per cent of agricultural GDP and 85 per cent of employment. About 25 per cent of rural households earn some income from non-farm enterprises, but less than three per cent rely exclusively on income from such enterprises. With a total area of about 1.13 million km² and about 51.3 million hectares of arable land, Ethiopia has tremendous potential for agricultural development. Only about 11.7 million hectares of land, however, are currently being cultivated; just over 20 per cent of the total arable area. Nearly 55 per cent of all smallholder farmers operate on one hectare or less. The agricultural sector accounts for roughly 43 per cent of GDP, and 90 per cent of exports. Cereals dominate Ethiopian agriculture, accounting for about 70 per cent of agricultural GDP. Livestock production accounts for about 32 per cent of agricultural GDP and draught animal power is critical for all farming systems. Over the past decade, cereal production has more than doubled to nearly 15 million tones, as a result of horizontal expansion and increased yields. Nevertheless, food security remains a critical issue for many households, and for the country as a whole. Moreover, expansion of the cropped area to more marginal lands has led to severe land degradation in some areas. (Berhanu et.al, 2010)

Agriculture remains largely subsistence oriented, it depends on rainfall. Besides agricultural growth, some key constraints remain; 1) environmental degradation related to population pressure, 2) “inappropriate land management practice, 3) low use of modern agricultural technology, 4) weak access to markets because of poor transport marketing infrastructure and so on. In the agricultural sector, 62% of women and about 80% of men work in labor market economy. It is observed in non-agricultural economy, women were deeply engaged in domestic work and child caring, which tended to be women’s work through socialization. Additionally, women are relatively represented in sales. On the contrary, women were least witnessed in occupation of shoes cleaning and street services. Women in Ethiopia were also concentrated in informal sector and

labor-intensive work, such as “mining, construction, manufacturing and transport”.(Country Gender Profile, Suzuki, 2006, EIAR)

In Ethiopia, 45% of livestock owners are women and 33% of livestock keeping households are headed by women in Addis Ababa city (Azage, 2004). Women are usually responsible for feeding large animals, cleaning the barns, milking dairy cattle, processing milk and marketing livestock products, but they receive assistance of men, female children and/or other relatives. Young children, especially girls between the ages of 7 and 15, are mostly responsible for managing calves, chicken and small ruminants and older boys are responsible for treating sick animals, constructing shelter, cutting grass and grazing of cattle and small ruminants. The role of women in managing animals that are confined during most of the year is substantial. They are critically involved in removing and managing manure, which is made in to cakes and used or sold as fuel .

Crop and livestock production is primarily based on smallholder farming, which comprises of some 7 million farmers who produce more than 90% of agricultural products, including 98% of coffee. About 95 percent of the cultivated land is under smallholder agriculture, and the rest under state or commercial farms. About 60% of the total land area is estimated to be potentially suitable for agricultural production, although only 10 percent is currently under cultivation. Ethiopia also has a livestock population of about 31 million heads of cattle, 21.7 sheep, 16.7 goats, 7.02 million equines’, 1 million camels, and 56 million poultry. This makes the country rank first in Africa in livestock population. Much of the country's food crop production including 75% of the livestock production currently takes place in the highlands and 25 percent in the lowlands. In spite of its vast agricultural potential, Ethiopia has been trapped in the state of food insecurity.

1.1 Cooperative Development in Ethiopia

Cooperatives are associations of people who get together voluntarily to meet their common economic and social needs and aspirations through jointly owned and democratically controlled organizations (ICA 2007). The United Nations (UN) has declared 2012 the International Year of Cooperatives (IYC), highlighting the contribution

of cooperatives to socioeconomic development, and in particular recognizing their impact on poverty reduction, employment generation, and social integration. In fact, the UN has adopted a resolution that encourages its agencies, member states, and all relevant stakeholders to take advantage of the IYC to raise awareness of the contribution that cooperatives can make to social and economic development, and to promote their formation and growth. (FCA, 2010).

Cooperatives are the pass way for development and specifically hallmark for developing the vulnerable sector of the society. According to ICA cooperatives have values, norms and principles. These principles are basis for cooperative development. There are seven cooperative principles that are internationally recognized and crafted by ICA. These co-operative principles are guidelines by which co-operatives put their values into practice. These are:

Voluntary and Open Membership

Co-operatives are voluntary organizations, open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination.

Democratic Member Control

Co-operatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting their policies and making decisions. Men and women serving as elected representatives are accountable to the membership. In primary co-operatives members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote) and co-operatives at other levels are also organized in a democratic manner.

Member Economic Participation

Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their co-operative. At least part of that capital is usually the common property of the co-operative. Members usually receive limited compensation, if any, on capital subscribed as a condition of membership. Members allocate surpluses for any or all of the

following purposes: developing their co-operative, possibly by setting up reserves, part of which at least would be indivisible; benefiting members in proportion to their transactions with the co-operative; and supporting other activities approved by the membership.

Autonomy and Independence

Co-operatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members. If they enter to agreements with other organizations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control by their members and maintain their co-operative autonomy.

Education, Training and Information

Co-operatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers, and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their co-operatives. They inform the general public - particularly young people and opinion leaders - about the nature and benefits of co-operation.

Co-operation among Co-operatives

Co-operatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the co-operative movement by working together through local, national, regional and international structures.

Concern for Community

Co-operatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies approved by their members.

Cooperation among people has existed since history has been recorded. Traditional forms of cooperation involved community members voluntarily pooling financial resources through "iqub", which was an association of people having the common objectives of mobilizing resources, especially finance, and distributing it to members on rotating basis. There were also initiatives for labour resource mobilization that were to overcome seasonal labour peaks, known as "Jigie", "Wonfel", among others. There also was the idir, which was an

association for provision of social and economic insurance for the members in the events of death, accident, damages to property, among others. These informal associations continue to operate in Ethiopia. However, the history of formal cooperatives in Ethiopia dates back to 1960, when the first directive of cooperatives was enacted. Since the introduction of the cooperative directive, Ethiopia has enacted four new proclamations and an amendment act: Directive No.44/1960, Proclamation No.241/1966; Proclamation No.138/1978, Proclamation No. 85/1995, Proclamation No. 147/1998, and Amendment act No. 402/2004. The latest proclamation ensures that cooperative policy is fully consistent with the Universal Cooperative Principles and the ILO's Promotion of Cooperatives Recommendation. E.Bezabih (2009)

1.2 Statement of the problem

The existing demand for dairy products in Ethiopia is expected to induce rapid growth in the dairy sector. Factors contributing to this excess demand include the income of both urban and rural population grows, the awareness towards feeding milk increased positively. With the shift towards market economy and liberalization policies, private entrepreneurs are expected to respond to the increased demand through increased investment in dairying and milk processing. While the response of the private sector to the increased demand for dairy is expected to be significant, the small-scale household farms in the highlands hold most of the potential for dairy development.

The project areas are characterized by both production of crop and livestock rearing. The ecology of the areas are suitable for dairy development activities in particular both in backward and forward linkages. As a result of Bifetu Berga dairy development union, the pioneer lynchpin modern dairy sector initiative that plays predominant role to improve the local cattle breeds into improved cross breeds that has higher productivity in relation to local cows. This modern production of dairy also plays significant role for the study areas farmers to easily adopts and practice improved dairy production activities.

This study supposed to get better understanding and insights into the changes it can forge to Biftu Berga dairy cooperative union in

response to the service the union provides to women members during the implementation of its activities.

The following research questions are raised in this study ;

- i. What kind of benefits women are getting as members from dairy cooperatives in terms of good price for the milk and employment ?
- ii. What are the role played by women in production and management of dairy activities ?
- iii. What is the role played by the union in improving the living conditions of women members ?

1.3 Significant of the study

This research study focuses on women dairy farmers participation in cooperative sector, the major workforce of the dairy production activity, some study indicates, up to 60% of the total activities implemented in dairy management were covered by women in Ethiopian high lands. Towards this end, the study contributes to the existing stream of knowledge in relation to women and cooperative, specifically to dairy sector. It is revealed that the role and contribution of women in agricultural activities in general and in dairy sector in particular is higher than the male counterparts. The contribution of women as food producers is less recognized because women's employment in the agricultural sector is mostly unpaid. Since the role of women as food provider in the household is considered domestic work, it is not included in the national economic account. Women's status as unpaid workers makes them invisible thus resulting in reduced access to services such as credit, new technology and information. Agricultural extension workers have neglected women's issues.

Consequently, this research study contributes for development actors which entirely works on women in cooperative sector. The study can also contribute to broaden the existing knowledge and skill for the sector, with special reference to women dairy farmers.

1.4 Scope and limitation of the study

The study conducted on women members of Bifetu Berga dairy cooperative union that purposively selected from three woredas in the region. However, as there is no major socio economic, technological, demographic and cultural difference between the study woredas of the selected primary cooperative. In relation to this, the study is limited to resources and time.

Majority of the primary cooperatives did not have documentations and reliable data on membership, input and output marketed. In addition they had no regular and yearly financial audit report which posed limitation to estimate the financial performance of respective primary dairy cooperatives.

1.5 Objectives of the Study

The objectives of this research project are:

1. To study the general working situation of Bifetu Berga dairy cooperative union
2. To study women farmers income generated by the dairy cooperative union
3. To examine the employment generated to women member farmers
4. To analyze the participation of women member farmers in decision making in the dairy cooperatives
5. To offer suggestions based on the findings of the study

2. LITRATURE REVIEW

Agricultural growth is fundamental to Ethiopia's overall development. Agriculture in Ethiopia is dominated by small-holder and largely subsistence farming with low productivity on fragmented and highly degraded lands. Leading the sector to higher productivity and increased commercialization is not just fundamental to poverty reduction and food security, but can also contribute to meeting a number of other key development challenges that Ethiopia faces. For example, Ethiopia's high population growth requires increased agricultural production to ensure food security. If this is achieved with full involvement of and benefits for women, this can have significant impacts on household nutritional status and contribute to reduced birth rates. Increased agricultural productivity and commercialization - and in particular the increase in related upstream and downstream economic activities that are part of this development - can also provide some employment opportunities for the many "landless youth" in Ethiopia as well as creating export growth. Similarly, the big environmental challenges that Ethiopia faces due to degradation of productive land and increasing climate variability can only be addressed through higher productivity of crop and livestock production in those areas where it can be done sustainably.(World Bank, 2010).

Most agricultural producers are subsistence farmers with small holdings, often broken into several plots. Most of these farmers lived in the Ethiopian highlands, mainly at elevations of 1,500 to 3,000 meters. There are two predominant soil types in the highlands. The first, found in areas with relatively good drainage, consists of red-to-reddish-brown clay loams that hold moisture and are well endowed with needed minerals, with the exception of phosphorus. These types of soils are found in much of the SNNPR. The second type consists of brownish-to-gray and black soils with a high clay content. These soils are found in both the northern and the southern highlands in areas with poor drainage. They are sticky when wet, hard when dry, and difficult to work. But with proper drainage and conditioning, these soils have excellent agricultural potential. According to the central statistics authority (CSA), in 2008 the average Ethiopian farmer holds 1.2 hectares of land, with 55.13% of them holding less than 1.0 hectares. The population in the lowland peripheries (below 1,500 meters) is nomadic, engaged mainly in livestock raising. Sandy desert soils cover much of the arid lowlands in the northeast and in the Ogaden of southeastern Ethiopia. Because of low rainfall, these soils have limited agricultural

potential, except in some areas where rainfall is sufficient for the growth of natural forage at certain times of the year. These areas are used by pastoralists who move back and forth in the area following the availability of pasture for their animals.(MoRAD, Website)

The national strategy for “agricultural development-led industrialization” (ADLI) puts agriculture at the forefront of Ethiopia’s development process. This strategy is reflected in the Plan for Accelerated and Sustainable Development to End Poverty (PASDEP). A central theme of the PASDEP is a call for accelerated market-based agriculture development with a focus on Ethiopia’s 13 million smallholder farm households producing around 98 percent of country’s agricultural output. The focus of the GoE’s efforts to promote agricultural growth has been to strengthen rural capacity (including extension, support to farmer associations, training, and to a lesser extent, facilitating linkages between private investors in agriculture and smallholders), expansion of agricultural extension and research, and investment in rural infrastructure, particularly roads. Additionally, the Government has established important initiatives to address environmental degradation and climate change threats. It has also increased its commitment to reducing exposure to chronic food insecurity and shocks, although vulnerability to adverse weather remains significant challenge for Ethiopia.(world bank, 2010).

Evidence suggests that women have not benefited as much as men have from publicly provided extension services. Most local government staff, researchers and other rural visitors are men. In most societies, women have inferior status and are subordinate to men. There are variations and expectations, but quite often women are the poor and deprived class within a community. They often work very long hours, and they are usually paid less than men. Rural single women, female heads of household, and widows include many of the most wretched and unseen people in the world (Chambers, 1983).

Due to this attitude, the agricultural extension services in Ethiopia are male dominated from the national to the local levels. Front-line male extension workers tend to work mainly with male farmers, they do so less often with female household heads. Farming wives rarely gain different advice from the government extension services. Yet

women, whether heads of household, wives or daughters, are actively involved in farming throughout the country.

Key gender terms and concepts

The following are a number of key terms and concepts used throughout the monograph.

- **Gender:** the set of socially constructed roles, behaviors, responsibilities, and attributes a society considers appropriate for men and women
- **Gender audit:** a process or set of processes for the purpose of integrating gender into an organization at the systemic and/or project level
- **Gender blind:** a study or project that lacks attention to the differential roles, responsibilities, resources, or experiences of men and women
- **Gender disaggregation:** the processes of separating information or data by male and female categories
- **Gender index:** an index or database of information that takes into account differences by gender
- **Gender mapping:** the process of mapping of information that disaggregates by gender
- **Gender sensitivity:** awareness of the ways in which men and women will be differentially impacted by policies, programs, and so on
- **Gender sensitization:** The process of making a party or project aware of the differential ways in which men and women will be impacted by policies, programs, and so on

Source: Engendering Agricultural Research, Development, and Extension IFPRI, (Ruth M.-D, et.al)

The Millennium Declaration of 2000 resolves to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women as effective ways to combating poverty, hunger and disease and to stimulate sustainable development. By implication, it recognizes the centrality of gender equality and empowerment of women to the achievement of all international development goals and also has a goal specifically addressing gender equality 3. The UN World Summit in 2005 recognized the importance of achieving MDG3 through gender equality in education, non-agricultural employment and participation in decision making. In addition the Summit reiterated the importance of promoting women's right to own and inherit property; ensuring tenure of property and housing, and equal access to productive assets and resources, including land, credit and technology; ensuring universal access to reproductive health; and eliminating all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls. The Summit noted, significantly that failure to make any meaningful strides in these areas would not only result in imbalances in the distribution of opportunities and benefits of development, but also hamper the achievement of all the MDGs. **(The African Development Forum (ADF VI), 2008 - United Nations Conference Centre - Addis Ababa, Ethiopia)**

According to World Bank (2010) FYGTP recognizes the pivotal role of agriculture and rural development, and plans for accelerated growth for the sector on the basis of solid performance in the previous plan period as well as growing demand for food and industrial raw materials. Infrastructure development has also created opportunities for large scale private investment in the sector including horticulture and extensive arable agriculture in areas with under-utilized land resources. Smallholder agriculture, however, is expected to remain the principal source of agricultural growth. Increasing male and female smallholder productivity and production is the main thrust of the plan and will be achieved in three major ways. First, by scaling up best practices used by leading farmers whose productivity is 2-3 times higher than the average. Second, by improving the management of natural resources with a focus on improving water utilization and the expansion of irrigation. Third, by encouraging farmers to change from low value to high value products in order to increase their cash incomes, with complementary investments in

market and infrastructure development. These initiatives will be supported by farmer training and measures to improve access to agricultural inputs and product markets using cooperatives as the delivery mechanism. The FYGTP envisages differentiation among the three main agro-ecological zones. In the adequate moisture areas the focus will be on scaling up best production and marketing practices to increase productivity by supplying agricultural inputs and providing training to development agents and farmers. Particular attention will be given to soil fertility management using organic and inorganic fertilizers; improved rain fed agronomic methods; irrigation and improved water use efficiency; production and distribution of seed; natural resource conservation; livestock and forage development; capacity building, and strengthening research-extension-farmer linkages.

The Derg (1974-1991) and the current governments of Ethiopia have given special recognition to the cooperatives in Ethiopia. The Derg regime considered cooperatives as a mass movement that could ensure equitable mobilization and distribution of resources. They were thus viewed as instruments for planning and implementation of socialist policies. Cooperatives were, therefore, established to achieve these objectives. It was in the same vein that cooperatives would also be used as a means to mobilize community support for the ruling party. During the Derg regime, this was more conspicuous as cooperatives were forced to operate in line with socialist principle, where production and marketing of produce were done collectively and members pooled their land resources under communal tenure. With the downfall of the Derg regime, most rural based cooperatives were abolished by members and their resources were looted and misused. The current regime gave no attention to cooperatives during the transition period, meaning that cooperatives were relatively stagnant between 1991 and 1993. Since then the government has acted as a facilitator for cooperative development. This involves enacting legislation, developing cooperative policy and maintaining law and order. Generally the role of government should be more oriented towards support than control. However, in practice this is hardly possible in Ethiopia. The frequent restructuring of government institutions involved in cooperative promotion has quite often

hindered the growth and development of cooperatives.(Bezabih Emana, 2009)

The existing government has shown its commitment to promote cooperatives since it came in to power in 1991. Initially the Government enacted agricultural cooperative proclamation incorporating the internationally accepted principles. The intension was to reorganize cooperatives, which can work in the free market economy. The government continued its effort to promote various types of cooperatives throughout the country and introduced cooperatives proclamation No, 147/1998. Since then different cooperatives have been organized and established. Since the enactment of the new act, liberalizing the cooperative movement from direct government control, the movement has witnessed a number of challenges. Whereas some of the challenges offer excellent opportunities for the cooperative movement to develop in to strong commercial enterprises. Among the challenges, stiff competition, hangover of the past or lack of commitment, globalization and government attitude towards subsidy are the major ones. Hence, democratization of the movement, a change of government role from direct control to advisory role, the legal framework, divided earnings can be considered as opportunities for the better performances of cooperatives.((FCA, 2005).

Impact assessment household survey at regional levels on both members and nonmembers of different cooperatives was undertaken by the study made by ACDI/VOCA (2005) on households of cooperatives including non members revealed that cooperatives have made a significant impact in assisting smallholder farmers through the provision of timely provision of agricultural inputs at reasonable prices and the creation of market outlets for their products at the prevailing market prices to their members. Equally important, the findings put the significant role played by the sampled cooperatives in the provision of credit, income generation, technical assistance, value added services, consumer goods retailing, tractor service and transportation facility.

2.1 Women and Agriculture

The rationale for considering gender in agricultural research relates to agricultural productivity, food security, nutrition, poverty

reduction, and empowerment. In all of these, women play a critical but often under-recognized role and face greater constraints than men. Although gender inequality involves comparisons between women and men, in most cases the gender gap penalizes women. Recognizing this sets the stage for identifying ways that the agricultural research system can redress these problems and contribute to productivity and equity.

Despite the important role women play in agricultural production, they remain disadvantaged in numerous respects. On one hand, women have limited access to a wide range of agricultural inputs including seed and fertilizer, technological resources, equipment, land, and so forth. In addition, women often lack the capacity needed to deploy these resources. For example, women may have access to land but lack access to the fertilizer needed to farm the land productively or lack the knowledge of how to properly apply fertilizer. Furthermore, many non tangible assets, such as social capital, human capital, rights, and decision making power, are more difficult for women to access. (IFPRI, 2012)

Table 1. Rural and urban ratios of total population

	Rural	Urban
Ratio	85%	15%

Source: Demessie, Sosena, Embet Kebede, and Abebe Shimeles (2004) Ethiopia Strategic Country Gender Assessment, A Report of the World Bank, p.12 Table made by suzuki michiko

2.2 Agricultural extension system in Ethiopian

All of the past extension programs in Ethiopia were not based on a long-term strategic vision of extension service that provides a long-term guideline for the role and core functions of a plurality of service providers, with the state playing primarily a facilitating and co-ordinating role. Moreover, the extension services, except PADETS, were based on donor funding. The different extension programs until 1991 mostly benefited the large and wealthy farmers or commercial farmers, with the neglect of smallholders. In some of the programs, the neglect of the smallholders may not have been deliberate,

indicating the need for an extension program to incorporate an explicit strategy to address the needs of smallholder farmers. Focus was also given to high potential areas for the most part. The bias of the extension service towards crop production, particularly cereals, persisted throughout all the extension programs. Another common feature of the extension programs in the past has been the top-down and non-participatory approach followed consistently throughout the period. Technologies were supply driven instead of being demand driven. Most of the extension programs were also focused on production, without adequate attention given to the marketing of produce. The next table shows the flow of agricultural extension system at grassroots level

Generally, the agricultural extension system is part and parcel of agricultural and rural development policy of Ethiopia. The policy is favors of smallholders in technology provision, capacity building and through designing appropriate ways of production that increase production and productivity. In this regard, three development agents are assigned at each peasant association which are graduates of technical and vocational agricultural colleges (TVET). Three of them have got different skill or expertise; one for livestock sector, one for crop sector and the other for natural resource development and rehabilitation activities.



Figure 1. Flows of agricultural extension system

Source: own data analysis

2.2.1 Agricultural Extension activities deployed by livestock office

Cattle in Ethiopia are almost entirely of the zebu type and are poor sources of milk and meat. However, these cattle do relatively well under the traditional production system. About 70 percent of the cattle in 1987 were in the highlands, and the remaining 30 percent were kept by nomadic pastoralists in the lowland areas. Meat and milk yields are low and losses high, especially among calves and young stock. Contagious diseases and parasitic infections are major causes of death, factors that are exacerbated by malnutrition and starvation. Recurring drought takes a heavy toll on the animal population, although it is difficult to determine the extent of losses. Practically all animals are range-fed. During the rainy seasons, water and grass are generally plentiful, but with the onset of the dry season, forage is generally insufficient to keep animals nourished and able to resist disease. (MoRAD, Website)

As a result of the study area is located in oromia regional state, the largest and potential region in agricultural production in the country,

the livestock related activities were structured separately from rural and agricultural bureau of the region. It has its own organizational structure from the regional level up to grassroots level, i.e peasant association level. Under Oromia livestock development and health agency, there are three major technical departments viz. Livestock extension department, Livestock inputs department and Animal health department. On top of this, other supporting sections that includes; planning, human resource and finance sections are backstopping the technical departments. Except budget shortage the autonomy the agency mandated is able to implement better than the earlier time, when under the supervision and custody of bureau of agriculture and rural development.

In view of the fact that agriculture initially dominates the economy and employment, there is an issue as to what its role should be in getting from here to there. In the normal process of economic growth, nonagricultural sectors grow more rapidly than agriculture, particularly in rapid growth contexts. Thus, it is inevitable that with rapid growth the relative importance of agriculture declines. It should do so rapidly. The slower growth of agriculture, its relative decline, concern about the difficulty of modernizing agriculture, pessimism about the potentials for technological change in agriculture, and even urban ignorance about the intelligence of illiterate farmers, have in many cases led to speculation that agriculture would most usefully be ignored or at least not given priority for scarce resources in the interests of rapid overall growth. There is a wide body of empirical evidence (presented in this paper), however, that raising agricultural productivity is possible and that agricultural growth plays a key role in economic growth, particularly in low income. (Assefa.,et.al. 2001)

Gender differences matter in agricultural production in various farming systems all over the world, where the ownership and management of farms and natural resources by men and women are defined by culturally specific gender roles. Gender differences are also obvious in the staffing and conduct of agricultural research and extension in that most agricultural scientists and extension agents are male. Although progress has been made in developing extension systems that are more gender sensitive, unless the sources of new crop, fish, and livestock varieties and agricultural technologies take women's different needs into account, the products that are being

disseminated by extension systems may not meet women's needs and preferences. Therefore, a gender-responsive agricultural research, development, and extension system needs to address women as well as men as both the clients and actors in agricultural research. (Ruth et.al, 2012)

2.2.2 Ethiopian Dairy Sector

The dairy sector in Ethiopia holds large potential to contribute to the commercialization of the agriculture sector due to its large livestock population, the favorable climate for improved, high-yielding animal breeds, and the relatively disease-free environment with potential for animal feeding. Like other sectors of the economy, the dairy sector in the country has passed through three phases, following the economic and political policy changes in the country. In the most recent phase, characterized by the transition towards market-oriented economy, the dairy sector appears to be moving towards a takeoff stage. Liberalized markets and private sector investment and promotion of smallholder dairy are the main features of this phase leading to the commercialization of the sector (Ahmed *et. al.* 2004).

Ethiopia is a densely populated country and maximum people live in rural areas. Majority of them are involved in agriculture. The cattle animal is correlated with agriculture in Ethiopia, and the old method of cultivation is still trend there. Rearing of cattle is also an additional source of income of the villagers of this country. Maximum proportion of cows of the Africa are seen in Ethiopia. However, Ethiopia produces small portion of the total quantity of milk produced in the Africa. This amount is too inadequate to meet the country's demand. The supply of milk in some parts of Ethiopia is higher than the local demand. On the other hand, supply of milk in the rest of the country as well as in urban areas is much lower than the demand. As a result, many dairy cooperatives have been formed to meet local demand and to develop dairy industry. An effort has been done on the creation of awareness and provision of facilities for the dairy cooperatives. In Ethiopia, the cooperative dairy has three tier of structure which consists of, regional level federation (not yet established for dairy), District level milk unions, and dairy cooperative societies at PA level, respectively.

According to MoARD the Modern dairying started to developed in the early 1950s. Ethiopia received 300 Friesian and Brown Swiss dairy cattle in 1947 from the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA). This was the first attempt to introduce modern dairy production and the cattle were used to establish dairy farms around Addis Ababa. They are the nucleus herd for Holeta dairy farm established in 1955, fortunately it was one my study area. In addition, 109 in-calf Holstein heifers were added to the Holeta herd in 1959 imported from Kenya. The establishment of the milk processing with a small milk boiler and a manual packing facility in Addis Ababa is one of the most important milestone in the development of dairy industry in Ethiopia. Government intervened through the introduction of high-yielding dairy cattle on the highlands in and around major urban areas. The government also established a modern milk processing and marketing facilities to complement these input oriented production efforts. Most interventions during this phase focused on rural-based production and marketing including the introduction of exotic dairy cattle, feeding with high ratio of dairy concentrated feed, modern dairy infrastructure and high management level. To facilitate the growth of the sector, UNICEF established a public sector pilot processing plant at Shola on the outskirts of Addis Ababa in 1960. The plant started by processing milk produced by the large farms. The plant significantly expanded in short period and started collecting milk from smallholder producers in addition to that from the large farms. This led to further expansion of large dairy farms. During the second half of the 1960s, dairy production in the Addis Ababa area began to develop rapidly because of the expansion in large private dairy farms and the participation of small-holder producers with indigenous cattle facilitated by the establishment of the milk collection centers.

Dairy provides rural farmers with a way to increase assets, a method to diversify income and nutrition. Dairy is also an important tool to address poverty, enhance agricultural development, and create employment opportunities beyond an immediate household or smallholder dairy operation. Dairy is a development tool because it widens and sustains three major pathways out of poverty:

- i securing assets of the poor,
- ii. improving smallholder productivity and
- iii increasing market participation by the poor,

The following trends will affect dairy production, particularly rural, smallholder livestock producers: 1) Increasing pressure on common grazing and water resources; 2) Shift in livestock production from a local, multi-purpose activity to an increasingly market-oriented and vertically-integrated business; and 3) Strong growth of industrial production units reliant on the use of cereal based feeds close to urban centers (PPLPI, 2009). An estimated 60 % of the African rural population lives in areas of good agricultural potential, but with poor market access. Only 22 % live in areas of good agricultural potential and good market access. About 18 % suffer poor market access and poor agricultural potential (Kelley and Byerlee, 2004 cited by Bezabih et al. 2010).

The other important problem currently facing the dairy sector in Ethiopia, and specifically to the study areas are; lack of processing equipments, during the fasting seasons the consumption of milk and milk product drastically fell and dairy farmers unable to sell their product to buyers, the easily perishable nature of milk also exacerbate the situation. The fast increasing trends of concentrate feed not proportionate to price of milk contribute to the farmers have been getting less benefit from the dairy sector.

3. MATERIAL AND METHOD

3.1 Description of the study areas

The study area is characterized by bimodal rainfall pattern with a longer rain period which stretched from June to September and shorter rain period from February to April. The common agricultural practices of the study areas were mixed farming type which incorporates livestock rearing and crop production. Due to favorable rain condition of the area both livestock and crop production to the farmers are relatively getting better income from these economic sectors. As a result of continuous grazing and over population of livestock and human population the productivity declining from time to time.

Biftu Berga dairy cooperative union operation area is found in three administrative districts of Welmera, Ejere and Adea Berga. These districts are located in central high lands of Ethiopia some 65 kilometers to the West of the capital city, Addis Ababa. The agro ecological characteristics of the study areas includes more than half of these areas rests under high lands, and the average annual rainfall ranges from 900 to 1250mm. the highest temperature is 28c° and the lowest temperature is 9c°.

These districts are the most known agriculturally potential districts of the Central-Western oromia region, and it is the most popular in farming activities. Its agro-climatic conditions are sub-tropical and the major soil are redish and vertisol which made it suitable for the production of cereals and pulses. The livestock, specifically high resources of cattle and sheep, it is one of the few milk shed areas of Ethiopia. The farming calendar of the district is from April to January. Rain-fed agriculture is its main crop production system, but there are also few irrigation users. The agro-climatic conditions of the districts are conducive for the production of various types of crops. The major crops that are produced in the districts are cereals, pulses and oil seeds. Teff and wheat occupied the largest cultivated area out of the crops grown in these areas.

3.2. Sampling techniques

The major intention of selecting the study area was the potentiality of producing surplus dairy products and favorable agro climatic condition for dairy farm. The three districts were purposively selected among the others members of Bifetu Berga union. These dairy cooperative societies are the central Ethiopia milk shed areas that contributes a lion share milk and milk product supplier to Addis Ababa, the major consumer market of dairy product in Ethiopia.

Table 2. Cooperative societies selected for sample

District	≠ of Dairy coops	Cooperative selected for sample	≠ of cooperative members	≠ of sample size
Adea Berga	1	Talila Berga	70	31
Ejere	1	Abdi Gudina	137	23
Welmera	1	LonWaya	45	21
Total	3		254	75

Source: own data analysis

For this, purposive sample survey was used to collect primary data from the project areas. Generally, 75 respondents were selected for the envisaged study. In addition to this, two kinds of focus group discussions used, viz. focus group discussion with cooperative leaders and to women members were carried out to have first hand information.

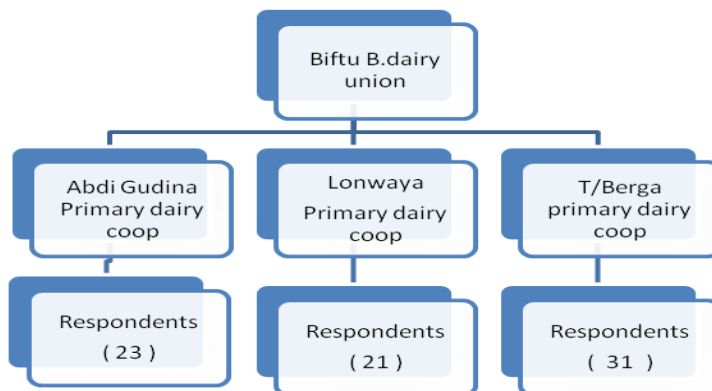


Figure 2. Sampling design

Source: Own data analysis structure

3.3 Source and method of data collection

To achieve objectives of the study, the qualitative and quantitative data were gathered from the primary sources. The qualitative data were gathered through focused group discussion with dairy cooperative leaders and women members, key informant's interviews, and informal discussions with farmers, and personal observations. Quantitative data were generated through survey method employing structured interview with the sample respondents. In addition; relevant secondary data were collected from available reports, records and other published and unpublished documents from the concerned offices and cooperative societies.

Emphasis was given to the qualitative data also, to capture all relevant information required to have an in-depth view of the gender dimensions of cooperative and to find out constraints in relation to women. From the household survey, the necessary information of sample household regarding the benefit women farmers are getting through the involvement in the dairy cooperatives. For the household survey, the enumerators who were familiar to the area were recruited from the study area and were trained on the objectives, methods of data collection and interviewing techniques. The interview schedule was semi-structured and pre-tested before the interviews took place. Besides the surveyed sample, different methods were used in order to draw relevant qualitative information especially in relation to women members and to see major constraints facing in decision making. There were two focused group discussions in each selected cooperative dairy societies.

3.4 Methods of Data Analysis

Primary data were collected from individuals through the interview schedules were analyzed using descriptive statistics such as measures of central tendency, frequency, percentages, and ranking with the use of Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS). To assess the contribution of dairy cooperative union a given household in facilitating access to resources and services and thus see the difference and similarity of women dairy cooperative members. To

identify women farmers participation in the dairy cooperative societies FGD were made to gather their feelings as well as the leaders perception. Thus, qualitative data gained from FGDs and group interviews were described, analyzed and interpreted on spot during data collection to avoid missing relevant information.

3.5 Empirical Analysis

3.5.1 Cooperative Societies data

The number and the type of cooperative in Ethiopia and in the Oromia region grows steadily from time to time. But the quality and the competitiveness of these cooperative societies are poor and it needs improvement. According to this study, the number of women in cooperative societies in general and dairy sector in particular showing improving trends. In the case of Bifetu berga union the percentage of women members increased to 29 %.

The cooperative movement has been facing critical shortage of skilled human resources. The institutions supporting cooperatives in Ethiopia suffer from frequent structural changes. This affects the performance of cooperatives and the data management system. Overcoming these problems will enhance the role of cooperatives in economic and social development.(B.Emana, 2009).

Table 3. Members of Bifetu Berga dairy union

	Name of coop	District	≠ members during establishment			≠ current members		
			Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
1	Lon Waya	Walmera	17	10	27	60	10	70
2	Nano Gelan	Welmera	20	3	23	20	3	23
3	Lalisa	Welmera	31	8	39	31	8	39
4	Biftu	Welmera	28	6	34	25	6	34
5	Jitu	Welmera	37	5	42	37	5	42
6	Abdigudina	Ejare	76	61	137	76	61	137
7	Biruhtesfa	Ejare	53	6	59	53	6	59
8	Dandi gudina	Ejare	57	19	76	57	19	76
9	Danga kasaye	Ejare	13	3	16	13	3	16
10	Sello gudina	Ejare	78	4	82	78	4	82
11	T elila Barga	Adabarga	-	45	45	-	45	45
12	Bilacha Barga	Adabarga	8	37	45	8	37	45
13	Kalacha Boru	Adabarga	17	3	20	17	3	20
	Total		435	210	645	435	210	704

Source: Bifetu Berga dairy cooperative union

The cooperative movement in the country faced a number of problems in the different economic systems of the country. Most of the cooperatives don't have professional managers due to two reasons. The viability of the cooperative is not always ensured due to low organization, technical supports and follow up by the concerned bodies. The ever changing structure of the cooperative bodies at federal, regional and woreda level highly affected the smooth development of cooperative societies in the country. Lack of long term credit hinders the investment of cooperatives in different projects that would have economic benefit to members. The members' economic and /or financial power to strengthen their cooperative society is very weak. So cooperatives are suffering in shortage of capital .The infrastructure problem (road, transportation, bank, etc) in the rural Ethiopia hinders the provision of inputs, consumer goods and marketing of members produce by cooperative societies to member patrons. Lack of timely, accurate and reliable market information adds to the problem. To conclude, the government of Ethiopia had already paved the way for better cooperative development in the country through creating legal basis and expansion of human resource development at higher institution level .Therefore, it is high time to the cooperative bureaus, cooperative experts, higher institutions, and cooperative staff to maximize the existing policy environment to the advantage of cooperative development so that members will benefit from it and cooperatives can contribute to the social and economic development of the nation.

3.5.2 Marital characteristics

Based on the data collected during the interview, totally 75 respondents addressed. And almost 18.7 per cent of the respondents were widows, and 22.7 percent of women were divorces and 58.7 percent of interviewed women were married. And the researcher could not found any polygamy among the respondents. The female headed households are more responsive and assertive in relation to married women. The other important issue here that the dairy cooperative societies under investigation were highly occupied by married women i.e 58.7%, the data indicated that the other groups of women viz. divorces and widows were less accessible to cooperatives. According to focus group discussion the researcher

made with women members revealed that there are social and economic challenges impeding women from any participation in economic and social activities.

Table 4. Marital status of the households (%) at Biftu Berga union

Cooperative name	Marital Status		
	Married	Divorce	Widowed
Abdi Gudina (n=23)	78.3	13.0	8.7
Telile Berga (n=31)	51.6	25.8	22.6
Lone Weya (n=21)	47.6	28.6	23.8
Total (n=75)	58.7	22.7	18.7

3.5.3 Family size

In relative terms most of the farmers who have livestock resources are better off in relation to those farmers that do not have livestock in Ethiopian context. Along with this, many studies revealed that family size has a positive correlation with livestock assets.

According to the study, more than 50 percent of the respondents are having 5 children on an average. This indicates that it is contributing for the population growth i.e 2.9 percent increment per year. The high population pressure has a negative consequences on the land resource, which has in turn the main sources of pasture for livestock production.

Table 5. Average family size and amount of milk supplied to cooperatives at Biftu Berga union

Cooperative name	Family size Mean ±SE	Milk sold (L) Mean±SE
Abdi Gudina	5.8±0.4	12.8±2.2 ^a
Telile Berga	5.1±0.3	7.3±1.0 ^b
Lone Weya	5.1±0.4	6.3±0.8 ^b
Total	5.3±0.2	8.6±0.9

^{a-b} means with different superscript in the same column are different significantly (P<0.05) SE=standard error

3.5.4 Age group

According to the study, majority of the respondents age is grouped between 34 to 45. In this regard, most of the respondents are at the middle of the age, and that means adults. The lowest age of the respondents were 27 the sex of the interviewee was female. the highest or the maximum age of the respondents were 58 age, and also female by sex. The mean age was 42 years. This age group realizing that the possibilities of having practical experience on livestock rearing and production.

3.5.5 Educational Status

Numerous studies confirmed that education has a positive correlation with development. It is the most important indicator in both social and economic empowerments of women in rural areas. In accordance to the sample survey made, 40 percent of the respondents are unable to read and write. This figure shows that the urgent needs of literacy class that fits women farmers situation in the study areas. In addition to this, 30 percent of respondents could read and write. There were also some respondents, which have college education and being participated on dairy farm and other agricultural activities, by lacking other permanent employment opportunities in the government or other organizations, but their number is insignificant.

Table 6. Educational level of respondent households

Cooperative name	Educational level			
	illiterate	Read and write	Primary school	Secondary school
Abdi Gudina (n=23)	21.7%	17.4%	17.4%	43.5%
Telile Berga (n=31)	54.8%	29.0%	12.9%	3.2%
Lone Weya (n=21)	38.1%	47.6%	9.5%	4.8%
Total (n=75)	40.0%	30.7%	13.3%	16.0%

4. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

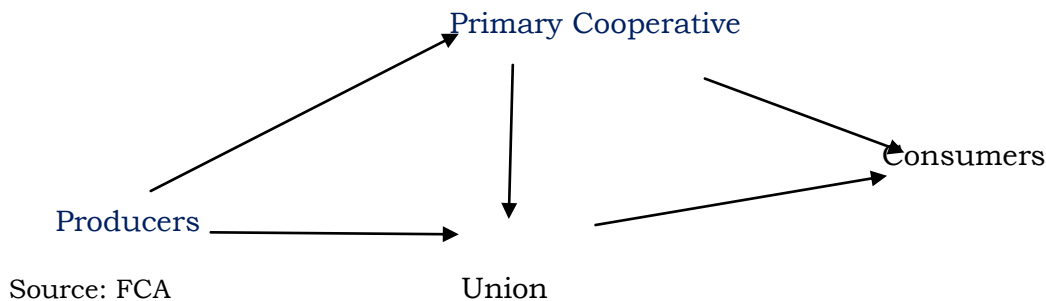
4.1 The Impact of dairy cooperative on women farmers

4.1.1 Access to reliable market

According to the study made by Oromia cooperative promotion Bureau, one of the critical problems dairy farmers are facing in central milk shed is lack of continuous and reliable market for milk. Most of the urban milk buyers are orthodox church followers and having too long fasting seasons, that has a negative consequences on milk marketing and consumption in big cities, especially in Addis Ababa.

Based on the sample survey, the establishments of cooperative societies both at primary and secondary level, make the farmers getting continuous and sustainable market when compared to prior of the establishments of dairy cooperative societies. The access created to consumers by the union, forge confidence to producers.

Figure 3. Market Information Dissemination for Cooperatives



4.1.2 Better income

Every economic activities measured in relation to the income or revenue generated on the top of the existing assets. Farmers are very sensitive to economic benefits, specially on monetary terms. For any development practitioners the income improvement to smallholder farmers, specifically women are paramount importance. In this regard, the study revealed that 48 % of the respondents revealed of getting better income when they compared before joining their dairy cooperative societies. Among the respondents, 52 % revealed, they did not get any better income after joining their cooperative societies.

According to FCD, I made with women groups they strongly suggesting the escalated cost of animal feed influence their profitability. Even commenting that if this union might not established the challenge become more worsens than the current situation. Even though, we had not getting better income, we save ourselves from more risks.

Table 7. A perceived benefit of the respondents on saving

Cooperative name	More Savings after membership as perceived benefit of the coop			
	Strongly disagree	Disagree	strongly agree	Agree
Abdi Gudina (n=31)	39.1%	21.7%	17.4%	17.4%
Telile Berga (n=23)	9.7%	41.9%	3.2%	45.2%
Lone Weya (n=21)	4.8%	38.1%	4.8%	52.4%
Total (n=75)	17.3%	34.7%	8.0%	38.7%

Cooperatives are formed to create a collective capacity that would not be achieved separately. The main reason for the establishment of farmers cooperative is to resolve problems faced by members regarding input and produce marketing. The dairy union cooperative supply inputs with a reasonable price by considering the capacity of farmers in the area.

One of the important problem raised during focus group discussion was as a result of most of dairy product buyers and even producers are following religion of orthodox (76%), the consumption of milk and milk product is minimal or almost nil during fasting seasons.

Table 8. Religion of household heads interviewed at Biftu Berga union

Cooperative name	Religious affiliation		
	Orthodox	Muslim	Protestant
Abdi Gudina (n=23)	78.3%	.0%	21.7%
Telile Berga (31)	77.4%	.0%	22.6%
Lone Weya (21)	71.4%	4.8%	23.8%
Total (n=75)	76.0%	1.3%	22.7%

4.1.3 Access to technologies

The current rapid technological change in agriculture in general and livestock sector in particular plays significant role in harnessing competitiveness of dairy farmers locally and internationally. In view of this, 89.4 % of respondents responded that, the dairy union plays active role in promoting new and appropriate technologies to their member farmers.

On top of this, 9.4 % of the respondents said they did not get any support from their dairy union in any technology provision & supply.

Table 9. Respondents view towards better access to technologies thru coops

Cooperative name	Better access to technologies or inputs as perceived benefit of the coop			
	Strongly disagree	Disagree	strongly agree	Agree
Abdi Gudina (n=31)	17.4%	0%	21.7%	56.5%
Telila Berga (23)	.0%	3.2%	3.2%	93.5%
Lone Weya(n=21)	4.8%	4.8%	9.5%	81.0%
Total (n=75)	6.7%	2.7%	10.7%	78.7%

4.1.4 Access to training

Almost most of the survey respondents positively underlined that (84 %), the training provided by the dairy union improve the ways of doing their business on one hand and made them getting better prices of their product as a result of feeding their cattle appropriately and better management of their cows at yard and on the field. Among the respondents 16 percent responded that although they are members they did not get any training from the union and its affiliated societies.

Table 10. Respondents response on training given

Cooperative name	Have you participated in dairy training	
	No	Yes
Abdi Gudina (n=31)	30.4%	69.6%
Telile Berga (n=23)	12.9%	87.1%
Lone Weya (21)	4.8%	95.2%
Total (n=75)	16.0%	84.0%

Case study

The information the researcher is providing is what one of the member of Bifetu Berga union affiliate member of Telila Berga primary cooperative society, who told her experience of information source during focus group discussion. A woman named Yesh Getachew, age 49 married and living with her 4 children told the following story. She said, “Years back, two of my cows delivered at the same time, as a result I started getting a lot of milk. However, I didn’t get any person who buys the produced milk in my area, so I utilized it all for my family consumption. But, the product was over my family’s daily consumption. One day, a brother of my husband who lives in the nearby town came to our residence and after that he observed what was happening in my home, he advised me to take to the market the surplus milk produced, to those persons in the nearby town, Holeta, who took milk on contractual base and paid monthly. I have never heard such information before from anybody not even Development Agents. Then he connected me with those individuals in the town. Without delay, I started selling milk on contractual basis. I sold ten liters of milk per day, and got 2000 Birr monthly. Because of the information I got, my family life has changed noticeably. But, during the fasting season everything started to change my client/ buyer refused to buy my milk; because no one needs milk during fasting season. Then I started complaining, just the DA of my PA told me the existence of dairy cooperative society, that can buy milk even at fasting season. I immediately pays registration fee and bought share for membership. After my membership I was able to sell 40 liters of milk per day, even at fasting season to my cooperative. In addition to this, I easily gets AI service, improved forages and concentrate feed on credit basis and many trainings on milk hygiene, dairy cow management, improved feed and others. I am now full member and my income progressively increasing and one of my daughter supports me, and I am highly benefited through this dairy cooperative society.

Table 11. Knowledge and skill benefitted from cooperative union

Cooperative name	Better knowledge and skill as perceived benefit of the coop			
	strongly agree	Agree	strongly disagree	disagree
Abdi Gudina (n=23)	60.9%	34.8%	4.3%	.0%
Telile Berga (31)	51.6%	48.4%	.0%	.0%
Lone Weya (21)	52.4%	47.6%	.0%	.0%
Total (n=75)	54.7%	44.0%	1.3%	.0%

4.1.5 Employment opportunity

The majority of rural population which is engaged on livestock rearing are being employed on their farms and getting employment opportunities. As a result of shrinking down of farm land progressively, the contribution of livestock production is so important and decisive. Based on the focus group discussion and personal observation, the researcher realized that the dairy cooperative union in generating employment opportunity to women and youth group was improving. At the union and primary level more than 20 employees have been getting job opportunity. Beside this, FCD participants revealed that most of young women and men after completing their higher education being involved in dairy business with their family. In this regard, women farmers are benefited directly and indirectly from this engagement.

4.2 Milk market structure

The dairy market structure of the study area was found to involve marketing agents like dairy producers, dairy producers cooperatives, whole sellers, retailers, milk collectors, processors (Sholla and Sebata agro industry plc) restaurants, Shops for milk market, farmer trader, and consumers. In most cases, most of milk delivery system is informal and the lion share is covered by private dairy processing firms like Shola and Sebata agro industry. Both these private companies have an agents in each peasant association that can persuade and lobby milk producers at their appropriate milk collection centers.

During the focus group discussion members told me that there were no such tough completion to buy milk at fasting seasons, all collectors and processors cease to buy milk from producers.

4.3 Livestock holdings

Farmers in the study area undertake both crop and livestock production activities. Though the holding size varied among the sample households, all of the sampled respondents owned livestock. In the study area, livestock are kept for various economic and social reasons. The major economic reasons include provision or supply of draught power, generation of cash income, food and energy. The most commonly reared livestock in the study area are cattle, sheep and goats, equines and poultry.

Lack of feed and its incremental cost is one major problem that may threaten the very existence of the dairying. The livestock holding has directly related to feed availability and existence of grazing land. In addition, dairy farmer's attempts to grow quality feed through the government initiative and few Nongovernmental organizations such as ACDI/VOCA, Landolakes, and others. The market situation of pasture and quality feed are not available and cooperative members shift to buy poor quality fodder which has a negative bearing on the milk yield of the cows. They also have shortage of land to plant quality feed. The other challenge is the poor service delivery of veterinary services. Cows bought at very high prices may have

difficulties as the veterinary services are not available; we lose calves and thus the dairy product which is economically devastating to the owner.

Table 12. Livestock holdings of the three districts

	Livestock type	Name of district		
		Ejere	Adea Berga	Welmerra
1	Cattle	91,770	80,456	172,769
2	Sheep	53,883	50,067	102,987
3	Equine	20,000	18,120	21,426
4	Poultry	42,241	39,890	193,557

Source: Each districts Livestock development and health offices.

4.4 Women participation in cooperative decision making

There are seven internationally accepted cooperative principles in cooperative movement. The followings are these cooperative principles; open and voluntarily membership; members economic participation; democratically member control; autonomy and independence; education, information and training; cooperation among cooperatives and concern for the community. These principles are a milestone for any cooperative societies that benefits its members and the community at large.

Cooperative proclamation and its subsequent by-laws equally favour both women and men. But in real situation male members are still have the lion share in all levels of cooperatives. Along with this, most of cooperative societies are belongs to male members, the board of directors are dominantly leaded by men in the sampled cooperatives, and the result may be true almost for all cooperatives in Ethiopia.

Mostly women have very low participation in important and decisive institutions like cooperatives and as a result they have low access to resources, new technologies, and also information or knowledge.

Empowerment is not essentially political alone; it is a process having personal, economic, social and political dimensions with personal empowerment being the core of the empowerment process. In fact political empowerment will not succeed in the absence of economic empowerment. The institutions like cooperatives create empowerment

promoting conditions for women to move from positions of marginalisation within household decision making process and exclusion within community, to one of greater centrality, inclusion of voice.

Ethiopian women have contributed to leadership in community, informal organizations, and in public offices. However, in spite of their greater efforts, Inequalities between women and men and their ability to participate in decision making at various spheres still remain unbalanced with discriminatory attitudes and practices.

Table 13. Overview of the different dimensions of gender inequality

Dimension of Capability	Form of gender inequality
Economic participation	Gender discrimination in access to and control over resources such as land, property, agricultural inputs, extension services, employment, and a wide range of livelihood opportunities. Women and girls are disadvantaged
Social participation	Gender discrimination in access to essential public services such as education, health, water, energy and social security and protection, community family support
Political participation	Gender discrimination in participating in decision-making processes, e.g. in political institutions and policy-making organizations, consultation, and the rights and responsibilities of citizenship. African women do not always participate in public and private (in the home) decision-making spheres to bring their priorities and needs into the agenda
Women's human rights	Women's human rights are human rights violations that women face simply by virtue of being a woman. Women suffer various human rights violations that men do not, such as being deprived of schooling, forced marriage, and violence against women.

Source: (The African Development Forum (ADF VI), 2008 - United Nations Conference Centre - Addis Ababa, Ethiopia)

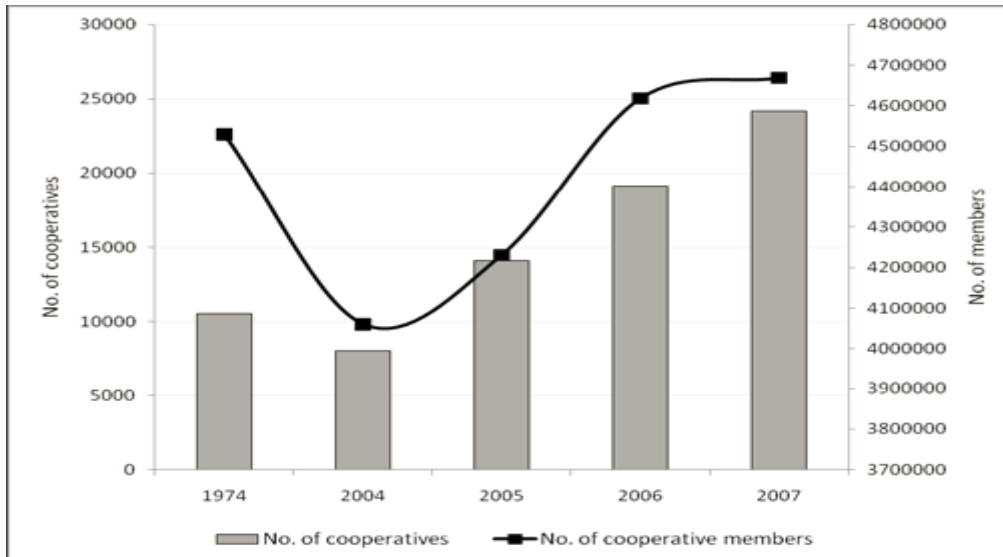


Figure 4. Numbers of members and cooperative societies

Source: FCA, quoted by B. Emana, 2009

According to USAID, 2010 gender related definitions are the following:

Gender equality concerns women and men, and it involves working with men and boys, women and girls to bring about changes in attitudes, behaviors, roles and responsibilities at home, in the workplace, and in the community. Genuine equality means more than parity in numbers or laws on the books; it means expanding freedoms and improving overall quality of life so that equality is achieved without sacrificing gains for males or females.

Female empowerment is achieved when women and girls acquire the power to act freely, exercise their rights, and fulfill their potential as full and equal members of society. While empowerment often comes from within, and individuals empower themselves, cultures, societies, and institutions create conditions that facilitate or undermine the possibilities for empowerment.

Gender integration involves identifying, and then addressing, gender inequalities during strategy and project design, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation. Since the roles and power relations

between men and women affect how an activity is implemented, it is essential that project managers address these issues on an ongoing basis. During the last decade, the gender issue has attracted the attention of many researchers, as well as that of government agencies. There is a sudden emphasis on the need to study the role or position of women in agricultural production and special programs for this purpose are being designed. Recent studies on dairy cooperatives in Ethiopia show that dairy cooperatives are playing a prominent role in the development of dairy production as well as to increase the income of rural people. It has also been noticed that for small farmers, livestock production is a family operation. While it is recognized that most of the livestock management is carried out by women. Nevertheless, little study has been conducted on the role of dairy cooperatives on women's empowerment or the role of women in dairy farming in rural areas.

Differences in terms of land holdings and source of livelihood, sex, education and other demographic factors influence the capacity of dairy producers to demand and pay for services. Moreover, the dairy system also influences the opportunities and needs for dairy service delivery since type, intensity and diversity of the dairy produce and producers' access to input and output markets and other services differ across sub systems.

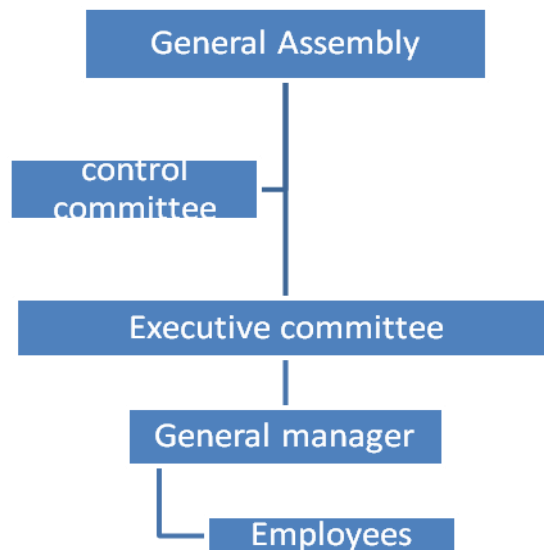


Figure 5. Organizational structure of Biftu Berga cooperative union

Source: Biftu Berga cooperative union

4.5 Participation of Members in their Dairy cooperative

All the three cooperatives have the record of the number of members participated in the last election of the board of directors. In general, however, all respondents agree that there were significant numbers in all the elections, and all members of all schemes ascertain that the elections were free, fair and done in a democratic manner. Leaders were elected taking their management skills, education, acceptance, and influence on the society into consideration.

Most leaders are the ones who were assertive and economically better off in the cooperative society. The study revealed that, dominant opinion is that most farmers are a bit inattentive on the leadership as long as they don't come across a serious neglecting the leadership of women members both on at primary and union level.

Table 14. Respondents knowhow of cooperative bylaws

Knowhow Of members; bylaws	Frequency	Per cent
yes	120	100
No	0	0
Total	120	0

Source: own survey analysis

Hence, it is recommended that there is a need for external intervention both in the cooperatives and that aim to empower women, both psychologically and financially. Likewise, there is a need to redress the awareness of members and leaders of these institutions to support women so that they participate at a full scale.

Table 15. Women participation in selected cooperative at national level

Type of cooperative	≠ of primary cooperative	Members			% of women
		Male	Female	Total	
Multipurpose	7,299	3,857,586	580,477	4,382,704	13.44
Dairy & dairy product	348	12,976	7785	20,785	37.45
Forestry & tourism	20	5670	750	6420	11.68
Fruit & vegetable	137	8901	1127	10028	11.23
Insence & gums	54	2782	515	3297	15.62
Irrigation	1575	77,812	16929	95672	11.24
Saving & credit	8144	207,680	319319	526999	60.6
Fishery	70	3913	271	4138	6.55
Livestock rearing	328	12595	3779	16401	23.04
Agricultural byproduct	429	17787	2322	20293	11.44
Coffee	49	2745	1336	3091	43.22
Chatt	48	5846	295	6141	4.8
Mineral	1739	61539	6455	84494	7.64
Total	20,240	420246	456,085	5,180,463	18.87

According to FCA, (2004) in recent years, by the promotional effort on dairy marketing to establish marketing cooperatives and entry of private firms in the formal milk market, the government role in milk marketing and processing services is being supplemented in urban and peri-urban areas. On the same way, the dairy marketing cooperative are playing a significant role in providing the marketing service by buying milk from members and non members, process it and sell products to traders and local consumers. As the above table indicates, the national average women participation as membership of cooperatives at national level was 18.87, which is the smallest 4.8 for chatt cooperative society and, the largest 43.22 percent for coffee producers and marketing cooperatives. In the case of dairy and dairy products the national average of women participation is more than 37 percent.

4.6 Information Sharing of women farmers

Information is fact or understood data while knowledge is flexible and adaptable skills, a person's unique ability to apply it. Knowledge is tacit and personal, the knowledge one person has difficulty to

quantify, store, and retrieve for someone else to use. Specifically, for knowledge to be made explicit, it must be translated into information. Hence, information sharing referred to one-to-one exchange of data between a sender and receiver. There are four information sharing design patterns, one-to-one, one-to-many, many to- many and many-to-one. Formal sources of information are extension workers, NGOs, communications (meeting, interpersonal discussions), radio and the like (Gruber, 1993)

Valuable information can be transferred and shared through delivery of various sources such as training, field days, demonstrations, experience sharing, market, mass media, formal and informal meetings and discussions. Actors can be categorized into four, based on the frequency of contact and sources of information. farmers are the center of knowledge flow . Information and knowledge sharing were involved in trainings and related activities. Information that accessed by farmers was from trainings, advice, motivation, technical support, experience share, market prices, inputs and consultancy services.

Based on the survey questionnaires most of women farmers were become members through informal information exchange, by peer group and other social engagement practices. The role played in any important economic benefits pertaining to women farmers shared by women. It was also revealed that cooperative board directors plays decisive role in disseminating important information among women members and non members women. Cooperative promoters also plays important role to motivate women for membership (33.3%).

Table 16. How respondents get information for membership

Cooperative name	What was your initial source of information to be a member of coop			
	Cooperative office	friends/Peers	Members	Executive committee
Abdi Guddina (n=23)	56.5%	8.7%	17.4%	17.4%
Telile Berga (n=31)	25.8%	22.6%	16.1%	35.5%
Lonwaya (n=21)	19.0%	9.5%	14.3%	57.1%
Total (n=75)	33.3%	14.7%	16.0%	36.0%

Source: Own survey analysis

Most respondents revealed that peer group information sharing is the most important means of communication for women farmers. In this regard, many members were heard through these communication channels to be dairy cooperative member (14.7%) .

4.7 Livestock extension in the project areas

Development Agents were assigned at each peasant association comprising; which principally works on their areas of expertise, in each PA three DAs work together but have their own specialization; one is for livestock development, one is for natural resource related activities and one doing crop production and related activities. Three of them live with the farmers, appreciate farmers' problems, provide new technologies, and having close supervision, they are essential partners for bringing agricultural development in the area. The number of DAs in the study area is increasing from time to time. This

could be an opportunity to increasingly reach farmers seeking extension services. The insufficient number of female extension workers was one of the problems observed in the extension services. Lack of education and opportunities for the girls in rural areas contribute to limited number of female extension professionals. Now, many parents realized that their daughters' education as one of their main goals. This problem has been recognized by the Government, and as a result, enrollment rate of girls increased. Female extension workers graduated from ATVET colleges were also assigned in the surrounding PAs in the study area. When this research was conducted, the number of female extension workers working there were three. Even though, the number was too little, it was promising for the future strength of extension service in the study area.

4.8 How the Biftu Berga Union Benefits Member Farmers

Bifetu Berga dairy cooperative union was established to curb the challenges facing dairy farmers in both production and marketing areas. Since from the establishment up to now, the study tried to evaluate its effectiveness in achieving the stated objectives, efficiency for cost effectiveness in service delivery and relevance for market oriented dairy development. In additional, overall organizational growth is assessed to appraise the performance of the union.

4.8.1 Effectiveness

The cooperative is effective in achieving the initial objective of providing feed and milk marketing services through minimizing the high transaction cost for the sale of milk and reduce seasonal price fluctuations; increase production and productivity of dairy farms and improve the overall incomes of member farmers; supply inputs such as feed, health services to member farmers at reasonable price; and provide training in dairy cattle management, milk hygiene and handling and milk processing to members. Focus group discussion with the cooperative members revealed to evaluate the performance of the cooperative union members agreed on the statements for better

access to inputs at reasonable price, milk market, knowledge and skills.

Livestock production is an integral part of the production system. Production of cattle, sheep, goat, equines and poultry are a very common practice and there is an existing production system. The study area is certainly relatively more developed milk shed of the country, providing most of the dairy product to major consumer market; Addis Ababa. Just after establishment of each primary cooperatives and subsequently Bifetu Berga dairy cooperative union, member dairy farmers benefited through:

4.8.2 Whole milk collection service

The major intention of the establishment of Bifetu Berga dairy cooperative union was to bridge the production and marketing gaps facing primary dairy cooperative societies. In view of this, collection of milk at each primary cooperative level is one of the major duties of the union. Members milk producers are able to sell their whole milk without traveling long distances. According to FCD one of the best activity of the union that really support livestock owner was bridging the milk selling problem.

Table 17. Respondents respond on milk processing

Cooperative name	do you process milk	
	Yes	No
Abdi Gudina (31)	100.0%	.0%
Telila Berga (n=23)	93.5%	6.5%
Lonwaya (n=21)	90.5%	9.5%
Total (n=75)	94.7%	5.3%

4.8.3 Animal health service

In the country livestock producers depend mainly on public animal health service for free and/or cost recovery arrangements. Moreover, non public veterinary service providers are emerging following market oriented dairy production in the urban and peri urban settings. The government enabling environment for development of private sector in agricultural service delivery has undergone one step in animal health and veterinary service delivery gives a room for any person to establish animal health station, center or institution upon the fulfillment of the necessary requirements and requires in advance produce a certificate of competence from the ministry or concerned region in order to obtain a business license of animal health station, center or institution. The ministry shall create favorable conditions for the promotion of private animal health services delivery and based upon the nature of the services, define the role and responsibilities of the public and the private sector in the delivery of animal health services. But, this is not yet to come which is pointed as one of the major constraint for the private sector development in the service delivery. Whereas, on the basis of its public and private good character, while taking into account any externalities, moral hazard problems, or free rider problems that may accompany the production or consumption of the service, different authors have classified each services and determined the appropriate channel for delivery of services FAO (1998).

Apart from the gap in institutionalizing rules and regulation, private veterinary services providers are involved fully in the import, whole selling and retailing of veterinary drugs and equipments estimated to be over 627 in the country. In 2007, there are 28 firms involved in drug importation, 548 in vet drug retail, 51 in veterinary clinic (including drug dispensation) (MoARD, 2008). However, the playing field revealed that private animal health service providers are seriously constrained by illegal drug vendors that are charge reduced price where as the public has a role in ruling out the illegal actors. Moreover, these actors are constrained by the bureaucratic registration process to get a license from MoARD and/or its decentralized structures, lack the necessary favorable conditions to get land, incentives and capacity building supports such as leave of absence and incentive for

voluntary redundancies of public animal health personnel, subsidized credit and subsidized motorcycle for interested animal health professionals, which are implemented and successful in other countries (Veen and Haan, 1995 and Leonard *et al.*, 2000). Service providers involved in the retail and veterinary service still compliance on the veterinary drug supply arguing that the importers do not have responsible staff for drug selection and their current status of shifting to other business like medical equipments importation.

By revolving fund arrangement and financial support given to Bifetu Berga union by Self Help Africa, most important veterinary drugs were supplied for the livestock development veterinary clinics in the study areas. According to my discussion with livestock development staff of Welmera district, they positively commenting the union's contribution on backstopping the veterinary clinics to give commendable service to livestock owners.

4.8.4 Feed supply and services

As far as animal Feed is concerned, it is both inadequate supply and poor quality, it is one of the major factors limiting dairy productivity in the country. consequently, feed factories that produce animal feed and forage play paramount important role with respect to solving this problem. Rural Development Policies and Strategies emphasized the role that private sector can contribute in solving the problem. It further points the need to establish those factories and institutions by the government, when there is no alternative due to lack of participation of private investors. Accordingly, it is one sector that responded to liberalization policy flourishing private factories and firms in the production of concentrate feed. Niger seed cake and wheat bran market also follows the same trend following private sector investment in oil and flour and biscuit factories, respectively. Subsequently, feed retail market flourished up to rural levels.

The problem with this service is assuring quality which demands urgent need to institutionalize standard and quality system for the major feed types.

However, the forage and hay markets follows different trend. By its nature and due to small and shrinking grazing farm size, the amount required by smallholder from the market is small, which would not encouraged the involvement of private sector. Moreover, the adoption of the available technological options is limited. Hence, the forage development needs innovative research and service delivery for successful supply and introduction into the existing farming systems. The hay and crop residue market are constrained by supply problem due to the competition of hay and crop residue for export market.

The union contribution in supplying concentrate feed and molasses to members were encouraging. At lean period, specially at winter season where the shortage of animal feed is very serious such services were extremely important and should strengthened.

In collaboration with ACIDI/VOCA –Ethiopia, Feed Enhancement for Ethiopian Development Project, the union established forage nursery sites and distribute many kinds of perennial forage seedlings to members and even to non members livestock owners. This activity was supported by imparting technical trainings to livestock operators and development agents.

Based on the discussion we made with Bifetu Berga dairy cooperative union manager, the union has a plan in the future to establish one medium level feed processing plant that can liberalize the union from unfair treatment of private feed processing owners.

4.8.5 AI Services

Generally in Ethiopia, poor productivity of dairy cow contribute for low production of milk and milk products. In the country, crossbreeding service is provided through two major means: Artificial Insemination and distribution of improved breeds from cattle improvement and multiplication center. It is a service given by the public sector and recently starting privatizing. Through the efforts made by the union as well as other organizations like SHA, Holeta research center the number of improved breed of cow was improving from time to time. The next table explicitly shows this trend.

Table 18. Cattle population under primary cooperatives

Name of Primary cooperatives	Type of breed		Remark
	Exotic	Local	
Lon Waya	340	864	
Nano Gelan	360	870	
Lalisa	59	770	
Biftu	64	580	
Gitu	192	1040	
Abdigudina	164	1094	
Biruhtesfa	864	1074	
Dandigudina	493	813	
Dangakasaye	90	548	
Sellogudina	189	720	
Telila Barga	204	856	
B /Barga	90	870	
Kelecha Boru	43	540	
Total	3152	10639	

Source: Bifetu Berga dairy cooperative union

4.8.6 Credit service

Though the credit market is responsive for the liberalized economy in the country, it is not serving the dairy sector as needed. Through the guarantee fund secured by Self Help Africa (SHA); an NGO supporting the union capacity and the cooperative were benefited very well. One of this support was the guarantee fund scheme with private bank for loan provision.

The union itself also give input credit, specifically concentrate feed to members on regular basis when the critical animal fodder shortage happens at dry period. The union was so effective delivering effectual service provision viz. AI and feed service, milk marketing services through minimizing the high transaction cost for the sale of milk and reduce seasonal price fluctuations; increase production and productivity of dairy farms and improve the overall income of member farmers; supply inputs to member farmers at reasonable price and better quality; and provide training and advisory services in dairy cattle management, production and marketing. Evaluation results on

the performance of the cooperative revealed that sample members are agree and strongly agree on the statements for better access to inputs at reasonable price, marketing through the cooperative, knowledge and skills on improved dairy management, better access to outside and social support services, acquired business skills; and more income, saving and consumption since joining the cooperative. However, members complain on the timeliness and effectiveness of the input services supplied by the cooperative.

Table 19. Board constituency of Biftu Berga dairy cooperative its affiliates

	Name of dairy cooperative	Number of board members		% of board constituency	
		Men	Women	Men	Women
1	Lon Waya	9	1	90	10
2	Nano Gelan	10	0	100	0
3	Lalisa	10	0	100	0
4	Biftu	10	0		
5	Jitu	9	1	90	0
6	Abdigudina	10	0	100	0
7	Biruhtesfa	10	0	100	0
8	Dandi gudina	10	0	100	0
9	Danga kasaye	10	0	100	0
10	Sello gudina	10	0	100	0
11	T elila Barga	0	10	0	100
12	Bilacha Barga	10	0	100	0
13	Kalacha Boru	10	0	100	0
	Biftu Berga union	8	2	80	20

*seven members are board of directors & three members are control committee

5. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

5.1 CONCLUSION

In this study, the assessment was done on three primary dairy cooperative societies that purposively selected in order to get women members. The study had an objectives of identifying the general working situation of Bifetu Berga dairy cooperative union, to evaluate women farmers income generated by the dairy cooperative union, to examine the employment generated to women member farmers and to analyze the participation of women member farmers in decision making in dairy cooperatives. After getting all these, the findings offer recommendations based on the findings.

The data collection methodologies were using primary and secondary data collections methods. In view of this, 75 respondents, which all of them are women members selected for the survey. On top of this, FCDs that incorporate women group and primary cooperative societies leaders for the purpose of having the intact perception. In addition to this, the researcher own observation also used to enrich the collected data. To analyze and interpret the collected data, the researcher used descriptive statistics such as measures of central tendency, frequency, percentages, and with the use of Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS).

The major findings of this study includes; Bifetu Berga union was relatively effective delivering effectual service provision viz. AI and feed service, milk marketing services through minimizing the high transaction cost for the sale of milk and reduce seasonal price fluctuations; increase production and productivity of dairy farms and improve the income of member farmers; supply inputs to member farmers at reasonable price and better quality; and provide training and advisory services in dairy cattle management, production and marketing. Evaluation results on the performance of the cooperative revealed that sample members are agree and strongly agree on the statements for better access to inputs at reasonable price, marketing through the cooperative, knowledge and skills on improved dairy management, better access to business skills; and more income, saving and consumption since joining the cooperative. However,

members complain on the timeliness and effectiveness of the input services supplied by the cooperative union.

Based on the sample survey, the establishments of cooperative societies both at primary and secondary level, make the farmers getting continuous and sustainable market when compared to prior the establishments of dairy cooperative societies. The access created to consumers by the union, forge confidence to producers.

Through this findings it is revealed that; women in the agricultural sector faces many socio-economic, educational and institutional obstacles to realizing their full potential. They also lack appropriate and usable information that could help them with their farming activities. They need information on a wide range of subjects, including agricultural production, milk processing, marketing and milk hygiene and feeding. Dairy production is one of the major areas of activities where women farmers participate in the study area. Information is said to be a resource that must be acquired and used for the improvement of agricultural production. The sharing of ideas and information forms a large part in extension agents' job. Having adequate well-presented information will improve the efficiency of rural development projects and programmes.

Generally, based on the research findings, it is revealed that the performance and service delivery of the union to members were unsatisfactory. The major reasons for this were: the overall capacity of the union were poor to address the members needs on the areas of improved feed, AI, improved heifer and etc service deliveries. The major shortcomings are capital, professional employees, credit and related problems. The other important result of this study is; the participation of women on decision making in cooperative matters were very poor, and the leaders of all societies under investigation was men leaders. The percentage of women board members in the union and at each primary cooperative society was below 20% and 33 % respectively. Unfortunately, there were no women board directors for two cooperative societies. Only one primary dairy cooperative that all members were women, no men members, as a result all boards of directors were women. As far as the income of women members are concerned , most of respondents revealed that their income from the

dairy product positively increases just after become member of their cooperative societies.

Capacity in terms infrastructure, technology, and financial resources is the other dimension of organization capacity that influence its performance. In this regard, the district livestock extension service is challenged by serious shortage of operational budget, transportation facilities and improved technology for distribution and demonstration. This in turn contributed on the poor motivation of staff. Unless appropriate measures are timely taken, with poor pay to the staff, in adequate logistics and operational budget, and low motivation to serve farmers, there is a danger that the public extension system will have impact on the transformation of the subsistence agriculture.

Organization internal factors that influence the direction of the organization livestock extension system and the energy displayed in its activities can be incentive and rewards systems and the organizational leadership and management style. Accordingly, the poor incentive and reward system for frontline agricultural staff operational in the current extension system is negatively affecting the organization performance.

The relevance of the public dairy service to market oriented dairy development is challenging due to its ineffective role it plays in facilitating linkages between producers and market agents, financial institutions, input suppliers and other support services. The current extension services have good numbers of staff but constrained by shortage of skills for facilitation, negotiation and network and platform building, system accountability, supply driven nature, poor incentive systems, shortage of operational costs and working facilities. These competencies and role gap require the public dairy service to adopt organizational innovation to transform itself to market oriented public dairy advisory service provider that tend to include accountability, farmer empowerment , cost sharing for sustainability, reorientation to market and knowledge management.

The demand for institutional support services for livestock development in these production systems can vary significantly. The

way extension system is oriented in Ethiopia may not be in the best interest of livestock keepers and lacks the responsive capacity to the demands for livestock services. In fact, most often livestock development issues are left to development projects and NGOs that have limited scope, coverage and duration. The major inputs for livestock development include animal genetic resources, feeds and forages, veterinary drugs, vaccines, machinery equipment and utensils as well as knowledge. Most of these inputs have been supplied only by the government or government sponsored projects. Limited credit facilities to support livestock development have been provided by microfinance institutions, food security projects, small-scale micro enterprises and NGOs.

5.2 RECOMMENDATION

Based on this study the researcher recommends the following in relation to dairy sector in general and women dairy cooperatives in particular. The recommendations are not exhaustive it basis the research outputs.

- Findings of this study indicate that participation of women farmers in various areas of extension programmes was very low in the study area. Agricultural extension services should no longer continue considering women as housewives and mothers only, focusing mainly on male farmers. Improving participation of women farmers in various areas of extension programmes is the best option for empowering farm women for better networking of agricultural information. Therefore, it is recommended that, training programmes should be organized and conducted based on women's need, in a manner that women are encouraged to attend, taking into consideration timing, duration, location and language; in any training organized for farmers, at least 30% should include women farmers.
- The institutional strength of cooperative at apex level is stronger than lowest level. Most of primary cooperative societies are not on equal paces with the union in which they are member. Thus, special consideration should be in place for

cooperative societies at the lower strata. Development partners, promoters and the union and federations should focus on the capacity buildings of these societies.

- The union should strengthen its service delivery to members in more compressive and organized ways. The union at the investigation time focused on only few areas, and did not engaged on other input provision and processing of milk products. Unless otherwise start value addition to dairy product the competitiveness and the service provision to members is not achieved. Therefore, the union work strategically to address this issue in the near future.

- Without professionalizing the cooperative sector as any business entity we could not bring tangible changes in cooperative development of the country. In the study area, almost more than 98 percent of day to day menial activities to corporate level business are done by elected non professional board of directors. The current competitive dairy market business needs competent professionals, as a result employed professional staff recruitment at union and primary cooperative level is not optional it is mandatory. Thus, the promoters and the union board of directors should focus on this and begin to take corrective measure to sustain the business.

- To bring more women to cooperatives a concerted efforts are important to aware them the values of cooperation and the benefit getting from cooperative societies. Intentionally designing appropriate time and place for women education, and taking into account the multiple roles of women in the communities. The Biftu Berga union itself properly plan how to reach women farmers to bring them to primary cooperative societies.

- The other important issues scrutinized during this research endeavor were the decision making capabilities of women necessitate development planners and cooperative promoters to work hard to bring women farmers to cooperative leadership. In this regard, target should be set and cooperative bylaws

emphasis and incorporated women leaders for the full participation of women in cooperative societies at all level, specifically dairy cooperatives. Thus, it is possible to put clearly for instance, fifty per cent of board of directors constituency shall be reserved for women. The researcher personal believe that such affirmative action can bring radical change to increase women leadership in cooperative sector.

- Development agents are the change drivers to forge development at farmers level. But, consequently most of development agents and frontline extension staff morale is the other important staff capacity dimension. The current extension services have good numbers of specialized staff but constrained by low staff morale. Possibly due to the poor incentive structure and lack of staff development, low salary and others, several DAs and other technical staff in the sector discouraged to work at grassroots level, as a result of doing non agricultural activities ,. This will have negative implication to the envisaged development of the sector since the effectiveness of agricultural extension work highly depends on the quality and numbers of extension professionals who are qualified, motivated, committed and responsive to farmer demands.

- Increasing women's education and accessing resources is a key way to reduce their constraints and increase agricultural production, which can improve their food security at household level.

- Financial institutions to serve the dairy producers in terms of providing credit for the cooperative and members and include additional services like livestock insurance as one option to improve the finance services. In addition, institutional innovation is required by the cooperative to forge network among the finance sector and create a link with dairy producers and other stakeholders in the milk value chain. With this regard, the role of dairy associations at all levels has paramount importance to advocate for responsive credit system for the sector. To mitigate credit problem, the establishment of

saving and credit cooperatives and creating a horizontal financial linkage among cooperatives can also ease the problem.

- The frontline agricultural staff or DAs are change drivers, without empowering and backstopping them the impact we are expecting from development efforts are unthinkable. The current numbers of development agents at PA level are encouraging. Nevertheless, the researcher tried to discuss with development agents for livestock sector, most of them have low moral to serve the farmers, as a result of lack of incentives, transportation problems and lack of residential houses at their working areas and other related challenges are facing them. Therefore, special attention and supports are extremely important and it should be areas of focus for all actors of the sector.

- Organizational competitiveness is required by the financial institutions to serve the dairy producers in terms of loan size and period and include additional services like livestock insurance as one options to improve the finance service. In addition, institutional innovation is required to forge network among the finance sector and create a link with other stakeholder in the milk value chain. With this regard, the role of dairy cooperatives at all level has paramount importance to advocate for responsive credit system for the sector.

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7. Annexes

Annex 1: Project Proposal

INDRA GANDHI NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Proposal for a Thesis Research

**In Partial Fulfillment of the Master of Art Degree
in Rural Development**

**A STUDY ON THE IMPACT OF DAIRY COOPERTATIVE
UNION ON WOMEN FARMERS; THE CASE OF BEFTU
BERGA DAIRY UNION, WESTERN OROMIA, ETHIOPIA**

By: AMSALU ANDARGE

ADVISOR: PROFESSOR S.NAKKIRAN

**OCTOBER,
2011**

List of acronyms

ACDI/VOCA Agricultural Cooperatives Development International
/Volunteers for

Overseas Cooperative Assistance

CSA Central Statistical Authority

ETB Ethiopian Birr

FCA Federal Cooperative Agency

NGO Non-Governmental Organization

USD United States Dollar

SD standard deviation

SHA Self Help Africa

LD Line Departments

WDC women dairy cooperative societies

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1. BACKGROUND

There are still some prevailing laws which place barriers for women's participation in agricultural cooperatives and/or farmers' associations, like land ownership and head of the household. In many societies the very women who need to organize to cooperate and prosper lack the time for participation due to multiple work demands. Cooperatives being people-centered movement had recognized these limitations place on women by the society and economic institutions. Experiments made in different parts of the world clearly indicate that women's participation in cooperatives and other local government bodies not only provides them an opportunity to articulate their problems but it also helps them to be an active partner in decision making process. (D.Prakash, 2003)

Many countries are attempting to increase livestock and especially milk production by assisting small-scale farmers, since they are the most numerous and poorest of the population, and very often also landless. Such a policy has a social as well as a commercial purpose since while it provides rural employment, more cash income and diversification away from traditional crop production (by-products), it also enhances the utilization of potential family labour. The farmer cooperative system has proved to be an effective vehicle for livestock development in general and for dairy development in particular in rural areas.

The dairy cooperative sector in Ethiopia in general and Oromia region in particular has long history. Nonetheless, the development is still on infant stage, as a result of financial, managerial, technological challenges and low involvement of women. Towards this end, this research study will tries to assess the impact of dairy cooperative union in increasing the income and participation of women farmers in the study areas.

1.2 Statement of the problem

Milk production on average is estimated not more than seven liters for cross breed and 1.5 liters per cow per day under farmers management, this shows low levels of productivity in the study area. The overall milk production sector of Ethiopia is highly vulnerable to technological, production, feed, health and marketing challenges. In relation to this, as all of us aware about the involvement of women in dairy sector, most of activities are being implemented by women and the lion share of income goes to male farmers or husbands.

The main intention of this impact assessment is to identify the main challenges and opportunities facing women cooperative members, and the role that will be played by dairy cooperative union to address women issues in general.

The study also identify the participation of women members in technology use, training use and access created to credit and other similar related issues.

1.3 Significant of the study

It is revealed that the role and contribution of women in agricultural activities in general and in dairy sector in particular is higher than the male counterparts. In view of this, theoretically most of dairy cooperative societies are male dominant in third world countries including Ethiopia.

Generally, identifying the impact of cooperative societies in women development has much contributes for development planners, agricultural and cooperative offices and non-governmental organization working in this sector. Consequently, this research study will help the cooperative sector actors and researchers to insight the issue for further investigation and application.

1.4 Objective of the study

The objectives of this research project are stipulated as follows:

1. To study the general working situation of BiftuBerga dairy cooperative union

2. To study women farmers income generating by the dairy cooperative union
3. To examine the employment generated to women member farmers
4. To analyze the participation of women member farmers in decision making in the dairy cooperative
5. To offer suggestions based on the findings of the study

2 Research Methodology

2.1 Description of the study area

Befetu Berga dairy cooperative union is found in one of the potential milk belt region of Ethiopia. Geographically the union is located in oromia regional state, West Shewa administrative zone. Befetu berga dairy union established in 2005 with thirteen primary dairy cooperative societies that are located in three districts namely Welmera, Ejere and Adea Berga. Currently, the union has 13 primary dairy cooperatives with 645 farmers membership. The union head office is found at Holeta city. The major activities of Befetu Berga union is collection of milk from members farmers in order to fetch good price to members livestock operators, supply of improved animal feed to members, credit provision, transport services, veterinary medicine supply to members and capacity building activities.

At present few like-minded non-governmental organizations viz. Self Help Africa (SHA) and ACDI/VOCA are supporting this union on the range of many areas like: capacity building through training, equipment support, forage seeds and seedlings provision and warehouse and office building activities.

Table 1. Membership and livestock holdings data of BiftuBerga union

No	Name of Primary cooperatives	District	Membership			No of cattle	
			Male	Female	Total	Exotic breed	Local breed
1	Lon Waya	Walmera	10	60	70	340	864
2	Nano Gelan	Welmera	20	3	23	360	870
3	Lalisa	welmera	31	8	39	59	770
4	Biftu	welmera	25	6	34	64	580
5	Gitu	welmera	37	5	42	192	1040
6	Abdigudina	Ejare	76	61	137	164	1094
7	Biruhtesfa	Ejare	53	6	59	864	1074
8	Dandigudina	Ejare	57	19	76	493	813
9	Dangakasaye	Ejare	13	3	16	90	548
10	Sellogudina	Ejare	78	4	82	189	720
11	T /Barga	Adabarga	-	45	45	204	856
12	B /Barga	Adabarga	8	37	45	90	870
13	K/ Boru	Adabarga	17	3	20	43	540
	Total		444	260	704	3152	10639

Source: Biftu Berga dairy cooperative union

2.2 Scope and limitation of the study

This research project is subjected to the following limitations, viz. due to time and financial constraints it is limited to one dairy cooperative union having thirteen primary dairy cooperative societies. In view of this, among these cooperatives, three primary cooperative societies with 120 respondents will be selected for the envisaged study. Therefore, this study is limited in time and space as mentioned above.

2.3. Sampling

Under this study it is believed that the sample size could represent the total population beneath the envisaged investigation. Keeping this in mind, three primary cooperative societies will be selected using purposive random sampling, out of these, twenty five respondents will be selected from each cooperatives and totally seventy five farmers will be interviewed.

2.4. Methods of data collection

Data sources will be categorized under two data collection methodologies:

2.4.1 Primary data

Structured questionnaires will be separately prepared for dairy cooperative union, for primary dairy cooperatives and for member farmers. In addition to this, focus group discussion has been proposed with women members, key informants and cooperative leaders.

2.4.2 Secondary data

Secondary data is also relevant for this research topic that will be collected from different sources that including: BeftuBerga dairy cooperative union, primary cooperatives societies affiliated to Beftuberga union, cooperative promotion offices, livestock development and health agency offices, Holeta research center and from others published and unpublished documents.

2.4.3 Method of data analysis

The data generated are qualitative and quantitative in nature. The qualitative assessment will be employed for data gathered by focused group discussion, and dairy and cooperative sector document analysis.

The quantitative data gathered from cooperatives and respondents will be analyzed by using descriptive statistics, like mean, minimum, maximum, percentage, frequency and etc. After finalizing the data collected activities, the data will be coded for further analysis and interpretation. During this time, statistical package for social sciences (SPSS) also employed in order to well interpreted the findings.

3 Literature Review

Regardless of the level of development achieved by the respective economies, women play a pivotal role in agriculture and in rural development in most countries. Evidently there are serious constraints which militate against the promotion of an effective role

for women in development in those societies which were bound by age-old traditions and beliefs. Patriarchal modes and practices motivated by cultures and/or interpretations of religious sanctions and illiteracy hinder women's freedom to opt for various choices to assert greater mobility in social interactions. Resulting from these situations, women's contribution to agriculture and other sectors in the economy remain concealed and unaccounted for in monitoring economic performance measurement. Consequently, they are generally invisible in plans and programmes. They were, in fact, discriminated against by stereotypes which restrict them to a reproductive role, and denied access to resources which could eventually enhance their social and economic contribution to the society. In developing countries, among the poor, rural women are the poorest and more vulnerable. Empirical evidences suggest that women in rural areas are more adversely affected by poverty than men. The incidence of poverty among rural women is on the rise in most of the developing countries. The issues of gender bias and equity point to the double burden women have to bear - that on being poor and being a woman. Further strategies and programmes for development had largely overlooked the question of gender equity. Projects aiming to reduce poverty view the poor rural women as the recipient of benefits of development, instead of active participant and still poor rural women have the least access to basic needs such as food, health and education. (D. Prakash, 2003)

Cooperation among people has existed since history has been record. Traditional forms of cooperation involved community members voluntarily pooling financial resources through "iqub", which was an association of people having the common objectives of mobilizing resources, especially finance, and distributing it to members on rotating basis. There were also initiatives for labour resource mobilization that were to overcome seasonal labour peaks, known as "Jigie", "Wonfel", among others. There also was the idir, which was an association for provision of social and economic insurance for the members in the events of death, accident, damages to property, among others. These informal associations continue to operate in Ethiopia.(E.Bezabih, 2009)

Challenges and problems for dairying vary from one production system to another and/or from one location to another. The structure

and performance of livestock and its products marketing both for domestic consumption and for export is generally perceived poor in Ethiopia. Underdevelopment and lack of market-oriented production, lack of adequate information on livestock resources, inadequate permanent trade routes and other facilities like feeds, water, holding grounds, lack or non-provision of transport, ineffectiveness and inadequate infrastructural and institutional set-ups, prevalence of diseases, illegal trade and inadequate market information (internal and external) are generally mentioned as some of the major reasons for the poor performance of this sector (Belachew 1998; Belachew and Jemberu 2003; Yacob as cited in Ayele et al. 2003).

In regard to dairy cooperative unions it is an emerging issue in Ethiopian cooperative development history. Most of smallholder farmers are working on separate and unorganized ways when we come to livestock sector. As a result this has its negative impact to establishment and development of dairy cooperatives as well unions in the country.

The importance of women to Indian dairying cannot be overstated. In much of the country it is women who care for, feed and milk the cows and buffaloes. Raising their participation is essential to the long-term strength of the dairy cooperative movement. It is evident that in pursuance of value of cooperation, empowered women mass in rural India, in turn these small woman cooperators, in aggregate created cooperatives with spirit of cooperation. The empowered women in cooperatives have strengthened social, economic & political conditions in rural mass of India. Emerging strong and robust Economy of the country is obliged to this undercurrent movement at grass root. The National dairy Development Board affirmative actions to bring women into mainstream are not limited to dairy cooperative, but its impact is on rural socio-economic sphere. There is still a room to carry out research further to trace how many women are benefited by the movement and quantify it reasonably. (V. Sapovadia & S. Achuthan, 2001)

As far as empowerment of women is concerned, this took place mainly through the women dairy cooperative societies (WDC). In the WDCs women find themselves empowered, as they are authorized to make their own decisions in meetings held outside the home. Income

from WDCs enables the women to make most household expenditures without being dependent on their husbands. It has also played an important role in generating employment for women. With 3.5 million milk suppliers, "it is reasonable to assume that 5 percent represented women who were able to stay at home rather than go out for work. This withdrawal of women from the labour force will have created an additional 175,000 laboring jobs, predominantly for the very poor," reveals the assessment report of the World Bank in 1998. (Amul, 2003)

4 Project work plan

The proposed sample survey questionnaire and focus group discussion will be carried out within three primary dairy cooperatives, the data enumerators will be selected from cooperative promotion staff, development agents working in the geographical location of BeftuBerga cooperative union. Below is the work plan and financial plan of the project.

Table 2 work plan

No	Activities	Proposed months for implementation							Remark
		Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	
1	Research topic selection	X							
2	Research proposal submission		X						
3	Informing LDs and union		X						
4	Trainings of data collectors		X						
5	Selection of representative sample		X	X					
6	Data collection			X					
7	Entering & cleaning of data			X	X				
8	Data analysis				X	X	X		
9	Draft thesis report preparation & submission						X		
10	Final draft report						X	X	

Table 3 financial plan (ETB)

No	Budget item	Unit	Quantity	Unit cost	Total cost	Remark
1	Researcher	Per	1*30	90	2700	
2	Data collectors	"	3*6	90	1620	
3	Trainer	"	3*3	300	2700	
4	Data manipulator	"	1*8	350	2800	
5	Secretarial services expenses	"	2*3	150	900	
6	Stationeries	LS			2500	
7	Transportation	Ls			1000	
8	Vehicle rent	Ls			5400	
9	Miscellaneous	Ls			4000	
	Total				23, 620	

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Annex 2: Interview guide for women members

- 1. What challenges do women face in regard to join primary cooperative societies?**
- 2. How you become members of your cooperative societies**
- 3. Do women have the same right as men to lead the primary cooperative societies? yes or no? If No Why?**
- 4. What types of contributions needed to become cooperative members?**
- 5. Do institution exist that are appropriate and adequately empowered women in agricultural development and cooperative development?**
- 6. If such institution exists, do they accommodate in their decision making structures and process, which are a true representation of women members?**
- 7. Do they have the sufficient capacity institutionally, technically and logistically to respond.**
- 8. What are the people attitudes towards widows, divorces or spinsters in the in relation to cooperatives?**
- 9. In your opinion what are some of the changes you observed in your life after getting such knowledge and information from your cooperative?**
- 10. As a member of the dairy cooperative what are the new knowledge and information that you get from your cooperative ?**
 - 10.1 In relation to access to technology:.....**
 - 10.2 In relation to marketing:**
 - 10.3 In relation to changing in attitudes and skills:.....**
 - 10.4 In relation to getting new knowledge and information:**

Annex: 3 Interview guide for cooperative leaders

- 1. To whom does the decision making belongs in your cooperative society?**
- 2. Is there anything to say in the bylaws to bring women in cooperative leadership?**
- 3. Who is entitled to receive dividends in the union, wife or husband?**
- 4. Which criteria do you have in place for farmers to be member of your cooperative society?**
- 5. Is the government cooperative proclamation in line with women membership demands for equal rights for men and women?**
- 6. Do women's less access to cooperative membership limit their access in agricultural technology?**
- 7. Do you think that women's improved access to cooperative membership can help to improve their income?**
- 8. Do women customary status in society constraint their full participation in dairy cooperative society?**
- 9. Women participation in cooperative society shows increasing trends or not? What are the major reasons?**
- 10. Is there any affirmative action to women to become cooperative members?**
- 11. How many women are elected as board of directors in your cooperative society? What are your comments?**

Annex 4. Household Survey Questionnaire

Peasant Association _____

Date _____

Name of Household's head _____

1. Age of respondent _____

3 Marital status 1= Single 2= Married 3= Divorced 4=Widowed

4. Religion affiliation 1. Orthodox 2. Muslim 3. Protestant 4.

Others/ specify

5. Education level 0= uneducated 1= read & write

2= Primary school (grade 1-6) 3= secondary school (grade 7-12)

4= Higher education

6. Family size _____

7. Have you ever participated on dairy development training for the past three years? 1) No 2) Yes

7.1.2 If the answer for Q. 9.1 is no, what was the reasons?

7.1.3 If yes, specify the training type and the organization imparted the training.

8. How much was the quantity of milk sold in liter during the last cropping season

To the dairy cooperative _____ Liters

To others _____ Liters

9 If you are selling your milk to the dairy cooperative, what are the main reasons?

1. To accomplish membership requirements
2. To acquire dividend
3. To get reliable & dependable market
4. Cooperative is better in order to get better price
5. The cooperative's milk collection centers are nearer to my home
6. Others _____

10. If you are selling your milk to others, what are the main reasons for that?

1. The cooperative is not ready to purchase
2. The cooperative has no milk collection center near to my resident
3. Price difference/ the cooperative didn't pay competitive price
4. The cooperative society received on loan basis
5. Others (specify) _____

11. Where did you sell your milk before you become member of the dairy cooperative?

12. What are the major milk marketing constraints you have observed?

1. Lack of buyers at fasting seasons
2. Distance of milk collection centers from my home
3. Lack of getting processing plant (to societies)
4. Inadequacy of labor in the household to transport milk
5. Spoilage of milk during transportation
6. Unable to get market information
7. Others (specify) _____

13. Are processing milk? If yes for what reason?

1. For home consumption
2. To get better market price than selling whole milk
3. There is high demand of milk products than selling the milk
4. Others (specify) _____

14. Initially where did you get information to be member of the cooperative?

1. Cooperative office
2. Friends/ peers
3. Members
4. Executive committees of the dairy cooperative
5. Others (Specify) _____

15. What benefits you have get as being cooperative member?

1. Ensure market stability
2. Help members to get inputs (Credit, Feed, Artificial insemination and credit other services)

3. Can ensure more profit/ income
4. Training and educational services
5. Members can get a forum to exchange their technical knowledge

6. Others (specify) _____

16. What were the requirements you had to fulfill to be member of the

Cooperative society?

1. Registration fee
2. Share
3. By-laws of the cooperative
4. having dairy cows
5. Others (specify) _____

17. Have you understand the by-laws of the cooperative when you joined the

Cooperative society?

1. Yes 2. No

If No, why?

1. The board of directors of the cooperative didn't told me about By-law's of the cooperative
2. I don't have information about the presence of the by-law
3. Others (specify) _____

18. As a member of the dairy cooperative do you have access to the following

services from your cooperative:

1. AI services
2. Improved Feed
3. Forage seed
4. Veterinary services
5. Improved breeds / crossbreed cows
6. Credit services
7. Extension services
8. Training and education services
9. Dividend
10. Employment opportunity

19. Did the cooperative pay dividend to members for the last year?

1. Yes 2. No

1. If yes, did you get money as patronage refund / dividend from the cooperative last year?

1. Yes 2. No

2. If yes, how much was the amount of money you got as dividend last year? _____ birr.

3. If no, do you know the possible reasons?

4. Didn't market products through the cooperative

5. The general meeting of the cooperative decided to re-invested the money for expansion of tasks

20. Have you ever participated on dairy production training for the past three

years? 1) No 2) Yes

I- If the answer for Q. 20.1. is no, what was the reasons?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

21. what is/are the major commonly felt problems that isn't/aren't solved by the cooperative in your area?

1. Lack of having enough milk collection centers near to my home
2. Lack of providing adequate dairy inputs for members
3. Lack of having enough materials like chilling plant and refrigerators to preserve milk and milk products
4. Lack of commitments by the management committees for the long term success of the cooperative
5. Others (specify) _____

22. In general, do you believe that farmers will overcome their commonly felt problems by working together?

1. Yes 2. No

22.2. If No, what is/ are the possible reasons?

1. Lack of responsibility for common work
2. Misuse of the cooperative by some individuals
3. Lack of commitment by the members
4. Political influence/ intervention
5. Others specify _____

23. Benefits of members from the dairy cooperative

Better access to technology

- Strongly disagree
- Disagree/ Agree
- Strongly agree

Reasonable price

- Strongly disagree
- Disagree/ Agree
- Strongly agree

Better access to market

- Strongly disagree
- Disagree/ Agree
- Strongly agree

Better knowledge & skills in improved dairy production and management

- Strongly agree
- Disagree/agree
- disagree Agree

More income after membership

- Strongly agree
- Disagree/agree
- Disagree Agree

More savings after membership

- Strongly
- Disagree/agree
- Disagree Agree

More improved diet

- Strongly
- Disagree/agree
- Strongly Agree

Annex 5 :Agricultural Cooperatives data of Oromia region

Type of cooperative	≠ of cooperative	Members			Capital	Remark
		Male	Female	Total		
Multipurpose	3078	1101830	96805	1143222	302024023.6	
Irrigation users	479	23777	3714	27313	9537954.55	
Grain marketing	207	12829	5553	18382	12846702.92	
seed multiplication	34	1572	148	1720	437975.93	
Dairy producers	132	6182	5910	12092	10782989.34	
Honey producers	29	633	17	650	220304.43	
Fishery	34	1619	183	1756	453351.72	
Poultry producers	8	305	119	424	46800	
Animal feed marketing	9	274	407	681	307276.16	
Forest producers'	97	6696	1093	7789	1728986.6	
Abattoirs	13	258	10	268	1320662.51	
Fattening	304	9813	3559	13372	2816868.46	
Environmental protection	4	1057	57	1114	682216.23	
Water harvesting	10	416	29	445	-	
Silk warm rearing	1	0	15	15	895608	
Sugarcane producers	12	1539	636	2175	5609971.22	
Chat marketing	48	5846	295	6141	1397716	
Hides and skins	2	42	3	45	3793053.5	
vegetable producers	65	2918	409	3327	468780.62	
coffee producers	43	2707	335	3042	686228	
Livestock rearing	248	5083	2309	7336	27000	
livestock marketing	61	1815	479	2294	22541.9	
animal health	10	259	32	291	129771	
incense and Gums	6	150	59	209	5238849.36	
Ornamental	1	0	10	10	302024023.6	
Cultural medicine	5	224	38	262	9537954.55	
Agricultural production	13	620	13	633	12846702.92	
marketing centers	35	2259	426	2685	437975.93	
Total	4992	1190723	122663	1257693	362522231.3	

Source: Oromia cooperative promotion agency