

ANNUAL CONFERENCE FOR IMTFI-FUNDED RESEARCH  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, IRVINE

ADAPTATION TO MARKET  
OPPORTUNITIES AND  
CHANGING GENDER ROLES  
AMONG THE AFAR IN ETHIOPIA

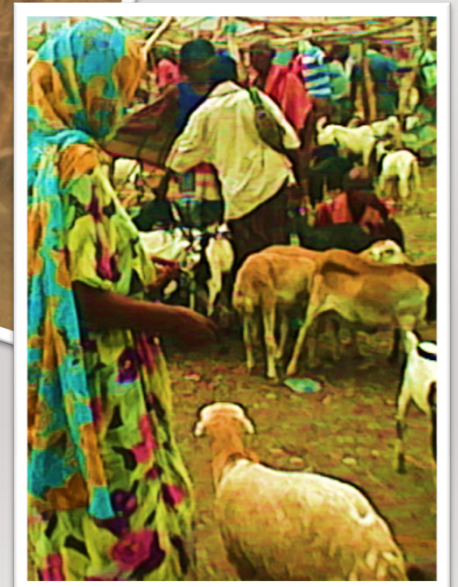
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December, 2014



2014

# PASTORAL LIVELIHOODS IN AFAR







## OBJECTIVES

This presentation describes:

- ✓The activities completed so far
- ✓The remaining activities and modification done
- ✓Finally, I present my progress on the approved activity timelines

cont. ↓



### **The Research Team**

- ✓ **5 females and 7 males**
- ✓ **11 have Degrees**
- ✓ **Urban and rural settings**
- ✓ **Briefed about aims and techniques**

### **Within the Market Economy, the Objectives of the Project:**

- ✓ **Examine aspects of policies and institutional changes;**
- ✓ **Examine the efforts and challenges they encountered;**
- ✓ **Investigate contribution to livelihoods, poverty reduction;**
- ✓ **Investigate occupational evaluation and social mobility;**
- ✓ **Finally, making policy recommendations**

**cont.**







## Completed Research Activities

- ✓The activities completed so far
- ✓Obtaining and reviewing documents
- ✓Obtaining and arranging logistics
- ✓Travels and data collection
- ✓Transcription and categorization
- ✓Progress reports

cont. ↓





**Modifications done on:**

- ✓The research design
- ✓The target group

**Accordingly, data collected from:**

- ✓ Women
- ✓ Administrators
- ✓ Civic and religious leaders
- ✓ Tribal chiefs and sages
- ✓ Afar Academics

cont. ↓





## **Methodology**

Based on an interpretative approach,

It examined experiences and narratives

So that

It employed case studies involving

- ✓ In-depth interviews
- ✓ Semi-structure interviews
- ✓ Small group discussions

**cont.** ↓



Conducted in three stages

Conducted in the homes or verandas

Most of them in markets, shops and offices

Either in Amharic or Afarifa

During early morning and late afternoon to evening

Each evening, team convened for recounting stories

### **Samples**

Samples of both sexes

Purposively selected

cont. ↓





## Challenges and resolution

- ✓ Reluctance to agree for interviews
- ✓ Overemphasizing on issues of policies
- ✓ Declined to avail on day hours
- ✓ Difficult to organize FGD as planned
- ✓ Using contact persons related to them
- ✓ Using former contacts and students
- ✓ Formal discussions with small groups
- ✓ One informant from a household

cont.





### **Profiles of Informants and Preliminary Findings**

- ✓The final samples was 89 informants
- ✓ Selected from three generations

#### **The oldest generation**

- ✓Aged from their early 60s to late 80s
- ✓Most had been born and lived in villages
- ✓Boasting for number of cattle and camels

#### **The middle generation**

- ✓Aged from early 40s and late 50s
- ✓Many had been born and raised in villages,
- ✓10 of them had had some educations,
- ✓17 employed or business
- ✓4 from female-headed

#### **The youngest generation**

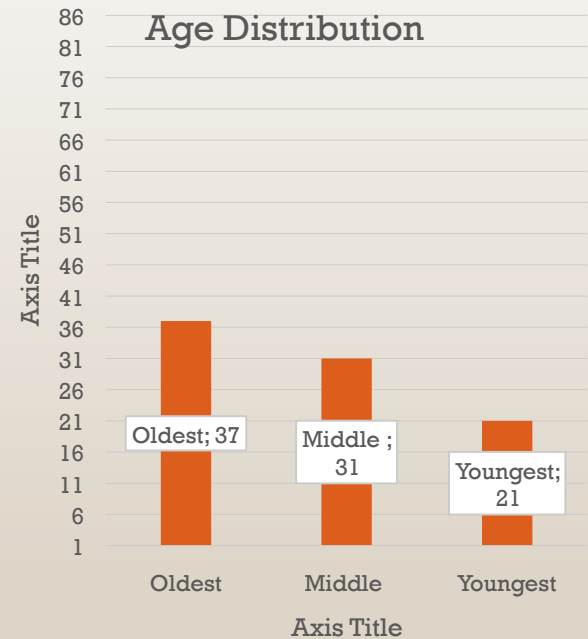
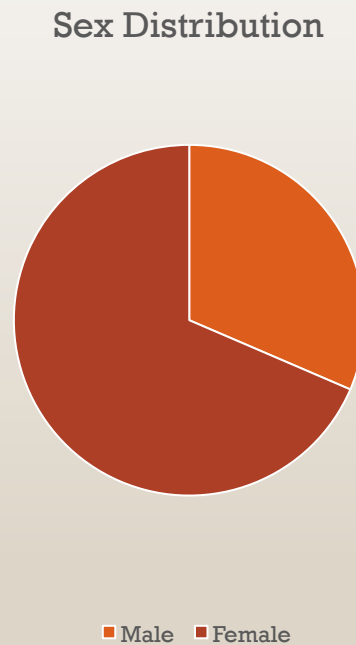
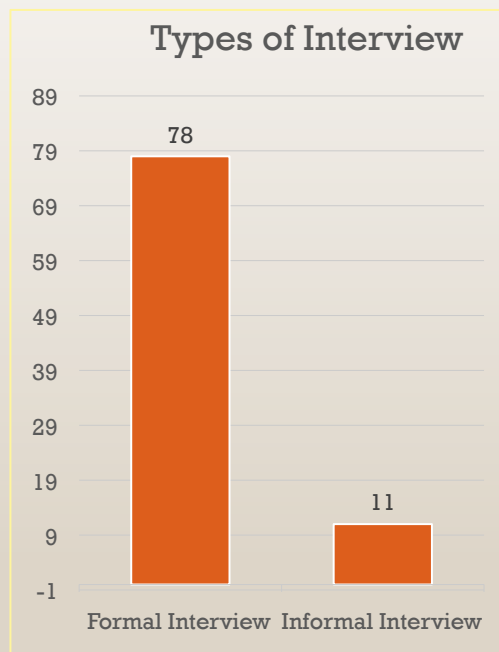
- ✓Aged between 25 to late 30s
- ✓Had access to opportunities
- ✓14 of them have degrees
- ✓Employed or commerce
- ✓6 from female-headed

**cont.**





# SUMMARY OF INFORMANT PROFILES





### **Issues and concerns:**

All focus on different issues, but

- ✓The dying pastoralism,
- ✓Broad ranges of policies
- ✓Recent economic inflation

### **Seen as major causes for:**

- ✓Impoverishment
- ✓Deep social divisions
- ✓ Weakening tribal spirits
- ✓Khat addiction

### **All viewed wealth as:**

- ✓Sanctuary of morality and identity
- ✓Banner of traditions, obligations
- ✓As having many social values
- ✓Social, less private

**cont.** ↓





**Each generation concerned over:**

- ✓The dying pastoralism,
- ✓Broad range of state policies and projects
- ✓Recent economic inflation

**They see them as major causes for:**

- ✓Deep social divisions
- ✓ Weakening tribal spirit and family values
- ✓Khat addiction

**All of them view pastoralism/wealth as:**

- ✓Citadel of integrity, morality and identity
- ✓Within the framework of traditions
- ✓As having many sociological values

**Constraints for commercial expansion**

- ✓The conflicts with neighboring pastoralists
- ✓Absence of microfinance institutions
- ✓Banks are inaccessible

**cont.**





### **Constraints for profit expansion**

- ✓The social conflicts
- ✓Absence of Micro-Finances
- ✓Far-off Banks
- ✓Religion and wealth Judgments
- ✓Emphasis on need, not profits
- ✓Trekking distances, insecurity of roads
- ✓Low volumes and density
- ✓Low demands and Price fluctuations
- ✓Irresponsive bureaucracies

**cont.** ↓





**But, all agreed that:**

The young had more opportunities

Communal assets as commodities

Greater mobility

The capacity to urban lifestyle

Changes on gender roles and relations

**The work remaining includes:**

✓Data analysis,

✓Write-up, revising,

✓Proof reading and submitting

So far, I am on schedule to achieve the milestones (Dec, 2014 and June, 2015).

**cont.**



# MARKETABLE COMMODITIES

