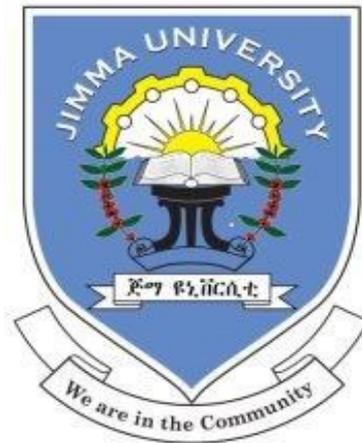


**Gender, Agriculture and Food Security:  
Women's Role in Realizing Food Security of the Family among  
Yayo District Farmers of Ilu Abba Bora, Southwestern Ethiopia**



**A Thesis Submitted to School of Graduate Studies of Jimma University  
In Partial Fulfillment for the Requirements of the Master's Degree of Arts  
In Social Anthropology**

By

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*June, 2017*

*Jimma University*

*Ethiopia*

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**APPROVAL BY BOARD OF EXAMINERS**

This thesis entitled “*Gender, Agriculture and Food Security: Women’s Role in Realizing Food Security of the Family among Yayo District Farmers of Ilu Abba Bora, Southwestern Ethiopia*” has been academically permitted by department of sociology and social work as MA thesis in partial fulfillment of the Masters Degree of Arts in Social Anthropology. The thesis report is attached here below accordingly with this approval page.

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## **GLOSSARY OF LOCAL TERMS**

- Abaarsa* - indigenous believers' practice of curse to correct wrong doers
- Abba warra* - male headed household
- Araqe* -local liquor drink which is prepared by women
- Aseennaa* - a marriage type arranged by the will of two spouses and the groom's parents
- Cidha ga'ela-* wedding ceremony
- Daangaa lammaffaa* -Core zone
- Daangaa tokkoffaa* - Buffer zone
- Daangaa zeeroo-* Transitional zone
- Dabo-* a voluntary self-help group practiced both by men and women
- Dado-* a type of self- help group in which a member may not abstained by any means
- Dhaala* - a marriage type that is performed by inheriting relative's wife
- Farso-* a local liquid drink prepared from barely and maize by women
- Gosa* - Clan
- Guddifachaa-* culture of adoption mostly practiced by Oromo people
- Haadha warra-* female headed household
- Harma guusa-* culture or mechanism of ceasing child from breast feeding
- Hiryaa-* people who are on the same age or relate in their age
- Iddir-* a community level interest based association for period of hardship
- Jarsummaa* - a mediation mechanisms performed by male elders
- Jiga* - advisory based self–help association to favor people encountered with hardship
- Kakaa* - culture of swearing or part of promise
- Kebele* - the tiniest formal administrative unit
- Lafee* - a type of self-help association involves farming on dead family's farmland
- Mahiber* -religious cluster based on self-interest
- Michuu* -friendly relation between opposite sexes
- Ollaa* -neighbor or smallest unit of residential area of farmhouses
- Qixxee* - equal division of something between two and more than people
- Safuu* - behavior or action allowed by social norms not to do or to do so
- Sanyii-* Tribe
- Woreda* – formal district administrative structure

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## ***LIST OF ACRONYMS***

**HH-** Household

**FAO** - Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

**FDG** – Focus Group Discussion

**FHH-** Female Headed Household

**GDRC-** Global Development Research Center

**IFAD** - International Fund for Agricultural Development

**MHH** - Male Headed Household

**OECD-** Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development

**SSA** - Sub-Saharan Africa

**YWRADO-** Yayo Woreda Rural Agricultural Development Office

## **ABSTRACT**

*Qualitative research design has been employed to accomplish the objective of this study. To collect necessary data for this thesis ethnographic design have been used. Primary data was gathered through key informant interview, observation, and focus group discussion. To analyze the collected data through the above ethnographic methods the study involved inductive description and explanation about the vital roles of women in ensuring and maintaining the family food security in Yayo district. The main finding of this thesis is the study of the practical and potential roles of women in realizing food security of the family in small-scale rural agricultural activities. In the case of Yayo district, women perform ranges of activities categorized as productive, reproductive, and community or social role. Their activities range from household domestic work to undertaking farm tasks as a farmer. Despite of these roles they are ascribed to several socially constructed factors which undermines women role and attributes less acknowledgement for their vital roles. With this particular study, the researcher has assessed the roles of women from perspectives of anthropology. The principal roles of women range from household domestic activity to participation in farm tasks. However, their contribution has constrained by several factors which are originated from socio-cultural aspects. Family food security cannot be achievable without women contribution to agricultural food crop production. Most of food security issue is the concern of women in rural area even though the visible imbalanced workloads. Lastly, the discussion and interpretation of data was organized thematically.*

## CHAPTER ONE

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1. Background of the study

Food security, at all levels exists in a condition where all people, at all times, have physical, social, and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for a healthy and active life (FAO, 2006 noted in Trentmann *et al.*, 2015). Improvements in agricultural productivity are necessary to increase rural household incomes and access to available food but are insufficient to ensure food security. Food security not only requires an adequate supply of food but also entails availability, access, and utilization by all men and women of all ages, ethnicities, religions, and socio-economic levels (The World Bank, FAO & IFAD, 2009). Food security is a primary goal for economic and social well-being of particular society. Women play crucial role and are key human power to change the products of agriculture into food security for their family.

Globally, women are responsible for a large part of the world's food production by contributing more than 50 percent in many developing countries (World Bank Group, 2012). Women and men have various socially and culturally constructed gender based roles, farm duties, and decision-making powers. These gender-based inequalities hinder the attainment of food security. Women are a vital producer of food crop in the third world countries by comprising an average of 43 per cent of the agricultural labor force. They are farmers, who perform multiple farming activities either as paid or unpaid agricultural laborers as well as caretaker of their children and the old age (FAO, 2011). Furthermore, regardless of their specific crucial roles in production of food, women have deepest wisdom about locally adapted varieties of grains, vegetables and fruits.

In Ethiopia, there is diversity of cultures and social structures that may determine the status of women in the political, economic, and social fields of life. Ethiopian rural area food security is mainly determined by structural, socio-economic, cultural, demographic and other factors (Tsegay, 2009). For instance, according to IFAD (2016) description, Ethiopia has a highly diverse agro-ecological environment and socio-cultural setting. Its rural small holder farmers produce 90-95 % of the country's agricultural output. In practice, through these rural livelihood activities women contribute a vital role in food crop production. However, their

role sometimes marginalized and dominated by male farmers due to different factors compared to other marginalized groups. In spite, in all social aspects women constitute what Obi notes “the most marginalized of the marginalized.” (Obi, 2005 cited in Dejene, 2009). Yayo district is among rural area of Southwestern Ethiopia. This paper aimed to assess the principal activities of women in agricultural food production to secure their family intake food. To achieve objective of this paper, both women as FHH and MHH of three peasant association; Geri, Geci and Amuma were purposively selected.

## **1.2. Statement of the Problem**

Family Food security is women’s concern since men are more engaged in paid work and most of them dislike farm work due to it is labor demanding (Krinti, 2014). However, scholarly studies have revealed that in developing countries the social perception towards women’s participation is very low. Hence, they contribute to agricultural production, especially food production, more than it has been generally recognized (Ibnouf, 2009). Despite of this, in the rural agricultural area children and women of reproductive age are mostly vulnerable. Women have a vital role to ensure and stabilize the status of food security of their family (Pieters *et al.*, 2013). For instance, African Women’s Studies Centre (2014a) has shown that where rural women take part in decision making process as household heads, their families were the most food secure. Like ways; the perception of patriarchal superiority has also marginalized the role of women in comforting food security of family. Due to this, gender role is shaped by socio-economic factors which are dynamic in nature (FAO, 2012). So, food security cannot be achieved without addressing these cultural, social, and political norms that put off women and girls from having access to equal services (World Bank Group, 2012).

In other parts of society, different studies signifies women’s role in ensuring the family food security. Those investigations have not only give clues to the principal roles of women in agricultural food production. Amenyah & Pupilampu (2013) study shows that the strategy of closing the gender gap is one worthwhile approach to address the development challenges. For instance, Ibnouf (2009) study has shown that the way forward for Sudan government to recognize role of women in improving their household food security in rural area of Sudan. Other researchers might have conducted their finding on the similar issues in other parts of

Ethiopia. However, little study has investigated in Yayo rural kebele particularly regarding the roles of women in realizing their family food security.

A number of researchers like Andinet(2010), Fayera (2006), Tadesse (2003), Tadesse *et al.*(2009), Fite (2008), Zewudie (2005; 2009), Mekdes,(2005) and Tafesse (1996)conducted researches in Yayo and surrounding biosphere area. However, there has been no in-depth research on women role in realizing the family food security in Yayo area specifically. The focus of researchers who studied over this area has been the Wild coffee forest area management and protection. For instance, Andinet (2010) and Zewudie (2005) addressed the issue of local institutions and the role they play in the management and utilization of the forest resources; and characteristics of community and influencing individual's behavior in the decision they made.

Furthermore, in some rural area women have been exposed to several forms of gender-constructed social perception (Anteneh, 2008). Prior to this current study, the ranges of these cultural and social discriminations against women in the district were identified through preliminary observation and survey in February, 2016. Then, comparative ethnographic research has been decided to assess women's role in the family food security. In this study area, women position is visible to different factors that undermine their contribution for their family food security. However, they do not telling the truth for other persons as a result they considered all relation between husband and wife as household confidentiality. In this area despite of their contribution the recognition is not fully given to women's role. Therefore, with very little research available particularly on women's role in realizing food security of their family in the district; this study aims to fill the existing knowledge gap on the less acknowledged women's role in realizing their family food security. This was studied by describing the ranges of activities that has taken place by women with the following objectives.

### **1.3. Objectives of the Study**

#### **1.3.1. General Objective**

The overall objective of this study is to assess the contribution of women's in the assurance of family food security in Yayo rural area.

### **1.3.2. Specific Objective**

- To describe ranges of activities performed by women in food production and how their role can contribute to family food security.
- To understand the way gender relations and gender roles affect the family food security status.
- To identify factors that influence gender division of labor and how it constrain women's role in agricultural food production.
- To explore types of food crops produced both by female-headed and male-headed family.
- To describe how women access to and control over household asset and agricultural services and inputs compared to male-householders.
- To identify the impacts of formal and informal institutions on the livelihoods women.

### **1.4. Research Questions**

- How women role in agricultural food production can contribute to family food security?
- How gender relations and gender roles affect family food security status?
- What factors that influence gender division of labor and hinder the contributions of women in food production?
- What types of cash and cereal crops can be produced both by female-headed and male-headed families?
- How do women access to and control over household asset and agricultural services and inputs compared to male-householders?
- What are the impacts of formal and informal institutions on the livelihoods of women?

### **1.5. Significance of the Study**

This study is relevant to sensitize women's role in agricultural food production and increase potential role of women in realizing family food security. This comparative anthropological study between women and men will consciously encourage and aware the local community to understand the vital contribution of women in enhancing family food security. On the other hand, this research finding will benefit woreda agriculture expert

(extension worker) to take measures on the gender discrimination. It will also use as a road map for other researchers who need to make study on the roles of women in the rural food production. Moreover, it will help other stakeholder to recognize the rights of marginalized women in the management and administration of household resources and asset utilization. Further, the study will also seek to contribute the better understanding of gender relations and gender roles in rural family in agricultural food production to bring food security.

### **1.6. Scope of the Study**

The scope of the study is limited to the assessment of roles of women in ensuring the family food security through their contribution in food production. Yayo district includes 17 rural and one urban kebeles. In the scope of this study, three kebeles were selected purposively from three agro-ecological zones. It also incorporates types of agricultural crop production which may encourage active women's engagement, livestock rearing activities and fruit and vegetable production.

### **1.7. Limitation of the Study**

Through accomplishment of this intended study, there were some limitations during fieldwork. For instance, shortages of transportation to the rural area, insufficiency of finance awarded for this research, time limitation and reluctance from the informants are some major limitations during data collection. In addition to this, some informants are unable to understand the interview questions due to difference of language. Then, I was spent much time for translating and probing the interview to them.

Having these all difficulties at hand, I have attempted to minimize these limitations to the least possible level. For the difficulties emerged via of informants, the clarifications were made about the purpose of this research. I have also tried to address the problems by using the assistance of extension worker who best understands their saying in a simple explanation. Empathy and tolerance were the best remedies to grasp good results. To tackle the shortage of time, I used available time by scheduling time for interview, focus group discussion and observation. At the end to overcome the problem of finance, I have tried to minimize the costs and extravagances and used the allocated finance effectively. Like ways, to decrease the transportation costs and shortages I was moving on my foot across the peasant association from the center to the site.

## **1.8. Organization of the Thesis**

This study content was orderly categorized into six chapters. The first chapter is an introductory chapter that encompasses the background of the study, statement of the problem, objectives of the study, research questions, the significance of the study, and scope and limitation of the study. Chapter two has the literature review and theoretical framework part of the paper, which was concerned about validation of this study by reviewing previously accounted literature and research by other individuals. It also includes brief discussion of anthropological theory and analytical framework of gender and food security in the study. Chapter three states the methodology part of the study. Chapter four provides brief description of research site. It describes basic facts of the area and agro-ecology of the study area. Chapter five includes discussion and interpretation of the data. This chapter comprises the main finding part starting with ranges of farming activities undertaken by women and their contribution for the family food security, the ways gender roles and gender relation affects family food security status and elements influencing gender based division of labor and factors that hinder the contribution of women in food production. And the last chapter will make obvious the conclusion and recommendation of the study.

## CHAPTER TWO

### LITERATURE REVIEW

#### 2.1. Introduction

The literature review part of this study is providing a reasonably comprehensive review of women's role in the multiple facet tasks to ensure family food security in rural small-scale food production. In this part I reviewed scholarly written materials regarding the vital roles of women for the measurement of their family food insecurity in rural area. I attempted also to analyze the previously accounted empirical evidences on women's roles in food production in relation to anthropological theories.

#### 2.2. Theoretical Framework

The theory of gender and gender constructed position has a very short history when compared to other perspectives. The issue of women in general and their position in and contribution to society in particular started to deserve attention since very recently (Keesing, 1989 cited Daniel, 2002). In fact, according to this explanation, no tangible reason has been in a place for such an indistinguishable position of women.

To describe the central theme of this study, I tried to relate different anthropological theory with the investigation inductively. Post-modernist anthropological paradigms and theoretical approaches; such as interpretive anthropology and feminism anthropology has been implemented in the explanation of the role of women in small-scale agricultural community. Instead of providing a grand theory of human behavior, post-modernism considers to see culture of particular society from its uniqueness. It is influenced by both cultural relativism and ethno-science. From this point of view, anthropology focuses on description and interpretation of diverse cultures rather than making cultural generalizations. So, based on this anthropological perspective gender role and gender relation are socially constructed and culture specific across rural society regarding their tasks and behaviors. On the other hand, they consider cultural anthropology to be humanistic rather than scientific discipline. They also have argued as ethnographies ought to be written collaboratively from the view point of the anthropologist alongside with local people (source: <http://www.zeepedia.com/read.php?> Accessed on November16, 2016 at 4:05 PM).

### **2.2.1. Interpretive Anthropology**

Geertz's approach to culture was based on the idea that understanding another culture is always an act of interpretation, an inquiry that involves placing a cultural performance such as a ritual, a game, a political operation, and so on into the specific and local contexts in which the act is meaningful. Social structure is bound together based on what Moores (2009) notes as "causal-functional integration," the articulation of different segments that interact and maintain the system. Rising out of post-modernism, interpretive anthropology rely on examining how local people themselves interpret their own values and behaviors. Using an *emic* approach (relying on views of local people), interpretive anthropologists focus on the complexities and living qualities of human nature (*source: <http://www.zeepedia.com/read.php?>* Accessed on November 16, 2016 at 4:05PM). Therefore, regarding the crucial roles of women in ensuring family food security, the local people view point was assessed inductively relied on the first hand data sources primarily collected from selected rural kebeles.

### **2.2.3. Feminist Anthropology**

Feminist anthropology is extremely broad, centered by its concern with the human consequences of gender and treated from various theoretical points of view and is a multifaceted consideration. It is the gendered responses to the natural limits of being human (Moores, 2009). Feminism has its main roots in substantive, as opposed to grand theoretical, issues of sex roles and gender symbolism. It has achieved the status of a theoretical paradigm not only in the functional area of gender studies, but also more widely in anthropological study as women are the most significant group in any society, both numerically and in their vital roles (Bernand, 2004). This view approves that what Quisumbing and others (1995) have said "*Women are the key to food security for their families*" (IFAD, FAO & WB, 2009). The term feminism referred by scholars for a range of perspectives towards the injustices against women role in a given society and feminist scholars have diverse views concerning this specific kinds of prejudice women suffers throughout social, political, economic and cultural identity of a given society. It is a sociological approach which sights inequality in gender as central to all behavior in social organization. Feminist scholars have not only have challenged stereotyping of women, but also they have argued for a gender-balanced study of society in which women's experiences and contributions are as visible as those of men

(England, 1999; Tuchman, 1992 cited in Irefin *et al.*, 2012). Most of feminist theorists give emphases on analyzing gender inequality and the promotion of women's rights, interests and benefits. Feminists are committed to bringing about social change to end discrimination against women. It was in the mid 1800's the term feminism was used to refer to "the impartialities of females". This term was not used for a belief in and advocacy regarding equal rights for women until the first international women's conference in Paris in 1892 was held (Irefinet *al.*, 2012). Therefore, from the feminist perspective, today in rural parts women's are susceptible to several gender based discriminations. Hence, their vital roles could be contributing for food security of their family. Due to this problems, the future live of rural women is getting full of difficulties.

#### **2.2.4. Functionalism and Structural Functionalism Theory**

Structural functionalism, or simply functionalism, is an anthropological and sociological perspective which sets out to interpret society as a structure with interrelated parts in terms of their norms, customs, traditions and institutions. 'Functionalism' is a broad term and in which its widest sense comprises both functionalism (narrowly defined) and structural-functionalism. In its narrower sense, it is referring to ideas associated with Bronislaw Malinowski and his followers, notably Sir Raymond Firth (source: <http://www.zeepedia.com/read.php?> Accessed on November 22, 2016 at 10:07 AM). It is the perspective concerned with actions of individuals, the constraints imposed by social institutions on individuals, and relations between the needs of an individual and the satisfaction of those needs through cultural and social frameworks. From the view of this school women are imposed to discrimination by culture and norms of the particular society (Alan, 2004). This argumentation was tasted throughout in intended study area to assess the impacts of formal and informal institution on women's role in the Yayo rural kebeles.

'Structural-functionalism' tends to be concerned less with individual action or needs, and more with the place of individuals in the social order, or indeed with the construction of the social order itself, which identifies the work of A. R. Radcliffe Brown and his followers (Alan, 2004). Functionalism is paying attention on understanding culture from the perspective of the native people as well as specified that an empirical fieldwork is absolutely essential. Functionalists stressed that anthropologists ought to seek to understand how different parts of contemporary cultures work for the well-being of the individual and the society, instead of

focusing on how these parts evolved (source: <http://www.zeepedia.com/read.php?> Accessed on November 22, 2016 at 10:07 AM).

### 2.3. Definition of Basic Concepts and Terminologies

Reeves and Baden (2000), Marchet *al.* (1999), Beth *et al.* (1997); Derbyshire (2002), Hunt (2000) and Williams *et al.* (1994) reveals that the following social meanings of gender concepts and terminologies

<b>Terminologies</b>	<b>Social Definitions of Concepts</b>
<b><i>Gender</i></b>	Refers to social attributes which is acquired during socialization with in a given member of society. It is closely refers to the socially constructed attributes, roles, activities, responsibilities and needs related to being women(feminine) and men (masculine) in a given community at a given time and tasks. It is also intersecting variables in the distribution of privilege, prestige, power and a range of social and economic assets.
<b><i>Gender role</i></b>	Refers to what women and men are expected to do and how they are expected to behave towards one another. It is vary across the community and change over time in response to changing community situations and ideas what is an acceptable and not acceptable role.
<b><i>Gender relations</i></b>	Refers to social relationship between women and men in a work place. The nature of this relation is influenced by cultural values, social practices and gender which are common in specific place and time.
<b><i>Gender stereotype</i></b>	Refers to a social perceptions and values towards women as weak, dependent, subordinate, indecisive, emotional and submissive.
<b><i>Gender division of labor</i></b>	Refers to the allocation of different roles, tasks, responsibilities and activities assigned to men and women relying on what is socially and culturally acceptable. Gender based division of labor is categorized between women and men as productive and reproductive in which women's has triple roles.
<b><i>Gender sensitive</i></b>	Refers to awareness of various roles, needs and responsibilities of women and men in a given society.
<b><i>Gender perspective</i></b>	Refers to dimension of analyzing and interpreting situation from view point of the gender construction in a society and searching for solution to overcome the gap.
<b><i>Women empowerment</i></b>	Refers to an equipment of women to exercise their ability to make strategic life choice in a context where their capacity was previously denied to them.
<b><i>Food insecurity</i></b>	Exists when people do not have sufficient physical, social or economic access to food (FAO, 2009).

#### **2.4. Gender Division of Labor force in Agricultural Food Production**

Regarding the division of farm tasks, a study reveals that women and men obligation varies from place to place according to the nature of work duties. The diverse roles of women occupy in various farming activities (Meinzen-Dick *et al.*, 2011 noted in Amenyah & Pupilampu, 2013). This means responsibility of women and men vary in crop food production across family. The socio-economic structure of rural Ethiopia is characterized by having a division of labor marked by a long-established line (Yaekob, 1999 cited in Anteneh, 2008).

Gender division of productive labor in rural area of Ethiopia is similar in its operation and cultural specific. The rural agricultural farming activity division of labor force is culturally and socially determined by the state of being Maleness and Femaleness. According to the statement of Dejene (2002:52) “*women are restricted to domestic work and are excluded from public activities, including conflict resolution.*” On the other hand, in the largest part of Ethiopian societies, women play responsible role for the household and child-rearing activities. This additional work burden is unpaid and restricts women’s capacity to engage in the more income-earning activities (FAO, 2011).

#### **2.5. The Role of Women in Agricultural Food Production**

In developing countries like ours, women and girls form the backbone of small-scale rural agriculture. They serve as producers, employees, processors and traders within largely domestic markets. They also dominate family level food production and preparation. Women are responsible for 60-80% of food production in most developing countries, as well as for half of the world’s food production (World Economic Forum, 2013). Women make up almost 50 percent of the agricultural labor force in SSA (FAO, 2011).

For instance, rural women in Ethiopia characterized as a remarkable productive resource in the agricultural sector either as wife or female heading households (Lemlem *et al.*, 2010). They are playing the central role in providing and improving food security and well-being of their family (Okali, 2011). From these prospects towards the roles of women in rural area, their contribution has a power to bring security for intake food. But, they have receiving less recognition by their counterparts in local community.

In parts of the world, women continued to be rural information sources and providers of food to urban communities (Pankrash, 2003). Gender differences become understandable when looking at women's workloads in rural area farming activities. According to existing evidence, it is estimated that women provide 85 to 90 percent of the time spent on household food processing and preparation across a wide range of countries (Fontana and Natalia, 2008; Jain, 1996; Acharya and Bennett, 1982; Wrangham, 2009 cited in FAO, 2011). Thus, women's roles and status determined by social institutions and norms, religious ideologies, eco-systems and by class positions (Pankrash, 2003). Consistent and compelling evidence shows that when the status of women is improved, agricultural productivity increases, poverty is reduced, and nutrition improves (Krinti, 2014; Thomas *et al.*, 2015). Despite of their roles vary significantly and change over time, their involvement has the power to bring food security. The ways in which women contribute in productive activities affect their status and autonomy. So, it is should widely acknowledged (Dejene, 2009). Their contributions classically comprises of various ranges of activity in and outside their home. This implies that immeasurable burden and responsibilities of women in rural area.

There are varieties of factors that constrain women's involvement in agricultural crop food production activities. Anteneh's study (2008) states that the most factors that face women in rural agricultural activity comprise economic factors (access to and control over resources and inputs), demographic factors (women's age and characteristics of their family) and socio-economic factor (perception toward women's role and culturally ascribed attributes to their roles). In addition, they also face blockades to membership in rural association and cooperatives, agricultural inputs and technology such as improved seedlings, training and extension (Krinti, 2014). Demographic factors; an empowered woman has a potential to make decision about planting and inputs which are more productive in agriculture. Even though, their contribution often remains hidden due to some social barriers and gender biases, women play an essential role in farming and in improving the quality of life of their family (Quisumbing, 1995 notes in Kairola, 2015). Therefore, the most contributing factor for women's low participation in agricultural cooperatives less than men's are deep-rooted socio-cultural norms and customary practices (socio-cultural factors). These influence women's social and economic capabilities and opportunities not to engage in cooperative activities in the same way as men (Thomas *et al.*, 2015).

## 2.6. An Empirical Review

Today, the issue women role in ensuring food security has dominated the attention of international development agencies and scholars more than any other agenda. According to Alemayehu (2001);

*...the analysis of food security and rural vulnerability involves; Understanding the roots causes of chronic food insecurity, identifying the ecological regions and social groups that are food insecure, targeting food aid and using resources effectively to avert chronic food insecurity or to promote the developmental impact of food aid, and defining the role of government in food security and disaster prevention.*

Ethiopia is the second largest Sub-Saharan countries in which its economic activity is mainly generated from mixed agriculture (Thomas *et al.*, 2015; Frank, 2003; Anteneh, 2008; Lemlem *et al.*, 2010). The long standing foundation of 85 percent of Ethiopian economy is agricultural activity. It is employing 80 percent of the country's 82 million people. The vast majorities of Ethiopians lives in rural area and engage in rain-fed subsistence agriculture (Arend, 2011). Its rural area farming activity is performed through smallholder agricultural production. Of the number of this agricultural society, more than half of its man power is women. They are playing a crucial role in agricultural food production in rural Ethiopia. However, they are imposed to least recognition as a result of some social perceptions.

Ethiopia intends to transform this rural agriculture into a high-growth sector to ensure food security as well as to control inflation and broaden its export productions (IFAD, 2016). While women take an active role in agricultural production and processing and marketing of food products their identity as farmers is highly contested within the agricultural development framework (Frank, 1999). This implies that serious structural difficulties, undermined by local cultural perceptions which are hugely precluded women's involvement in the agricultural extension process.

According to Frank's description, Ethiopian women and girls tolerate the greatest burdens of food insecurity in contrast to other groups of society. Despite their essential roles, women farmers in rural agricultural activity still face multiple gender imbalances. They are subordinated by men in the earning different social services. They work twice as many hours

per day compared to men, since they are primarily responsible for their family (Frank, 2009 cited in Arend, 2011). Addressing the problems food insecurity and malnutrition can have important outcomes for women and children specifically (Doss *et al.*, 2012).

## **2.7. Gender Role Framework**

For long period of time, the contributions of women have not been observed by the development planner and practitioners. Anteneh's (2008:21) has revealed that even though their role is hidden from the knowledge of economic system planners, yet they have a potential contribution. This and other factor has initiated to make a gender analysis. In line of this reality, gender has proved by researchers as a vital issue for analyzing women's role in agricultural food production. Thus, (Williams, *et al.*, 1995 noted in Anteneh, 2008) reveals that gender analysis helps to understand the roles and relationships between women and men in society.

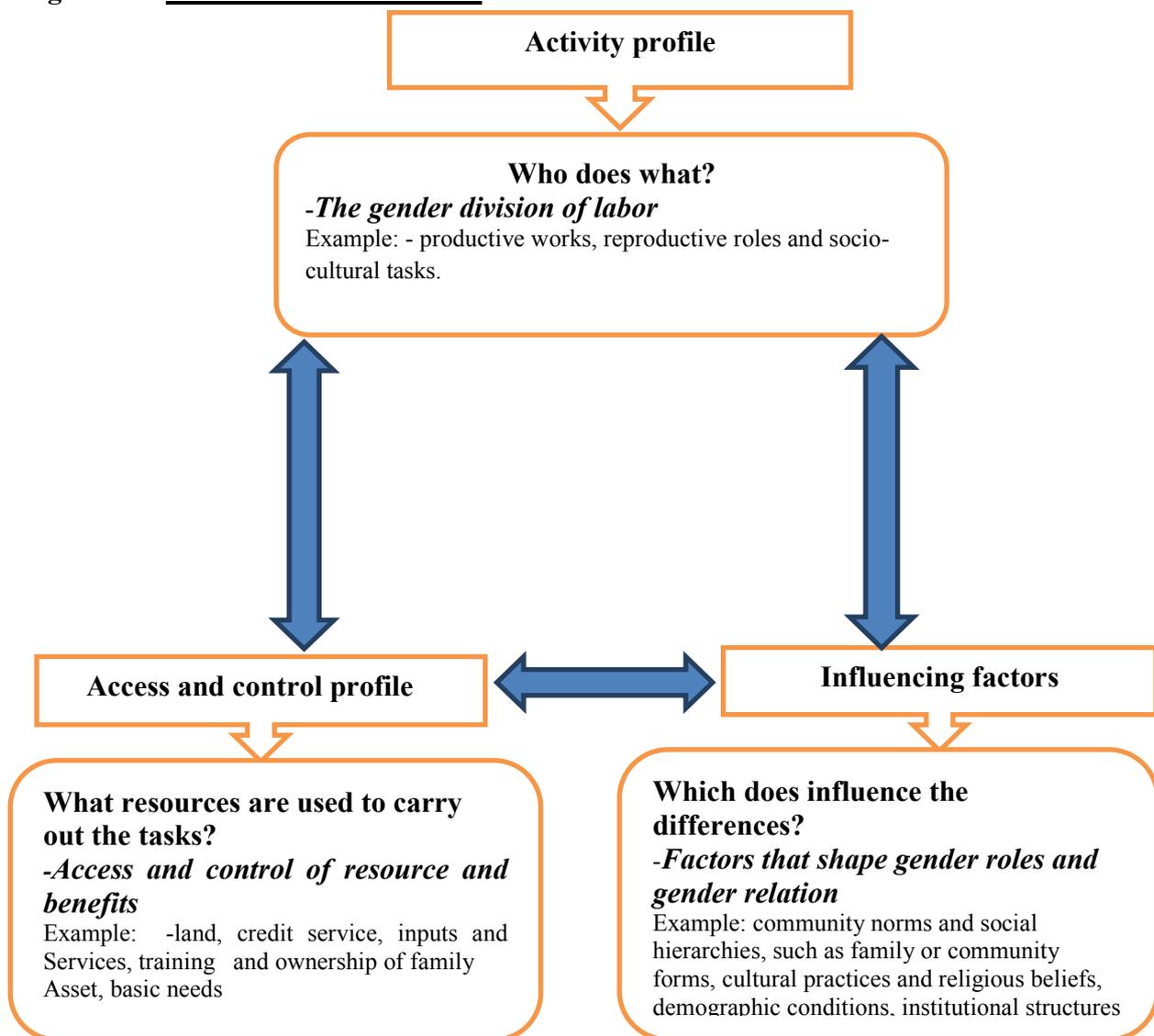
Currently, there are diverse gender analytical tools or frameworks. However, the varieties of these tools do not mean they are mutually exclusive; rather they are corresponding to each other to assist a specific situation. For the purpose of this study, however, qualitative gender analysis is used. It helps to tracing back to historical, political, economic, social and cultural forces in order to clarify how and why these differential impacts, roles and responsibilities have come across the community. Harvard analytical framework (Marchet *et al.*, 1999:32-35) which is most useful for rural agricultural interventions is helpful to explore the indistinguishable facts of productive and socially reproductive work. Thus, this framework is (has been) used in the context of current study to analyze the division of roles between men and women in crop food production for intake food of their family.

It is often referred by scholars the Gender Roles Framework or Gender Analysis Framework. It was the first framework developed for gender analysis by researchers at the Harvard Institute for International Development in the USA. This framework was designed to demonstrate that an economic relation between women as well as men. It is a grid (also known as a matrix) for collecting data at the micro-level (i.e., at the community and household level). It is a useful way of organizing information and can be adapted to many situations. It offers no guideline for extending the gender analysis from the household to other institutions like the community (Miller& Razavi, 1998 cited in Anteneh, 2008). Nevertheless, once the data on "intra-household dynamics" or homogeneity of the farm

household in terms of gender division of labor and gender difference to access resource is collected, it gives a clear picture of who does what, when, where, and with what resources.

This framework has four main interrelated components; such as the activity profile, access and control profile, influencing factors and check-list analysis (March *et al.*, 1999). Yet, there is no project work associated with this research site. Due to this the fourth component is not comprised in the study. In its place, the ranges of activities performed by women in food production and the existing gender division of labor were analyzed. In addition, the way gender roles and relations affect the status of the family food security in terms of inputs for production in farming practice has been analyzed.

**Figure 1. 1: Gender role Framework**



**Source:** Adapted from March *et al.* (1999) Gender analysis frameworks

The first component this frame work, activity profile tool assisted in identifying the productive and socially reproductive tasks of women (March *et al.*, 1999).According to (Overholt, *et al.*, 1991 which has been quoted in Anteneh, 2008 and March *et al.*, 1999),this profile is “based on the concept of gender-based division of labor” in production and reproduction tasks. The details of location where the tasks were performed are also comprised. For instance, among productive work in the site; food crop production tasks, planting and collection activities, horticulture and forestry development were analyzed to answer the question “who does what?”

With the second component access and control profile, the assets women and men use to perform the tasks identified in activity profile were analyzed. According to Zenebe (2005) note in Anteneh (2008) it is one of the principal factors determining the economic and social status of women in gender analysis. Thus, the analysis entails whether women or men have access to resources, who controls their use and who in household controls the benefits from them is examined across sampled family. Among family resources; land, equipment, labor, cash or credit, production inputs and services are mainly taken under analysis. This tool is utilized to answer the question “who does access to and controls resources and benefits (basic needs)?”

The third component of this gender tool analysis is influencing factors; constraints and opportunity profile. This profile clarifies how activity, access and control patterns are influenced by structural and social factors (GDRC, 2002).It enables to analyze a list of factors which determine the gender role division of labor and differences specified in Activities and Access and control profiles. For instance, among limitations and opportunities; income ownership, social norms and values, institutional provisions, accessibility to inputs and service are mainly reconsidered (March *et al.*, 1999). This profile is utilized to answer the question “what are the factors that determine gender role division in farming practice?”

## CHAPTER THREE

### RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

#### 3.1. Research Design

This study was employed a qualitative research approach, particularly ethnographic design. It is used with the purpose of describing and understanding social phenomena from the informants' point of view (emic). As statement of Andrew Asher and Susan Miller, qualitative research involves the interpretation social meanings, metaphors and symbols of the social world, helping the researcher see how members of a group make sense of a situation (source: <http://www.erialproject.org/>) Accessed on November, 2016. It tends to involve a small number of respondents. Through fieldwork ethnography is concerned with what people are, how they live and how they interact (Wiersma 1986 cited in Lusua, 2008). Fieldwork begins with preliminary field visit conducted with the aim to design possible approaches of the study and familiarization with field tools. It is followed by designing different data collection tools, steps and procedures and previous experience with research problems identified as a gap.

##### 3.1.1. Sampling

Non-probability or purposive sampling technique was used in the investigation. The sampling helps to select sample items deliberately and makes the choice concerning the items to remain supreme. On the other hand, under this type of sampling the researcher purposively choose the particular units of the universe. This constitutes a sample on the basis of the small mass that they so selected out of a huge one as representative of the whole (Kothari, 2004). This method is often combined and triangulated with other sampling methods by researcher (Bernand, 2011). Triangulation of data, collecting data from multiple methods, was important to ensure confidence in results. It is also relevant in the case of time and resources limitation which was allowed only in certain elements of women's role to be considered in the assessment. Then, this sampling technique was used to achieve the research objective within given time limitation and at expected standard.

### 3.1.2. Sample Size and Procedure

Sampling technique provide a range of methods that facilitate to reduce the amount of data needed. It also helps to collect only data from a sub-group rather than all possible cases or elements. At the time of conducting research, it is often impossible, impractical or too expensive to collect data from all the potential units of analysis included in research problem. A small number of units, a sample, are often chosen in order to represent the relevant attributes of the whole set of units, the target population (Titus, 2013).

Yayo woreda rural kebeles are almost homogenous in terms of their socio-economic and cultural settings, but they are different in their natural agro-ecological divisions. Based up on the natural division of woreda, three area/kebeles which are conducive for rural agricultural activities that have recognition or encouragement by zonal and woreda administrative as model farmer in small-scale agricultural food production were purposively selected. A multistage sampling procedure was employed to identify sample kebeles, women role in ensuring family food security and sample family unit. On the other hand, the reason that was compelled me to select purposively only three sites from 17 rural kebeles was because of time limitation, credibility, reliability and financial insufficiency as well as to ensure the study at a manageable size. As it is described above, Yayo ecological zone is categorized into highland (*Baddaa*), temprate (*Badda-daree*) and lowland or desert (*Gammoojjii*). Then, to investigate this research, three kebeles were purposively nominated from temperate and lowland ecological zones respectively. These peasant associations are conducive for agricultural purpose and the priority is given to them as researcher own survey prior to fieldwork.

Currently, these three area are occupied by 1457(1239 MHH and 218 FHH) and has agricultural land for regular and irrigation farming. Out of purposively selected target population a sample of 30(thirty) households was taken purposively which comprises female and male informants equally. The selection was performed in a logical way as well as key informants and participants' selection was based on farmers' status, sex, age, responsibility in the family administration, acceptance in the community level, encouragement for work etc. for the purpose of reliability of this paper work. This took place with the help of local kebele officials and extension workers who did better know those informant householders in their own kebele. The current Ethiopian government social network binding strategy which is

locally known “*Tokko Shane*” or one-to-five was also the mechanisms how to select farmers to evaluate the roles of women as household heads and women as wifely duty. That means the role women as FHH (*Haadha warra*) and member of the family of MHH (*Abbaa warra*) are comparatively studied.

**Table 3.1: Population size of the three sampled kebeles**

No	Peasant Associations	Total HH per kebele		Sampled HH		Sampling
		MHH	FHH	Women	Men	
1	Amuma	246	47	5	5	Purposive
2	Geci	617	128	6	4	Purposive
3	Geri	376	43	4	6	Purposive
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1239</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	

**Source:** own survey

### 3.2. Data Types and Sources

Different types of data gathering tools were used on the basis of its relevance to the study. Both primary and secondary data comprising qualitative information were gathered from different sources through different qualitative data collection methods and tools.

#### 3.2.1. Primary Data Collection

Ethnographic research sequence ascends with the data collection and followed by analyzing the data. The ethnographic data collection methods comprise observation; Focused group discussion and key informant interview were employed. This primary data collection technique was used to make the study consistent in the assessment of women’s role in realizing the family food security.

##### 3.2.1.1. Key Informant Interview

Interview is involving verbal communication with informants in their social setting. Depending up on the coverage of data control of the researcher tries to exercise over

informants; there is a variety of interview situations. These different types of interviews produce diverse types of data that are useful for various types of research findings (Bernard, 2011). Thus, in order to grasp supplementary information for the investigation, key informant interview was carried out with elder farmers of different backgrounds comprising of women as FHH and women as wife of MHH. In addition, Yayo woreda agricultural officials and each nominated kebele extension workers are interviewed in order to get accurate data for the study. This was done with guidance of extension workers through model household survey for interview. A total of ten key informant interviews with the site farmers and five government officials were held at woreda and kebele level.

### **3.2.1.2. Focus Group Discussion**

Focus groups are recruited to discuss about a particular issues of under investigation (Bernard, 2011). It involves interviewing a number of people at the same time, the emphasis be on questions and responses between the researcher and participants. Focus groups rely on interaction with in the group depending on the topics that are supplied by the researcher (Morgan, 1997). Three separate focus group discussions were held at each kebele with women and men farmers. The age of participants of focus group discussion ranges from 35 to 60 years. It was carried out at their work place during the day of community labor work from February to March in 2017.

### **3.2.1.3. Observation**

Observation enables to observe and discuss with informants at the place of their work. Kothari (2004) further explained that observation becomes a scientific tool and the method of data collection if it serves for a formulated research purpose. It should be also systematically planned and recorded and is subjected to checks and controls on validity and reliability.

The ranges of farm activities performed by women and the type of work reserved for women were observed. This was conduct within the three kebeles represented for current study. A type of agricultural production and animal rearing practices across the site was observed. The place and nature of work undertaken by men was also observed in February, 2017.

### **3.2.2. Secondary Data Collection**

Kothari (2004) described that secondary data may either be published data or unpublished data. When uses secondary data, the researcher should carefully look its sources and when he/she can obtain to protect its accuracy. A written account of different stakeholders was reviewed to assess the roles of women in ensuring and improving the family food security. The material that was found in the form archives, programs, reports and directives at woreda agricultural extension offices and kebele administration were used as sources of information.

### **3.3. Methods of Data processing, Analysis and Interpretation**

Data analysis is as the process of cleaning and summarizing data so that it becomes information that can easily be interpreted and conclusion made to support decision making. Through Qualitative data analysis, the mass of words generated by interviews or observational data needs to be described and summarized (Lacey & Luff, 2007). The data gathered through ethnographic research methods was coded, analyzed and interpreted according to category of their theme. Variety of procedures was used mutually to analyze qualitative type of data. For instance, after translating obtained information from Afan Oromo to English language, themes were identified. This was carried out due to checking consistency of ideas arose during fieldwork. Similar information was clustered and different ideas were further checked. Khotari has noted Miles and Huberman (1994) classification of the major qualitative data analysis as interpretative approaches, social anthropological approaches, and collaborative social research approaches (Khotari, 2004). Finally, qualitative analysis employed which involves analysis of data obtained regarding women's role in ensuring their family food security through applying the interpretative style by developing the information as text inductively. Thus, in the process of interpreting and explaining the obtained information each research question arose in this paper was addressed thematically.

### **3.4. Ethical Considerations**

Qualitative research, especially ethnographic strategies, offers countless challenges. Several qualitative researchers have reached at the same conclusion about the relationship between researcher and informants in qualitative research. Researchers must ensure the rights, privacy, and welfare of the people and communities that form the focus of their studies (Bruce, 2001). The qualitative relationship is so different from quantitative approaches (Bogdan & Biklen,

1992 cited in Bruce, 2001). To sum up, permission from the recognized gate keeper and the individual person who was selected for interview was asked. In addition to this, some delimitation or guidance of interview rules which defend against the prejudiced ideas and opinions towards the interview questions was provided. In anthropological studies this participants' consent is relevant for credibility of the research result. Consent was gained in the most convenience, least disturbing manner for both researcher and researched (Bernand, 2011; Khotari, 2004). Finally, ways of showing respect for research informants was clearly embedded in both in the content of research interview and the manner in which they were responding is gain attention.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### DESCRIPTION OF RESEARCH SITE

#### 4.1. Brief Description of Research Setting

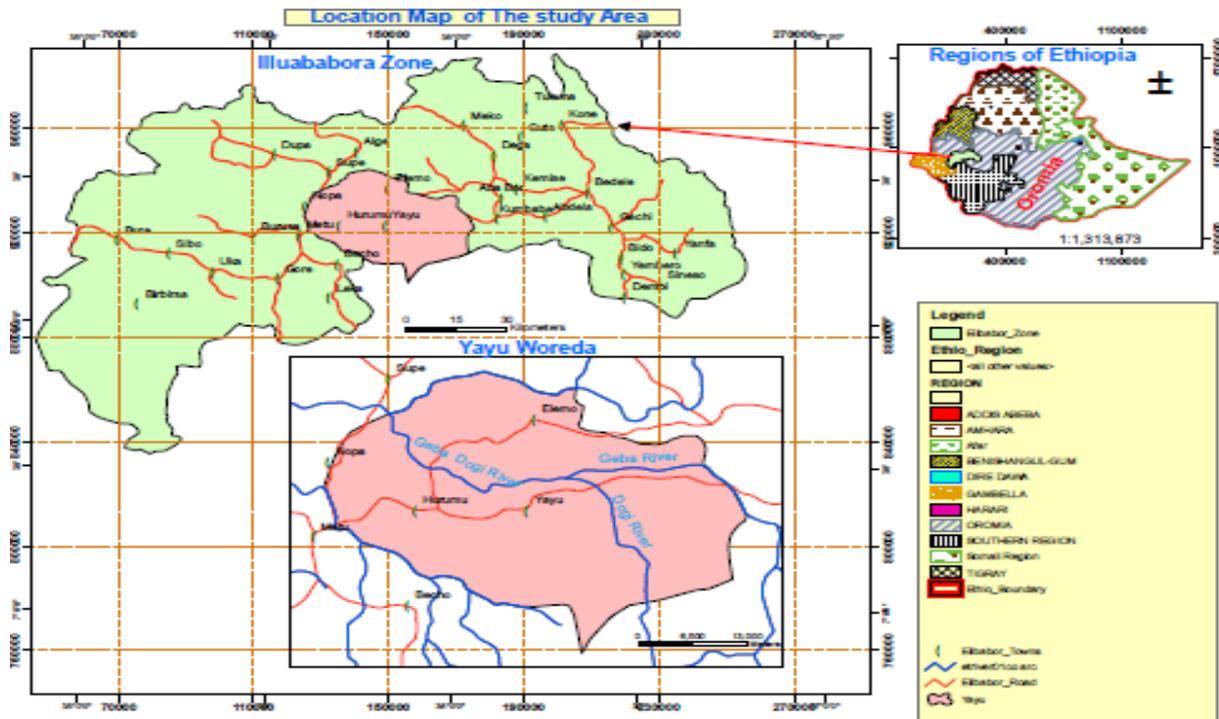
This section provides basic facts and figures about the study area based on proofed findings and prevailed natural features.

##### 4.1.1. Location and Size of the Area

Administratively, Yayo district is the forest area which is located in Ilu Abba Bora Zone of Oromia National Regional State. It is situated at about 564 km to the west of Addis Ababa on the major road from Addis Ababa to Mettu and Gambella National Regional state. Since its declaration in 2010, Yayo Coffee forest area is currently recognized as *Core zone, Buffer zone and Transition zone*. *Core zone (Daangaa lammaffaa)* represents intact undisturbed natural forests endowed with high abundance of wild *Arabica coffee* and high biological diversity and meant for strict conservation of biodiversity. *Buffer zone (Daangaa tokkoffaa)* is part of the forest which surrounds the core zone and is managed by the members of the local community for coffee, spices and honey production in the form of semi-forest coffee systems. *Transition zone (Daangaa Zeeroo)* contains cropland, grazing-land, wetlands as well as rural settlements (Tadesse, 2003; Andinet, 2010; Zewudie, 2009).

This area is one of the few areas that represented with a variety of vegetation types including few species found only in Ethiopia. The district forest constitutes 58.8 percent of the total land area (Zewudie, 2009) nearly 160 thousand hectares (Fite, 2008 cited in Andinet, 2010). Geographically, the specific study area lies between 8°21'-8°26' N latitudes and 35°45'-36°03'E longitudes. The highest diversity of *Coffea Arabica* and other plant species makes the area one of the most important forest areas for the conservation of biodiversity in Ethiopia (Tadesse, 2003). Other than production of coffee, other types of agriculture production employs over 90% of the labor force and it is mainly smallholder subsistence farming. However, among them for more than 60% of the population, coffee cultivation is the major sources of employment (Tadesse, 2003; Fite, 2008; Andinet, 2010).

Figure 3.1: Geographical Location of the Study Area



Source: Andinet, 2010

#### 4.1.2. Research kebeles and Informants

As it is described in the above, the district is naturally divided into three agro-ecological zones. Therefore, to represent and characterize the three agro-ecological zones, three rural peasant associations were purposively selected as research sites rely on their priority. They are briefly described as follows.

##### 4.1.2.1. Amuma Kebele

Found at the distance of 3kms from the center of the district administration in the southern direction. It is among the lowland kebeles and most nearest to the district center. According to interview results with YWARDO (2017) it is inhabited by 293 households, whereas 246 of them are male, 47 are females. Among these households 20 males and 2 females are model farmers based on data obtained from extension workers. *Minze*, *Barkume* and *Dagito* are among its sub-divisions. The predominant cereal crops cultivated in these zones comprises maize, sorghum, barley and wheat. Furthermore, this kebele also has suitable land for the irrigation purpose especially to cultivate adaptive species of fruits and vegetables with

climatic condition of the area. However, it is not widespread systems of crop cultivation and needs more awareness. Fewer women farmers are practicing the production of some limited fruits and vegetables at their backyards during rainy season.

#### **4.1.2.2. Geci Kebele**

It is found on the main road crossing Yayo beginning from Mettu to Addis Ababa at the distance of 5kms from the woreda center to the west. Like Amuma, it is also among the lowland agro-ecological zones. This kebele is occupied by 745 total household, 617 males and 128 females. From the total households in the area 28 males and 2 females are recognized as model farmers relied on interview results and secondary data obtained from extension workers. Geci kebele administration has also three sub-divisions of zones; such as *Geci*, *lakku* and *Agaro*. Maize, pea and sorghum are the popular cereal crop in the site. There is also animal rearing and beekeeping as means livelihood for farmers in the area. Like ways, this kebele zones has suitable for irrigation to produce different fruits and vegetables. But, as view of informants in the area there were wild animals which can destroy cultivated crops before its harvest. Therefore, hinders farmers of Geci kebele not to utilize part of their land for irrigation.

#### **4.1.2.3. Geri Kebele**

Geri kebele is among the highland agro-ecological zones of Yayo district. It is found in the southeastern part at distance of 8kms. It is classified into *Gudaya*, *Jirru* and *Geri-gudda* zones within the kebele. Unlike Geci and Amuma kebele it has vast forest coverage and most of the land in the area is suitable for coffee production according to the point of view of informants and kebele extension workers. Next to coffee and beekeeping cereal production like maize and sorghum are popular crop production through small-scale farming. Of 419 total households of the kebele 376 are males and 43 are females with 25 male and 4 female model farmers. Similar to the two previous kebeles Geri site has also some areas which are appropriate for irrigation farming. However, the population lacks awareness to produce different fruits and vegetables by using the available resource in their area. The farmers of area only expect rainy season to grow their crop for food subsistence.

## **4.2. Climate Conditions**

Yayo district is naturally separated into three agro-ecological zones; highland (*Badda*), temperate (*Badda-daree*) and lowland (*Gammoojjii*). With its former parts Dorani and Hurrumu, this district climatic zone includes 3.5 percent (5750.4 hectares) highland; 85 percent (138465.85 hectares) temperate and 11.47 percent (18684.75 hectares) lowland (Zewudie, 2009: 12). It is also hot and humid climatic condition. While the hottest period is between Februarys to April, the coldest period is between August to October (Tadesse, 2003; Andinet, 2010). This is currently showing variation due to climate change in our country. The mean annual temperature ranges between 18°C to 28°C (YWARDO and Ethiopian Metrological Agency Jimma Branch, 2017). An altitude of the district ranges between 1140 to 2562 m. a. s. l. The rainfall pattern of the district is uni-modal type, with low rainfall in January and February, slowly increasing to the peak during the summer from May to October (Tadesse, 2003; Fite, 2008; Andinet, 2010). Currently, the annual rainfall pattern of the district is more than 1400mmviewing variations from year to year. This diversity of climatic circumstances and habitats partly contributed to the existence of high species of diversity in plants and animals in Ethiopia (Tadesse, 2003: 35).

## **4.3. Natural Resource Utilization**

Nationally, in the Southwestern Ethiopia Yayo district is known for its vast natural resource. With a various species of coffee and vegetation, soil types and wild animals, the district is primarily known for its vast natural wild coffee that contribute to the country's leading cash crops. The southwest Ethiopian forest is among the diverse ecosystem in the country. From the 58 National Forest Priority Areas in Ethiopia, Ilu Abba Bora zone has five National Forest Priority Areas that cover 608,396 hectares of land including the this district(Zewudie, 2009). Dwellers of the district utilize this wild coffee as source income for their livelihood in addition to formal coffee plantation and crop farming. However, major water sources found in the district are still know do not used properly.

## **4.4. Social Organization**

The majority of dwellers in the study area shares similar forms of social organization, cultural features and means of subsistence. However, this does not mean all in all they are native people in the area. In these study villages such as *Amuma*, *Geri* and *Geci* are heterogeneous

in ethnicity and religiosity due to some of the residents were resettled from Wollo, Tigray and Amhara by the government. But, there is homogeneity among natives in the area and resettled in their system of beliefs mainly Orthodox Christians and Muslims.

#### **4.4.1. Kinship**

It is a social organization of clan (*gosa*) and tribe (*sanyii*) segments that contributing to various socio- economic development activities. Both consanguine and affinal kinship relations are widely witnessed among Oromo ethnicity. With a consanguine kinship through patrilineal family, the people in Yayo area trace their descent line mostly from five to thirteen generations back through male genealogical lines. Affinal kinship ties are created through neighborhood (*ollaa*), and friendships (*michuu or hiryyaa*). In addition, several others are established through marriage and other socio-economic and cultural relations like *guddifacha* and *harmaguusa*. In general, their unilineal patrilineal clan family kinship has great relationship with the Borana Oromo particularly among *Macca* moiety. The implication of kinship relation in the district was understood from their settlement patterns in their respective peasant associations. On the other hand, there were tie of kinship between native people and resettled by marriage. It shows that the co-existence of the district population in terms of their cultural identity

#### **4.4.2. Marriage**

Mainly exogamous, patrilocal and monogamous marriage systems are widely known in the area. Currently, *Aseenna* (the marriage system performed with the knowledge of the two spouses and the groom's parents), Arranged marriage (the widely practiced and described as Wedding or *cidha ga'ela*) and *Dhaala* (Inheritance marriage, rarely practiced among the Muslim community in the area where one of the sons dies leaving his wife behind) marriage systems are in practice.

#### **4.4.3. Religion**

Respectively Christianity (Orthodox and Protestant) and Muslim are widely practiced religion by the dwellers. Some of them are also practicing indigenous beliefs. Traditional beliefs used in identifying and exposing wrongdoers by cursing (*abaarsa*) and swearing (*kakaa*).

#### **4.4.4. Local Institutions**

Formal and indigenous institutions play relevant roles in the livelihood of local inhabitants. Political administrative structures such as offices of woreda, kebele and small zones within the kebele are among formal institutions. Indigenous institutions comprising self-help work association (*dabo* or *dado*), *Iddir*, *Mehiber* or religious clusters to different civic society groups. Indigenous institutions in the area are what Zewudie has described as territorial-based administrative indigenous institutions, self-help work organizations, religious institutions and indigenous knowledge of forest coffee conservation and usage (Zewdie, 2005; 2009).

#### **4.4.5. Settlement Patterns of the Population**

The total land area of district covers 84,626 hectare. It is occupied by 57,938(27,969 males and 29,969 females) human populations with 9772 householders; 8510 males and 1262 are females (YWARDO, 2016).The district (Yayo) is sparsely populated in plateau surface and few settlements at lower altitudes (Tadesse, 2003; Andinet, 2010). Similar circumstance is found in research kebeles. However, in the center within peasant association dwellers are densely populated. This has happened due to vast forest coverage and low population pressure. Economically active population segments are more than dependent segments—elders and children.

#### **4.5. Status and Land Use Pattern**

Compared to other districts in Ethiopia, Yayo district forest constitutes 18% for the Southwest part and 2.7 % as whole on country (Andinet, 2010). The land in the district is used for various purposes. The district is mainly a cash crop growing area. Next to coffee ‘khat’; regarded as a cash crop and has religious value. There are also some places within the kebeles where some farmers are producing vegetables, fruits. However, there are wild animals which can destroy their production. This can influence them to cultivate little of these fruits and vegetables at their backyards and surrounding watercourses found in their local area. The majority of sampled householders have land for crop and coffee production while some of them landless. In the district, while 11903 ha of land portion in use for crop production purposes, 10188 ha is used for semi-forest and garden coffee production (YWARDO, 2017). However, in the context of three villages the land portion used for coffee production is greater than land used for crop production.

## CHAPTER FIVE

### DATA PRESENTATIONS AND INTERPRETATIONS

#### 5.1. Introduction

This chapter discusses the vital roles of women in the agricultural crop food production among nominated rural kebeles. In this study area, women share various household tasks and perform wide ranges of duties in administration of the family, maintaining the food security of household and attending to farm operation beginning from cultivation to harvesting. For example, both during the period collection of coffee production and farming major cereal production in each peasant association, women have a vital contribution by supporting their husbands. Women's work in their houses also an essential to the survival of their families. The specific farm tasks performed by women however, differ among this district rural peasant association setting. The interrelationships and complementary existence between different social groups influences the task of each individual. Dixon-Mueller (1989) study cited in Anteneh (2010) claimed that describing the gender division of labor in the farm households is simply activities of individuals which help to make women visible farmers in food production. The range of activities undertaken by women as reproductive and family care taker was described as per stated research objectives and questions. The major farming activities (the productive roles) performed by women, the basis of labor force division and factors inspiring women's roles in some productive activities. In addition, from the socially acceptable productive roles of women, their participation in protecting family food security status has been analyzed.

##### 5.1.1. Demographic Characteristics of Sampled Family

Out of the total sampled household informants (30HHs), 50% are men and the rest 50% are women. Ethnically, they are belongs to *Oromo (80%), Amhara (14%) and Tigre (6%)* ethnic groups respectively. In terms educational status, some of informants are illiterate while most of them were attended basic education to secondary. In addition, informant's age category found between 35 to 60. On the other hand, the average family size of householder's ranges from 7 to 9. Among sampled householders (85%) have married while (10%) of women are divorced and (15%) separated by death.

### 5.1.2. Livelihood Activities of Sampled Family Unit

Women tend to be responsible for producing, processing and preparing food for their household in most developing countries (Ibnouf, 2009:156). Thus, in Ethiopia women's participation in crop production is estimated between 45 and 75 percent (Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, 2010 cited in Thomas *et al.*, 2015). Crop production and animal rearing are the major economic activity. Cereal crop production, coffee production and few fruits and vegetables mainly practiced. Animal productions consist of cattle, goat, sheep, poultry and beekeeping. Previous study shows mixed agriculture is the main economic activities in the area (Tafesse, 1996; Tadsse, 2003; Andinet, 2010). According to Interview results with YWRADO (2017), other than agriculture, pity- trade and daily labor is livelihood for some numbers of populations. Agriculture employs 90% of rural labor force (Tadesse, 2003; Fite, 2008; Andinet, 2010). Among them 98% are producers of coffee (Zewudie, 2009).

This data was collected with three round fieldwork within the peasant associations from February to March 2017. The following figurative expressions also obtained during data collection throughout the three peasant associations selected for this study. Then, it was adjusted with the use of Picasa 3 software to interrelate the picture with discussion. This used to connect the intended objective of this research with the actual practical work.

Figure 5.1: *FGD and interview with farmers*



*Source: Own observation and interview within research site February to March, 2017*

## **5.2. Influencing Factors of the Family Food Security status**

Food availability, access, utilization and stability are relevant factors to assess women role in food security status from gender perspectives. Relied on these components of food security, women were playing a vital role in family food production, distribution and utilization. In connection with the study area, they are discussed below based on obtained data across research setting.

### **5.2.1. Availability (Food Production)**

Women are key actors in the sector of agriculture. They are participating in household food production activities even more than men. But, they lack access to abundant agricultural resources in turn which constrain their role. Availability of food production indicates the physical prevalence of food from different sources. The involvement of women in food production and food security can be also affected by unequal access to and control over livelihood assets of the family. As it is indicated above, the vast area of the district in general and sites of peasant associations designated for this research finding were covered by wild coffee forest species. There were not as much as possible to cultivate more food crops by removing the natural forest coverage. According to the data obtained through focus group discussion and key informant interviews held with model farmers of different background, there were shortages of food production due to limited agricultural land for crop production. Through direct observation, this is true when look most farmers only practicing in farming of maize, sorghum and barely as a predominant cereal crops across the three villages on limited land due to lack of extra land for other production. This was resulted by limitation of farmland and unsuitability of agro-ecology for other species of food crops. For example, informants have said that *“due to the nature of division of agro-ecological zones, all crops which are cultivated in other area are not commonly produced in the district in general and chosen villages in particular.”* So, from their saying the only opportunity is production of familiar crops with agro-ecological zones.

On the other hand, this scarcity limits women labor to perform only wifely duties and other domestic tasks. This has been negatively affecting the sufficiency of food crop production in the area. Regarding this, the focus group discussion held with *Amuma* and *Geri* farmers reveals that in most households ‘decision making, women were dominated by their husbands.

This confirms the decline of future food producing potentials of women and increasing family food insecurity. Consequently, it decreases women profits and availability of food for family consumption. Furthermore, across all the selected agro-ecology the view of the local farmers implies that “*farming the popular grain species were the only prevailing opportunity for the means of their family food subsistence.*” In addition to this, most women and men responded that irrigation farming using the water sources of locality is not common practice to farm food crops for households. They replied that they have only expecting rainy season to grow crops.

Never the less, the insufficiencies of food production in the area were analyzed from the woreda rural agricultural development annual crop production profile. For instance, Tadesse’s (2003) study reveals that there was shortage of production of food in the district for the reason of vast area has forest coverage. This result the vulnerability of women and children, where there was also inadequate food production for purchasing from local market. In addition, to interview responses from *Geri* and *Geci* kebeles indicated that where there were availability of labor force to produce grains for food, scarcity of farming land hinder them not to use their human power across family. The interview response of *Amuma* kebele farmers also showed that within a village some families’ food production insecurity or insufficiency prevails for the reason of family divorce. Consequently, this family divorce affects the food security status of the family in general and women and children in particular. Because, as it is indicated in the household labor force division, a woman has no acceptance as productive labor force from the view point of the local culture (it is considered as *taboo*). With family divorce there is also division of assets including farm land and children reside with either of the parents. According to *Amuma* farmers and elders the division of household assets and land enforced through legal provision as well as supported by indigenous institution, “*jarsumma*” (elders’ court). Most of divorce farmer lease out their farming land to another male farmer for crop sharing for cereals and coffee for cash crop. Farmers of *Geci* call this crop sharing practice as “*qixxee*” (equal-sharing). At the end of collection of production both sides have divided the produced crops for their food and cash to purchase fertilizers and pesticides.

The prevalence of climatic change and population growth has also its own effects. For example, the contemporary climatic change in general and the rain fall pattern variation in the

site particularly altered the crop production capacity of farmers. The general population growth and increase of family size from day to day has also influenced food security of the family. According to interview result secured from woreda Agricultural officers and supervisors the family size has negative impact on food security. The result indicates that as the family size is increasing from year to year among the rural peasant associations there is prevalence of self-food insufficiency across the family. This is also in turn causing shortage of land for farming and migration of working labor force to the nearby urban centers in search of job for survival. For instance, *Amuma* and *Geri* middle farming farmers said that young men and women migrate to join fertilizer industry, which is under construction at *Jimate*.

### **5.2.2. Food Access (Distribution)**

In rural area, women play a pivotal role in distribution of food to ensure food security status of their family. They bear more responsibility compared with their male counterparts. However, in some areas of households, they are still facing difficulties in improving and enhancing food distribution to their families. Therefore, in order to entail food security status of their family women access to distribution of productive resources of households is crucial. The lower accessibility of agricultural resources and services by women in the rural area has impacts on the status of women in ensuring food security of their family. In the current study area, deep-rooted socio-cultural norms and practices are main contributing factors for lower possession of resources and services by women in relation to men. Among the major productive resources and service distribution in the study area, some of them were discussed here below according to their accessibility both by women and men as household heads.

#### **5.2.2.1. Farming Land**

The majority the sampled farmers have crop land or coffee farm and some of them were landless. According to Yayo woreda Agriculture office and each kebele's extension workers interview results shows that the total land used for crop production in three sites were less than the land used for semi-forest coffee and garden coffee production. In general, the land prevails in Yayo district was used for forest (55.8%), agriculture (35.7%), grazing land (4.4%), wetland (2.3%) and settlement and others (2.7%) respectively (Tadesse, 2003: 31). This reality was observed as vast areas in the district including three villages of this study

have the highest natural forest coverage in south western part of Ethiopia. It covers 18% of southwestern part and 2.7% in Ethiopia as a whole (Tafesse, 1996; Tedesse *et al.*, 2002; Tadesse, 2003).

The land use pattern in the district is determined by family size. For instance, family who has vast land for crop and coffee production shares it with male children. However, a female child has no any chance get their family land. They believe that in the next day, they marry and establish their own family. In addition, informants of replied “*culturally, women and female children has no equal acceptance to inherit their father asset in general and land in particular.*” Furthermore, Yayo is highly preserved forest ecosystem for biodiversity conservation with limited agricultural land. So, there is no opportunity to have extra land by individual household. The only prevailing chance is to use the amount of land on farmers hand wisely. Compared with other society, the ultimate possession of farmland is vested in the hands of men.

On the other hand, land is key factor for small-scale rural crop production. Access to land has also political, social and economic importance for particular society. However, a study states that it is not equally accessed by rural community because of various factors. Gender role and gender relations are among factors that determine possession of land in the agrarian society. A study cited in Anteneh (2008: 64) indicates that either through the law of inheritance or legal provision land title and tenure tends to be vested in the hands of men.

In these three sites, women have limited access to and control over agricultural land compared to males. Only small portion of land is owned by women across the villages. A result of discussion and interview with *Amuma* and *Geci* village farmers indicates that when there was possibility of family divorce, in some places husband has the chance to control to and access the family farm land until the division of asset is legally fixed. However, until that a mother and her children are negatively affected by food insecurity due to shortage of land for agricultural production. On the other hand, in *Geri*, both women and men are encountered with lack of farm land. Because, the vast area incorporated in the village were not appropriate for crop production. Out of total sampled women, (23%) of female headed householders have land for crop and coffee production. Its sizes also range from 1 to 6hectares. Compared to men, the possession of land by female householders is less than male householders. Thus, from the total male headed householders, (40%) have land for agricultural purposes.

Furthermore, across the model farmers in the three sites, as they have replied to the interviewed question, where there is access of household farm for food crop and coffee production, there is also common use between women and men for their family agricultural productivity maximization. As understood from this view, this is one of the secrecy of their achievements in food security for their family. In addition, those families who have no any farm land for their family was enforced to farm with a family who have access to land and share the produced production.

#### **5.2.2.2. Irrigation Farm Land**

It is a mechanism of supplying water from its source to family's farm land to overcome the effects of drought and insufficiency of rain fall due to climate change. Mostly, it is practiced in the form of horticulture around their home backyards and gardens. Small-scale irrigation assists farmers to diversify types of production from household consumption to high value crops like fruits, vegetables and cash crops. As it has been understood from the all village's FGD and interview responses of local farmers, irrigation is not common farming practice in the three areas. Because, in *Amuma*, even though some area of farm land are conducive for small-scale irrigation there were uncertainty of the source of water to produce fruits and vegetables continuously. For example, *Saki* tributary is the prevailing water source in *Amuma*, but the amount of water is changeable due to water fluctuation and most of land surrounding the river bank is unfitting for irrigation. Because, huge areas surroundings farming land were covered by natural forest. It is also the home for various species of wild animals which are omnivorous and carnivores in nature.

The interview results from all site farmers' expresses that they do not use their access and capacity of farm land for irrigation for different reasons. This in turn affects the improvement of food security and income of their families. According to the data obtained by FGD in all sites the primary constraints contributing to irregular farming in the area comprises shortage of family finance, improper training by experts, inadequate market for crops(coffee), less of provision of improved seeds, insufficiency of water source, unsuitability of the place for irrigation in terms of its geography, occurrence of vegetable diseases and pests, availability of wild animals, absence of regular supply of inputs on time, less extension and credit services and interest and inexperience in irrigation by the farmers.

To generalize, among the major farming problems of food crop production in the study area, waiting rainy season for agriculture is common across the all peasant associations. That means there were low experience and utilization of irrigation in the area to bring sufficient food intake for family. But, as they have said very small numbers of farmers including women were practicing irrigation farming around their home. On the other hand, small size of farmland holding by individual family commonly affects the productivity of food in the area. Thus, FGD and interview with Agricultural officers and farmers indicates that most of the farmers are coffee producers and householder's income has been generating from coffee production. As they have said, "*a farmer who lacks sufficient food consumption compensates it from market by purchasing.*"

In addition, the prevalence of animal disease in the area is also contributing to the low productivity of farmers. An interview result indicates that as a result they are suffered by oxen disease, the family livelihood mechanism basically from coffee production. At the end, since the area has large forest coverage and it is conducive for coffee production than crop cultivation. So, informants have reported that this is also contributing factor for the low crop productivity of farmers in the area. Consequently, these all are resulting family food insecurity throughout the year. Even, during the year of low coffee production, *Geri* and *Geci* farmers have said that their families are susceptible to lack intake food. *Amuma* informants also confirmed to this problems as low crop production emerging from insufficiency of farmland and extension service.

### **5.2.2.3. Oxen for Farming**

Oxen are relevant farming assets for rural traditional small-scale agriculture including the study area. According to FGD and key informant interview responses, the ownership of oxen determines the annual production crops for food by individual family. Then, in addition lack of access to and shortage of farm land, scarcity of oxen can also affect the food security of the family. Of the members of particular family's, as they have said that severity of vulnerability increases on women and children. The FGD in *Amuma* and *Geri* particularly has shown that there were shortages of land and oxen which can contribute food insufficiency of family. In *Geci*, as key informant interview with women farmers indicates that members of their family were susceptible to food insecurity due to lack of access to oxen and husbands. Next to access to land, possession of oxen; household man power can limit the food

sufficiency of farmer's family. According to obtained data during fieldwork, from total female headed householders, 16 percent of them have access to ownership of oxen. Compared to their male counterparts this is also less possession. Whereas 33 percent of Male headed householders have oxen, 17percent of them have no oxen.

#### **5.2.2.4. Agricultural Extension Services**

In terms of creating opportunity for farmers and providing improved inputs for the local farmers, government is the only agent across the three sites. The provisions of these services by any other project and non-governmental organization do not exist over these areas. For all the three kebeles extension workers reach the farmers and provide the intended services and training as well as agricultural inputs. The followings are among these services and inputs.

##### **5.2.2.4.1. Improved seeds**

It is a provision of species of seeds which confirm with the existing agro-climatic condition of the area. As FGD and Key informant interviews with local farmers and agricultural officials of the woreda implies that different species of improved seeds and fruits has been provided to the farmers via of their respective extension workers. But, some complaining has been raised from the farmers as it is not reaches them on time as a result of different factors. For example, comments raised from *Amuma* village demonstrates that woreda officials and extension workers do not respond demands of farmers on time, especially regarding the provision of those improved seeds and fertilizer. Among others in *Geci* and *Geri* kebeles sometimes the provision of these inputs are not equally accessed by men and women. Thus, the service provision in not reach women and men inclusively. In addition they have said *“the priority is given only for those previously model farmers, rather than encouraging the middle and lower level farmers.”* So, this view shows that as there were inequalities to access to and to be beneficiary of the service provided. This can also demonstrates that the effects of gender relation and gender role to obtain the same benefit from holistically provided services for the community. Therefore, this needs intervention by the concerned stakeholder to bring equal use of community in general and women in particular.

#### **5.2.2.4.2. Fertilizers**

Access to and control over land and labor division between women and men might not lonely to increase production and productivity of farmers. But, due to the decline of soil fertility rural agricultural land requires the utilization of fertilizer by rural farmers. This provision includes different extension services, seeds and trainings how to use distributed fertilizer and pesticides. A discussion with model farmer of *Amuma, Geci and Geri* reveals that fertilizer is distributed to the farmers with improved seeds of a familiar crops in the area such as maize, sorghum and *teff* (in some areas of Geci and *Amuma*), but not all sites. As they have said that the fertilizer and seeds have been distributed either in cash and credit. However, the other informants' response indicates that there were variations in its distribution. For instance, across the three villages, female householders arose that "*men householders' word have acceptance and the priority is given to them in some area.*" This had been also negatively influences the productivity of women in the area like men.

#### **5.2.2.4.3. Training or workshops**

Facilitating farmers with different training is important to increase their knowledge in productive capacity of household farming. This task has been maintained by extension workers and woreda agricultural personnel both at the places of farming and in workshops. According to discussion and interview conducted with site farmers the training has been given throughout a year especially before growing and collection. Thus, as they have said that it has relevance to practice farming activities by using scientific recommendations given from extension workers and agricultural experts to be more profitable in their work. However, the training has difference from place to place and it has been performed as its importance. For instance, gender differential training has not in practice even if some women and men need special recognition. They have reported that including female extension worker has great importance to understand the problem of women farmers from its root. So, from some women saying government should recognize the participation of female worker to strengthen the productive roles of women in the district.

In line with the attitudes and knowledge raised from farmers of the area, agricultural personnel and extension workers has also responded that training and cooperative learning between model farmers, middle and lowest farmers are important to share an experience of

farming. This creates the sense of competition and influence a farmer capacity to produce more than desired production. On the other hand, it helps an individual family to utilize the resource they have for agricultural works wisely. In addition, providing training and workshops between farmers helps to brought food security. Thus, it means the more they produce the more they become free from effects of food insecurity.

Based on what was observed and obtained through interview and discussion with informants, there were variation between men and women in advancing their knowledge and providing updated agricultural information either inclusively or exclusively. This may be disappointed by the tradition of seeing only men as a farmer and disproving or marginalizing a women role only as wifely. According to some individual women's view from *geri gudda* of *Geri* and *geci zone* of Geci kebele, the training previously given for women farmer is not as much sensitized women to take part in a variety of food production tasks. For instance, discussion with *Amuma* women indicates the provision training and workshop for their area was not encouraging women to make decision equally to their husbands. This means, from their point of view priority is given to a male farmer. They have told for those women about the experiences and decision shared with other groups rather than women directly participate in decision making and experience sharing with others. For instance, during fieldwork in February, 2017 farmers were observed on training at Geci and Amuma on protection of coffee quality and land degradation respectively. However, this training was provided separately for farmers according to their respective zones by agricultural experts and extension workers. The total number of women observed on training was less than men householders. In Geci, 376 male householders and 43 female householders were involved on training. In Amuma, 246 male householders and 47 female holders was trained.

#### **5.2.2.4.4. Rural Credit Facilities**

Provision of access to credit saving and service plays a vital role by enhancing the productivity of small-scale rural agriculture. It enables a farmer to purchase inputs like fertilizers, improved seeds and pesticides to increase their productivity. A study reveals that shortage of financial resources influences rural farmers in the developing world attribute the limited use of modern inputs (Leulseged *et al.*, 2015:10). In some areas of this study, informants have reported the utilization of credit remains low, because of increasing percentage of interest rate by service provider or institutions. There is also difference between

a women and men in using credit service. On the other hand, the use of credit saving is high among men than a women. For example, the interview response of *Geci* informants demonstrates that the use credit service by men is higher than men. Whereas, in *Geri* and *Amuma* across some householders it was relatively equivalent usage by wives and husbands, but it has variation between men and women in general. For instance, the amount of money received by each individual is determined by household assets like land, house, production etc. informants have said *“the credit that has taken by individual farmer is less than that has taken by group. Individually, the maximum Credit is 2000 while in group it is more than 5000 Birr”*.

Thus, among some credit sources for a farmer Oromia Credit Saving Service and Wasasa are the major institutions which are providing credit for the farmers. Informants across each three peasant associations reported that as they were beneficiary from these institutions either based on group or individual needs. Yayo woreda Agricultural marketing expert and extension workers have approved the view of farmers about these services. The provision of this credit saving is based on per organization rules and regulations. Thus, they have said *“institutions have been providing two forms of credit to support productivity of farmers.”* The difference between the two forms is the duration of repayment by farmers. The first credit has been given only for one year for a purpose of purchasing agricultural inputs, whereas the second credit has been given for farmers to achieve their different medium term planning and repaid within one to three years. In general, in the vast rural context of Ethiopia, a study has revealed that women have less control over profitable crops and livestock, while men have power to manage more profitable cash crops and larger livestock (Thomas *et al.*, 2015) due to socio-economically ascribed norms of society. For this reason, the amount of credit used by women is lower than men due to most household assets are controlled by men to repay it. Consequently, this factor decreases the potential role of women to assure their family food security. However, both female and male householders have equal recognition by institution. The need of every farmer is responded equally.

### **5.2.3. Food Utilization(use and processing)**

Other than, food availability and access, women has also responsibility for food preparation to diversify eating food of their family. A study reveals that in bringing food security of their family, women tasks in food processing is crucial role (Girma, 2011). In various ranges of

activities performed by women, the nature of division of labor force has no similarity. The dynamics of labor sharing between a male and female counterpart are also based on heaviness of the work and family headship. This means being either male householders (MHH) or female householders (FHH) judges the responsibilities within the family. In addition to this effect, unlike other previously accounted research results in SSA and other parts of rural Ethiopia, the burdens of workloads were on women in bringing family food security. Because, without participation or domestic processing is done by women, the physical availability of crops has not being changed into family's food consumption. Most of family food making and processing is undertaken by women in this rural area. Men farmers play most responsibilities outside home, which means from growing to collecting crops on household farm land. According the perspective of informants and agricultural officials from the area, women's and men's farming activities are determined not only by social construction (gender) between the two sexes, but also it relies on the decision of wives and husbands. Because, they are heads of their family and either of them are responsible for deciding decision about day to day activity of their children and food consumptions.

*Amuma* and *Geci* peasant associations informants has reported that most times, men/husbands are undertaking only farming tasks and they haven't as such contributions for domestic tasks. However, women are playing double role; performing domestic tasks and farming duties with their husbands or counterparts. Even if, as *Geri* peasant association model household wives said, "*if women contribution left behind of husband in preparing food for laborers at farm land, the future farming tasks cannot be achievable*". Beside their contribution, either in food crop production and other domestic household tasks women have a vital role in preparation of intake food for their family and laborers at farm work.

#### **5.2.4. Food Stability (Sustainability)**

Food stability is the fourth component of food security. As it is indicated in the definition of food security in the introductory part of this research, the wording says "*at all times*" implies that the temporal time-frame of food security. On the other hand, in connection with the study area, the stability of food has been prevailing cuts across the three components of food security; availability, access to and utilization. According to FGD and interview held with informants throughout the three peasant associations, the stability of food has been affected

by the social perception of farming tasks as gender roles and gender relations. Thus, from gender perspective it was viewed as differences created between women and men in the period of hardships and vulnerability. Some informants from *Amuma* and *Geci* have informed that women and their children are encountered with reduction of intake foods in the period of shortage. Whereas men go for search an employment elsewhere by leaving their farm land due to crop failure and other family problems, women left behind the problems of feeding and scarcity of consumption food for their children. In addition, *Geri* peasant association informants also reported that shortage of farmland and unwise use of existing resources has brought the disturbance in food security of particular family. In turn, it also affects another family's food stability in the time of favoring those oppressed by shortages of food for household feeding.

### **5.3. Women's Contributions in the Household Labor**

#### **5.3.1. Women's Domestic activities**

In gender-based division of labor work, rural women have what researchers called "triple roles", which includes productive roles (work performed outside the home by women), reproductive roles (domestic tasks of women comprising child rearing and nurturing the family member in general) and community managing roles (unpaid voluntary community work of women like preservation of water, environmental sanitation and provision of service roles in local women association, Iddir, Mahber etc.). Particularly, both community managing roles and reproductive roles do not necessitate any reward for women in rural area. OECD (2012) states that domestic/household workers, who are principally women, are of the least acknowledged workers. In line with this, Anteneh (210) summarizes Shortall's study (1999) which shows that the interrelationship between productive and reproductive roles of women as it is impossible to distinguish practically. Therefore, based on the emic view of informants from the agrarian society of the district nominated for this research purpose, it is relevant to describe the reproductive and household maintenance of women vis-à-vis of their husbands.

In this rural parts, food preparations both for family and farming laborer are tasks of women for supporting their husbands at agricultural farming. In all selected villages for accomplishment of this research objective, this is true as understood from perspectives of farmers of the area. Household maintenance tasks are boring and time taking which

performed principally by women and sometimes by their female child. These labor divisions have cultural influential which prohibits husbands and sons to perform such like household duties at their home. Even though this cultural based rigidity is minimized in urban areas of due to the expansion of modern education, including this research site in rural parts, it is regarded as taboo to do these tasks for a husband. By their own local dialects they call it “*safuu*” or it is culturally not recommended to perform and most of domestic tasks reserved for women.

Women’s reproductive labor involves birth giving and daily domestic labor such as cooking, cleaning, washing child clothes and elder care etc. Biologically child bearing, breastfeeding, pregnancy and birth giving are by any means a sex role of women rather than results of socialization. In addition to this, even nurturing children are considered as domestic tasks of women alone. The interview results made with women and men of the area, those husbands are only assist their wives the issue of child care only when their children are sick/or feel not good about their health. Fewer household husbands are only sharing these responsibilities across the peasant associations. For instance, three of informants at Amuma kebele responded the interview question “*what type domestic work you assist your wife at home?*” and they reported that with the exception of assisting in collection of fire wood all domestic household task is reserved for women and their female children. Thus, they told me “*the capacity of women is confirm with household tasks*”. This implies that women capacity to do something with the absence of men not meet its goal. In other word, it also demonstrates that cooperative activity of women and men on household farm activities. They also said that “*women alone do not achieve the intended household goals.*” Furthermore, regarding this one of informant at Geri peasant association responded interview on February 22, 2017 conversation as much of workload is over women. Her responses asserts like as:

The other tiresome task and key resource for every household member was fetching water and collecting firewood. According to own personal observation, focus group discussion with informants as well as information obtained by interview, the task of fetching water is mostly categorized as domestic duty of women. However, in some areas within the peasant association, sometimes their female children can help their mother and members of elder families. Through the three peasant association zones, there was provision of public pure hand pump water which is constructed on underground sources. So, each community

informants reported that they use this pump water for drinking and household food preparation. Furthermore, for cleaning their clothes and body they utilize from other sources of water in the village. Parallel to this, collecting firewood is another tiresome task which is mostly performed by women. But, they have replied that in some places it is mostly undertaken tasks by women. Because, the area is rich with natural forest and there were availability of firewood in their surroundings. On the other hand, women have responsibility to protect their children personal cleanliness and sanitations. Informants have reported that this task is performed by fetching water from the source or by going where the source is found. Similar to the other domestic tasks; women are responsible for washing, cleaning their home and family clothes. However, discussion with them emphasizes that in some areas with in a village, women were assisted by their female children and husbands.

Based on traditional rigid gender division of labor, preparing food and washing food tools are the sole tasks of women in the family. In most households within each peasant association, according to informant's point of view, these tasks were lonely carried out by women and their female children. Sometimes husband and male child perform these household maintenance duties to assist those women or their mothers and sisters.

Furthermore, as they have responded that preparing local drinks what is locally called "*farso*" and "*arake*" and grinding of cereals by hand for food are culturally reserved tasks for women. The majority of selected households in each peasant association were responded that these tasks are undertaken only by women and their daughters. This also implies that prevalence of rigid gender role division in labor where the task is exclusively undertaken by women. But, today the introduction of modern milling technology has changed some heavy tasks of grinding of cereals by their hands. The emergence of this technology provided the division of household duties amongst wives, husbands and daughters. But, women work loads are not yet minimized.

Exchanging indispensable substances in the market place was shared responsibility in the majority of householders in all peasant associations. Relied on focus group discussion with key informants, men are expected to exchange items which have high value and women are dominating the transaction of objects that has low value. They have said that as they believe in superiority of men as household head and power to control resources through patrilineal line. Whereas the items that has exchanged by husbands comprising of coffee and different

cereal products and other household assets, the types of market transaction performed by women includes products like fruits and vegetables which is basically cultivated by women at their backyards. With this cultural influence material which has low value is left for women in rural area. According to the views of local community and personal observation, the means of transportation of materials for market exchanging has also varied between men and women. While men/husbands use pack animals like donkeys, horses and mules, wives/women transport exchange items by carrying on their back. Furthermore, as informants reported that production like *khat* is predominantly controlled by husbands. This is because; it generates high income for the households next to coffee particularly in *Geci* and *Amuma* kebeles.

To sum up, most household tasks are performed by women in every day though some of them are occasionally performed by men. Women spend extensively much more time than their husbands on household work and continuing to bear basic responsibility for their family. In contrast, small number of husbands engaged in some extent of household tasks. According to views of informants, this implies that there was insight of labor division in a fair way between them to administer their family. However, in some households as they have responded that there were cultural taboos, which restrict men from performing domestic tasks that left women. But, in reverse to this, women are performing the activities mostly undertaken by men. Subsequently, these shows that the prevalence of most fixed gender division of labor in rural area. This is cultural specific and forbidden for husbands to do the activities performed by women.

### **5.3.2. Women's Role in Agricultural Production**

Rural women are participating in a various productive activities vital for household welfare and food security. In the current study, parallel to their husband and with the absence of men women carry out different farming activities. For example, across the three rural kebeles, the informants have almost similar view about roles of women. They have said “*women or our wife are ground for wellbeing of the whole family. In addition to their support at work place, life is also nothing with the absence of wife at home.*” However, a gender difference in farming activity creates the difference between men and women. This shows that the rigidity and flexibility in division of labor which is influencing activities of farm duties undertaken both by women and men. In Ethiopia, women's involvement in agricultural crop production

has limitations. An informant from Geri and Geci interview results implies that a woman has no equal utilization of household resources with men because of some cultural and social barriers. research stresses that if rural women's participation is gender-responsive and inclusive; it helps to overcome gender specific constraints to improve their knowledge, household headship skills, income, and access to agricultural inputs, social networks, and position in value-chains or result based (Thomas *et al.*, 2015:2). In addition, based on informants needs and prediction more inclusive and gender responsive actions by agricultural professionals can contribute to improving gender roles and gender relations in farm duties. In turn, it is also helping women to construct their social solidarity and problem solving ability.

The district agricultural officers, extension workers and model farmers discussion distinguishes that there is division of farm duties relied on its "heaviness" and "smallness". While men are performing what they call culturally "heavy" duties like ploughing by using oxen, seedling and cleaning farm land, the minor farm tasks reserved for women in the area comprising of weeding or collecting coffee, storing farm crops and processing food for laborer at work, cultivating fruits and vegetables, hand-harvest some cereal crops like maize, sorghum and barely where it is grown. While women are engaged in growing food crops and vegetables for family consumption, men do market cash crops like coffee and khat. Therefore, to assess ranges of activities performed by women and men in the current study area, this research has given emphasis to describe types of cash crops and cereal grains produced in the district as well as livestock raising activity.

#### **5.3.2.1. Major Crop Production in Research Setting**

Through field work, the major farming activities shared between men and women were identified in the production of popular crops in the area. These tasks range from cleaning land to harvesting and storing. It comprises of land preparation, weeding, harvesting and transporting and storing of grains. Furthermore, applying fertilizer and pesticides with the help of extension workers were also parts of farm duties. To briefly describe activities of individual women, let show some common popular crops grown in the district as follows.

Production of coffee has economic importance for Ethiopian population livelihoods. The district coffee is mostly produced by small-scale farmers. A study shows that around 25% of Ethiopian population is involved in coffee production, processing and marketing services

(Andinet, 2010:42). Forest coffee, semi-forest and garden coffee were types coffee production system in the district in general (Tadesse 2003:68; Andinet, 2010:42) including current study site. In plantation of the semi-forest and garden coffee, women have vital roles. The informants responded “*women engaged especially in managing and planting garden coffee through traditional ways*”. Because, it is found nearest to the home of the farmers and suitable for women to protect and collect in addition to their domestic roles. Coffee production by traditional systems is principally sources of livelihood for more than 60% of the district population (Tafesse, 1996 cited in Tadesse, 2003). Where *Geri* peasant association is mostly known for its forest coffee and semi-forest, *Geci* and *Amuma* area were conducive for garden coffee and semi-forest coffee. Tadesse (2003:68) study stresses that the tradition of producing and using coffee in Ethiopia is older in general and the southwest Ethiopian coffee production system varies from the rest of the world in particular. Coffee has cultural value and mainly depends on naturally regenerating coffee species.

Rainy season crop production is common across rural area. It is also true in all three peasant associations of this study area. Sampled farmers responded that crop production mainly depends on rain-fed. But, small numbers of farmers are engaged in using both rain-fed and wetland irrigation to produce locally known fruits and vegetables like potato, tomato and cabbage. Most producers of these fruits and vegetables are usually women farmers. It is used for household consumption and market exchange.

*Maize* is among the most cereal crops produced for food subsistence in all selected peasant association, since the area is closer to climatic condition and agro-ecology. Informants responded that it is the leading cereal crop for subsistence food for households in the area. Its production engages both women and men labor forces and mainly produced during rainy season. However, much of its work is done by women since men go for another task after its cultivation. But, as a result of small land holding and low productivity, shortage of food production prevails and farmers compensate by purchasing from market (Andinet, 2010). As respondent’s point of view, these were the main reasons which affect existence of the food security of the family in the area. According to key informant interviews and focus group discussions of *Geri* and *Geci* peasant associations, most of the land in the area was occupied by forest and coffee. It is not conducive and recommendable to produce crop for food by removing natural forests. Thus, they valued coffee production as most accepted and has

economic gain. In addition, it is illegal and has legal sanction to damage natural forest for agricultural and settlement purpose.

Next to *maize*, *sorghum* and *barely* are also among the popular cereal production across the three peasant associations. In addition, *teff* is also cultivated in some area, but it is not popular across the sites. Their production is performed in similar way with maize and needs the involvement of both men and women labor force divisions. In addition to this, as it was described in the characteristics of the study area, the result of interviews with key informant and focus group discussions shows that the production of different species of fruits and vegetables were not that much popular. But, in some areas only a small number of women are engaged in the production of few species of potatoes and tomatoes around their garden and backyards for food and market exchange. From most informants view in three peasant associations, it is understood that the practice of such like tasks are reserved for women, because it seems ‘simple’ duty for them.

### **5.3.2.2. Major Livestock Rearing in Research Setting**

In the three sites selected for this study, the farmers were practicing agricultural production which includes crop production and animal tending. A study reveals that the area is well-known for its livestock and agricultural production potential. Though, it is situated within the tsetse belt and trypanosomosis which hinders the livestock and agricultural productivity of farmers (Geremew *et al.*, 2016:41).

According to my direct personal observation and interview conducted with selected farmers and agricultural officials, the most types of livestock categories of the district comprises of cattle, sheep, goats, poultry, horses and donkeys. Through, the practices of herding and preserving all types of these animals, even though labor division prevails between them, both women and men have their contribution across all sites. However, the prevalence of tsetse flies in the area highly hinders rearing of livestock and the effort being made for food security of the individual family. A farmer reported that much of their oxen are affected by this disease. Therefore, the study shows that wide prevalence of animal disease and shortage of land is the notable problem that has impact on agricultural productivity of farmers (Andinet, 2010: 41). In addition to this, beekeeping is also mostly practiced by farmers in the *Geri* and *Geci* peasant associations, whereas *Amuma* is somewhat situated nearest to the woreda center.

### **5.3.3. Factors Affecting women's Contribution in Food Production**

A literature reveals that in rural agricultural society, women are recognized only as wifely and marginalized by male dominations. Likewise, women themselves consider their duty as it is privileged to perform the household work, whereas those men/husbands are recognized as 'stronger' and 'superior' than women in their decision making about their family. From this view, it is concluded that men are undertaking more 'heavier' and 'important' responsibility than women. The discussion and interview conducted with sampled families across the site states that cultural perception, nature of labor division through social norms, easiness and heaviness of farm tasks are influencing women contribution in the study area. They have said "*all simple farm works and household food processing are activities of women, while those works which needs serious labor are carried out by men/husbands.*" This can also negatively affects women's vital roles in contributing to the food production for their family.

### **5.4.Labor Force Division in the community**

Labor is relevant human power input for economic development of particular society. Especially in small-scale agricultural activity like ours, it is the most essential factor that influences productivity. In rural area, this farm labor has classification based on its socio-cultural norms and ability of the individuals to perform the particular farming activity. A study reveals that dominant gender norms, stereotypes, and practices shape gender power relations at household (Thomas *et al.*, 2015:4). Among householders women were contributing much to their domestic household tasks and farming engagements according to its labor needs. Relied on the importance of labor division of household duties in rural agrarian society, there is domestic, community, hired and group labor. For the accomplishment of parts of this study in particular, these categories of labor division between men and women as well as members of community has discussed below one by one.

#### **5.4.1. Women in Domestic Labor**

Most rural agricultural food production needs more labor. Here, it is important to see the vital contribution of all family members either as reproductive and productive labor. The productive and reproductive availability of labor across each family in the site was determined by family size and age categories. For instance, large size families have the

possibility of having more productive labor force. But, all age categories are not considered as economically productive labor. From the three sites informant's points of view, all children of the particular family have given different tasks basically which confirms with their age and socially accepted norms. While male children of the family were expected to do the types of tasks practiced through their father line, female children in the sites were expected to undertake the household maintenance activities with their mothers at home and farming area. This demonstrates that there is participation of women and their female child on the productive and reproductive labor force. Informant's response in *Geri* and *Geci* shows that the existence of productive labor force in the particular family was available in male household headship than female headship. The families headed by the females are from the beginning due to death of their husbands and family divorce. So, as informants concluded their responses from this point of view, the families which were headed by women were less productive and reproductive labor than the family headed by men. Consequently, this was contributing to the low level family food production practiced by women headed family. During model farmers' survey and discussion with farmers of the three sites, most women's expressions show that there were increasing burden on women in undertaking both farm activities and domestic family tasks. Most male farmers also confirmed the existence of high work load over women across the sites. For instance, the focus group discussion conversation with *Amuma* and *Geci* kebele reveals "*if women do not carry out domestic labor at home, the household food crop production is not achievable.*" This idea implies that as women are pillar for small-scale rural agriculture by organizing and supporting their husband both in material and knowledge.

#### **5.4.2. Women in Hired Labor**

Hired labor is a cost of production, requiring a payment in cash or in kind to the individual employed to perform labor tasks for the particular family. In this particular study site, there are different factors that determines the prevalence of hired labor force either for domestic or farm duties. For example, according to household survey through model farmers and discussion with them at *Geri*, particularly *geri gudda* and *Jirru* zones shortage of household or domestic labor, holding large size of farm land, having more household assets across the family and prevalence of household work load are some of the conditions influences to use hired labor. Similarly, in the *Amuma* site of *Minze*, *Dagito* and *Barkume* zones hired labor

used for several problems especially during family encountered with hardship. Again the same were prevailed in *geci* and *Lakku* zones of *Geci* peasant association.

In relation to these factors and other unmentioned factors in all three sites, there was existence of hired labor for productive and reproductive tasks. Across the site wealthier families have a capacity to use hired labor force for domestic tasks and farm activities. Discussion and interview results with farmers of the site demonstrates that the majority of hired labor force for domestic chores were females, whereas males laborers were considered mostly as hiring labors for farm activities. Sometimes, based on direct observation and model farmer household survey, aged elder families were engaged in practicing domestic works at home. They have no effort to go far to take part as hired farm labor forces. For example, from witness at *gudaya gudda* zone of *Geri* and *geci* zone of *Geci* peasant associations some numbers of aged elders were observed when they were practicing domestic household activities at model families home.

In conclusion, lack of means of subsistence and productive resources influence hired workers to give service for those wealthiest. As discussion with farmer at *Dagito* zone and *lakku* zone implies that some of the people who were serving as hired laborers were those helpless and homeless members of population. Parallel to this, some of them were giving hire labor service as a result of lack of land and other productive resource even if they have their own family. To end, small number of women was practicing in hired labor for the reason of scarcity of farming animals (oxen). Lack of male child instead of their husband separated by death was also other contributing factor. On the other hand, many younger were observed when they were practicing in a hired labor by withdrawing themselves from school and even after school graduation. This possibility was emerged due to lack of help and constant employed work by government and other organization. Informant's point of view reveals that they are not practicing farm duties with their family, but to gain rewards, they were participating as hired laborer at different construction in the area such as road, fertilizer factory in Yayo and wealthier families farming area. Therefore, this in turn regarded as one of the causes of prevalence of insecure intake food for a particular family of the area.

### 5.4.3. Women in Collective Labor (*Dabo*)

It is the mechanism by which rural population were working together to be more productive and strengthen their social bonds. A '*Dabo*' has cultural aspects in its organization and it is voluntary self-help association on the base of farmers' interest. It is also relevant during the period of more labor is needed to finish a particular farming task within a given period of time. It has also relevance among farmers during a member of specific family encountered with hardship. As Zewudie's(2009:88) study in the same district reveals that it is one of the classifications of self-help work organization and regarded as voluntary self-help work organizations. The other self-help organization is known as adversity-based organization which includes *Jiga*, *lafe* and *iddir* which focuses on provision of labor, financial and other support to the people within various hardships. This may be relatives' death and natural hazardous in which local community member can involve in helping those families within problems without excluding themselves as women and men. In both categories, as this statement implies that both women and men have contributing to the well-being of their members according to views of the site farmers. However, women are familiar to be members of informal self-help groups than formal one due to long experience with greater gains from informal groups like *dabo*, kebele level saving, *iddir* and *mahiber*. This shows that women are more active participant than men in mutual co-existence of society.

In the district of this study, '*Dabo*' is also considered as a voluntary self-help association or reciprocal labor exchange. The members are observed when they were engaged in agricultural food crop cultivation and coffee production. A discussion and interview responses of all sites informants shows that the district farmers has an experience of a long cultural tradition of helping themselves in different farming activities and in the case of suffering. In its organization, both women and men were taking part either with female householders or male householders in their surrounding area. The prevalence of a multiplicity of neighborhood voluntary self-help organizations assisted Oromo to generate surplus production, food security and self-sufficiency (Tesema, 1990 cited in Zewudie, 2009:88). However, in types of self-help organizations the burden of work was on women. For instance, in the farming tasks like cleaning, weeding and collecting the grown production, women engage in double responsibilities. At home, they were facilitate by preparing food and drink for group laborer at farming activity. On the other day, women have the responsibility to

collect and store harvested crops during their husbands were paying the previous labor for other member of the group (*dabo*). Thus, it was observed when a number of labor groups were involved in collecting coffee from their garden and cleaning farm land for maize and sorghum in *Geri* and *Amuma* sites.

During the observation, there were division of labor between men and women at farm tasks. For example, it was observed at *Geci* when the women were facilitating the group laborer by providing a farm materials and cleaning farm land in front of their husband at the place of work. In conclusion, even though all sites population has diversity in terms of their culture, religion, ethnicity as well as agro-ecology they have correlation in their social bonds which strengthen their relation to live in the same geographical location together. All member of community including women groups across the ethnic diversity are similar in having the same consideration about the relevance of '*Dabo*' as self-help association.

#### **5.4.4. Women in Community Labor**

A community labor is a type of labor division contributed by the large members of community to bring the holistic social development. In the study area it was considered as social participation to protect the environment which is vastly occupied by coffee forest and land used for agricultural production from erosion and degradation. For instance, For instance, it was observed in the three sites where population was engaged in community labor on two common days for community participation. Across the sites Wednesday is a day of social mobilization for male farmers to engage in the local development, whereas Thursday is social mobilization for women groups in the same way with their husbands.

On the other hand, it is a type of collective action formally undertaken by the local community with a guidance of agricultural extension worker on the identified day. Zewudie's study (2009:90) states the importance of collective action undertaken by the group of community to the sustainable management of natural resources in the district. He has also noted the studies that signify the voluntary action taken by the community on the base of their common interest. However, as Thomas *et al.* (2015:4) research stresses that in the community based groups, while women involvement become decrease, men's participation increases. This demonstrates that the low perception of community for women labor and influenced by cultural experience.

To describe further, as discussion and interviews conducted with site farmers and extension workers implies, it is performed once a week regularly to protect the well-being of the community and the surrounding environment they were living in. For example, the observation conducted in *Amuma* and *Geri* sites shows that male farmers were practicing on the protection of land degradation by excavating terracing in farm land. In addition, *Geci* community was observed when they were participating in discussion on the protection of quality of coffee production through their collective actions. In general, these types of labor division and idea sharing between the communities and particularly among men and women were undertaken in line with government policies and strategies towards social mobilization on local development. However, informants replied that male farmers were the energetic participant in community labor than women where it more labor demanding.

## CHAPTER SIX:

### CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### 5.1. Conclusions

Qualitative approach was implemented to understand the vital roles of women in the family food security. Beside to this, ethnographic design was employed to explore the complex roles of women in small-scale agricultural production. In addition to these different anthropological theories was eclectically used to make the study more comparative. Thus, this paper has discussed a vital role of women in order to ensure and maintain their family food security. These principal roles of women range from household domestic activity to participation in farm tasks. However, their contribution has constrained by several factors which are originated from socio-cultural aspects. Family food security cannot be achievable without women contribution to agricultural food crop production. Most of food security issue are the concern of women in rural area even though the visible imbalanced workloads.

The concept of food security includes the significance of elements of food security at all levels of social organizations. Among the various social organizations, family and individuals are found at micro level organization. In this research site, women are playing responsible roles in food production, distribution and utilization. The livelihood of this district rural woman is mainly limited to smallholder farming practice due to shortage of land for crop production. Further, there is division of labor force in rural farming practices. The range of activities undertaken by women in the food production includes land preparation, threshing, transporting, hoeing, weeding, harvesting and storing. In addition to food production, women have also responsibility to manage and process the harvested crops to increase food obtainability of their family. For instance, women spent much of their income and time on caring their children and old age family members other than several domestic works. In line with food production and distribution, across this rural small-scale farming practice, women are playing a vital role in preparing and processing food crops to diversify dietary system of intake foods for their families. Despite of this ranges of activities performed by rural women, they have not got recognition as a farmer. For example, in obtaining various productive inputs, assets and services, there is unequal perception between women as farmer with their counterpart. This implies that the prevalence of different gender specific constraints that

limits the opportunity of access to and control over key productive resources by women as a farmer. There is also variation between female as household heads and women as only wifely duties. Due to these differences, in the context of this study female householders have more advantageous than married women to choose and participate in existing economic activities in the area. In the other explanation, female householders have better access and control over productive resources and services than married women.

Further, most of the district land is covered by wild coffee and natural forest. It has both national and regional recognition by its natural assets. Due to this, the land asset of the district is limited for crop farming. Only coffee is the leading cash crop in the area. It is cultivating within forest and at garden of surrounding home of the farmers. Consequently, limitation of farmland and animal disease brought shortage of food which in turn affects the particular family food security. Women and children are among the social members mostly suffered by insufficiency of food in the area. However, women are key producer of agricultural food crop production and almost all domestic activities are performed by them. Their contributions were range from farming to collection of familiar cereal crop production like maize, sorghum and barely. But, they are attributed to less recognition by the local community. This implies that women's role is less acknowledged and in turn this negatively affects their moral encouragement other than family food security.

In addition, women have essential role in all categories of labor force division across all peasant associations. But, their participation is constrained by different socio-culturally built factors. For instance, the access to and control over key productive resources by women are less than men or husbands. This is caused by the intention of male domination over household assets and decision making. The other factor which demoralizes women contribution in this area was low government support for women exclusively based on their needs. This means absence of provision of especial credit service program for low income family has contributed to the family food insecurity. Family divorce is also another factor which contributes insufficiency of intake food by family. Other than these factors, unequal distribution of extension services and its slow provision is also affects the productive capacity of farmers in general and women in particular. To sum up, with these all difficulties and limitations women are contributing much for their family food crop production. However, for

their future farm works this needs intervention by the government and other stakeholder to increase women's participation in realizing and improving family food security.

## **5.2.Recommendations**

Across rural family, women perform productive, reproductive, and community or social role. The former role is undertaken both by women and men in terms of livelihood activities of the family. Most of the reproductive roles are solely performed by women. It includes child caring and several domestic activities. Social role is the third categorical activity principally performed by women and it comprises of different social events. Therefore, having these all burdens and responsibilities at family and community level women are vulnerable to food insecurity and several socially built prejudices. To acknowledge roles of women in ensuring and improving family food security, addressing the issue of imbalanced workloads, gender roles and responsibilities are important. Based on this research finding in Yayo area, the following suggestions and way forward should be considered by concerned body to increase the productivity of women in rural small-scale agriculture.

- Promote women's productive tasks by providing trainings, credit and access to different social service to reduce women workload.
- Strengthen and recognize women contribution as farmer equally with men.
- Break gender role obstacles by providing inclusive education for men, women, boy and girl with the support of concerned body.
- Support women's participation in local informal association as producer to strengthen women role and their decision making capacity.
- Strengthen the provision of basic education and vocational training for women. Because, almost all number of farmers in the area are found on lower level education.
- Advance financial supports and services for farmer to improve their productivity based on their needs.
- Support and train farmers to utilize irrigation farming to reduce family food insecurity.
- Make extension services more gender-responsive by giving attention to all roles of women.
- Invite different stakeholders to support and improve productive capacity of local farmers

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## Appendix: 1

### **Jimma University School of Graduate Studies College of Social Sciences and Humanities**

Women's roles in realizing food security of the family among Yayo district farmers of Ilu Abba Bora, Southwestern Ethiopia.

#### **Consent Form**

Good morning/good after noon. My name is \_\_\_\_\_. I am researcher and data collector for a research entitled "*Gender, Agriculture and Food Security: Women's roles in Realizing Food Security of the Family among Yayo District Farmers of Ilu Abba Bora, Southwestern Ethiopia*".

Dear interviewee,

This interview attempts to assess the role of women in realizing their family food security. To this effect, I would like to assure you that all information gathered will be used solely for the academic purposes and shall not be used to victimize anyone. The respondents will remain anonymous and their names shall not be revealed to anyone.

I would like to ask you the permission to take audio-visuals of the interview for it will be difficult to only note or remember. As I have said earlier this is only for academic purpose. This will be kept as confidentiality. Do you agree with me?

A. Yes (continue)

B. No (Thank informants and End the interview)

Now, I am going to ask you and you will provide your response as your understanding.

## Appendix: 2

### Guiding Questions for Key Informant Interview (Agricultural Officials and Supervisors)

Date of interview \_\_\_\_\_ Name of Office informant represent \_\_\_\_\_

Position of the respondent \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Women's in food production and how their role can contribute to family food security.**

- Did women famers have role in realizing their family food security?  
**Probe:** - How did you evaluate women's participation in food production?
  - Did you know the farming responsibilities reserved for women?
  - Who is most responsible for family food security? Is that Husbands? Or Wives?
  - What are farming tasks of women? Can you mention some of them?

#### **The way gender relations and gender roles affect the family food security status.**

- Who is mostly affected by the absence of secure food with in the family?  
**Probe:** - is that is women or Children or Elders?
- Did women have equal access to the services and supports provided by your officials?  
**Probe:**-what types of services? Is that is Credit, improved seeds, fertilizer or
  - Training, workshops, pesticide and others?
  - Which one the most influencing factor in the area among the following?
    - is it compelled by availability of resources, access, utilization and stability?

#### **Factors that influence gender division of labor and how it constrain women's role in agricultural food production.**

- What is gender based division of farm duties in your woreda?  
**Probe:** - Who does what? Why?
  - is it is as a result of cultural influence, religious enforcement?
  - can biological character between men and women bought that?
  - what do you know about this in your area?
- What factor that affect women's role in food production?  
**Probe:** - is that social perception? How? Or culture and religion? Why?
  - Is it affected by scarcity of access to resources?
- What types a control has taken to eradicate the gender role gap in farming activities?  
**Probe:** -if there is intervention by your officials, what are that interventions taken?
  - Can you mention some of them?

**Thank you!**

## Appendix: 3

### Guiding Questions for Key Informants (with Agricultural Extension Workers)

Date of interview \_\_\_\_\_ Name of informant's peasant association \_\_\_\_\_

Position of the informant \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Women's in food production and how their role can contribute to family food security.**

- What are ranges of farming activities performed by women farmers to realize their family food security?

**Probe:** - can you mention tasks of women in your area?

- Did they get equal treatment in obtaining the extension services you provide?

- If your answer is yes how?

-is that is exclusively or inclusively with a male farmer?

- How did you evaluate women participation in agricultural food production?

Probe: -How many model farmers in your peasant association and each zone?

#### **The way gender relations and gender roles affect the family food security status.**

- What is a responsibility of women in improving the family food security?

**Probe:** - What factors that hinder women involvement in food production?

-What type of control you have taken to correct those constraints if any?

- Is there variation in access to service between male and female famers in your area?

**Probe:** - who has the most accessibility of household resources?

- Is it by women or men? If it is by men why?

- Among members of family in your area who is most susceptible by food insecurity?

- Is there variation in access to service between male and female famers in your area?

#### **Factors that influence gender division of labor and how it constrain women's role in agricultural food production.**

- What are factors that initiate gender division of labor force in your area?

**Probe:** - is that is nature of specific work or others?

-if you have experienced with features please mention some of them?

- How it will constrain a vital role women play in ensuring the family food security?

- Where does each activity take place and by whom?

Probe: - is it is at village, market place, on farmland, at home?

- How far away from dwellers household?

**Thank you!**

## Appendix: 4

### Guiding questions for key informant Interview with Women farmers (wives of model farmers and FHH)

Date of interview \_\_\_\_\_

Informant' position in the family \_\_\_\_\_

Peasant association of the informant \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Women's in food production and how their role can contribute to family food security.**

- What type of roles you play to ensure your family food security?  
**Probe:** - please mention some of your responsibilities?  
-Have you equal recognition in securing your family food security?
  - Who play the most responsibility to guarantee family food security?
  - is that is your husbands or you or equally?

#### **The way gender relations and gender roles affect the family food security status.**

- Did you obtain equal services and support from agricultural extension workers?  
**Probe:** - if your answer is No, why?
  - If your answer is yes, mention some of them?
- Did you have equal treatment in decision making process regarding your family?  
**Probe:** - if it is not why? Can you say something?
  - Who decision is socially most acceptances as you understand?
  - Is it is decision made by your husbands? Why?

#### **Factors that influence gender division of labor and how it constrain women's role in agricultural food production.**

- What are the types of farming activity you are performing to realize your family food security?  
**Probe:** - is that is only domestic tasks or includes other household farming?
  - From you and your husband who has workloads?
  - If it on women, how?
  - Can you mention some your domestic works other than farm duties?
- What factors that constrain you not to contribute in the family food security?  
**Probe:** - Have equal recognition to administer your agricultural production?
  - If your answer is NO, why? Mention its causes?
  - What types of consequence it have on family and you?
- Who access to productive resources and assets from you and your husband?  
**Probe:** - if it is your husband, why?
  - How did you see these effects on your role in your family?
- Who belongs to formal or informal self-help organization from your family?  
**Probe:** - is that is both of you or men alone or women alone?
  - Who benefit more from these organizations?
  - Who own and uses product of women with your family?
  - Who is beneficiary of income earned?
- Who access and control to services among you and your husbands or other males?  
**Probe:** - what are factors that determine this access?
  - Can you name some of them?

**Thank you**

## **Appendix: 5**

### **Guiding Questions for Focus Group Discussion with Women and Men farmers**

Date of Discussion \_\_\_\_\_ Peasant Association \_\_\_\_\_

Zone with in the Peasant Association \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Women's in food production and how their role can contribute to family food security.**

- Who is responsible for family food security in your household?  
**Probe:** - Did you have equal recognition in receiving services in your area?
  - Compare it with your counterparts.
  - What did you think about social differences between men and women?
  - What will be the possible solution for this?

#### **The way gender relations and gender roles affect the family food security status.**

- Did you have equal participation in decision making how to control and access agricultural production to realize your family food security?
- Did you have equal acceptance and membership in local farmers' organization?

#### **Factors that influence gender division of labor and how it constrain women's role in agricultural food production.**

- What are sources of constraints that hinder women involvement in ensuring family food security?

**Probe:** -What are the basic standards of labor force division between men and women?

**Thank you for your information and cooperation!**