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### The Contributions of Primary Multipurpose Agricultural Cooperatives in Socio Economic Development and its Prospect Challenges in West Showa Zone, Oromia Regional State

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#### Abstract

Cooperatives, as economic enterprises and as self-help organizations, play a meaningful role in uplifting the socio-economic conditions of their members and their local communities. Over the many years back, cooperative enterprises have successfully operated locally owned people centered businesses while also serving as catalysts for social organization and cohesion. With their concern for their members and communities, they represent a model of economic enterprise that places high regard for democratic and human values and respect for the environment. As the world today faces unstable financial systems, increased insecurity of food supply, growing inequality worldwide, rapid climate change and increased environmental degradation, it is increasingly compelling to consider the model of economic enterprise that cooperatives offer. The objective of this study was to show the contributions of primary multipurpose agricultural cooperatives in socio economic development and the prospect challenges of primary multipurpose agricultural cooperatives societies in Ethiopia. The total population of rural members of focused study area were 4,867 and sample size of the research was 356 and it determined by using Kothari formula. Thus, research survey is collected from twelve multipurpose

agricultural cooperatives which located in six different districts in West Shew Zone oromia regional State from 356 sample size. The study employed mixed method research approach as research design. It also employed both quantitative and qualitative methods of data collection and analysis. The quantitative method of data collection was employed survey method and the qualitative method of data collection that had employed Key informant interview, FGD, KII and observation methods. Simple random sampling technique was employed so as to select sample respondents of the study. The quantitative data for the study was analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics aided by SPSS version 20. Descriptive analysis of the data was carried-out using percentages, mean and standard deviations. In this study, primary multipurpose agricultural cooperatives has improved production trends of the members, moderate income contribution and providing modality service to the all members of cooperatives has deeply investigate. Also, the main the challenges of the cooperatives were lack of good infrastructures facilities, political instability, overrun of raw materials goods, lack of more experienced leaders and inadequate capital were the main constraints of the cooperatives.

**Keywords:** Role of Cooperatives, Sustainable Livelihood, Rural Women and Agricultural Cooperatives

#### 1. Introduction

##### 1.1 Background of Study

Cooperatives are community-based, rooted in democracy, flexible, and have participatory involvement, which makes them well suited for economic development (Gertler, 2001). The process of developing and sustaining a cooperative involves the processes of developing and promoting community spirit, identity and social organization as cooperatives play an increasingly important role worldwide in poverty reduction, facilitating job creation, economic growth and social development (Gibson, 2005). Cooperatives are viewed as important tools for improving the living and working conditions of both women and men. Since the users of the services, they provide owned them, cooperatives make decisions that balance the need for profitability with the welfare of their members and the community, which they serve. As cooperatives foster economies of scope and scale, they increase the bargaining power of their members providing them, among others benefits, higher income and social protection. Hence, cooperatives accord members opportunity, protection and empowerment - essential elements in uplifting

them from degradation and poverty (Somavia, 2002). As governments around the world cut services and withdraw from regulating markets, cooperatives are being considered useful mechanisms to manage risk for members and keep markets efficient (Henehan, 1997). In a number of ways, cooperatives play important role in global and national economic and social development. With regard to economic and social development, cooperatives promote the “fullest participation of all people” and facilitate a more equitable distribution of the benefits of globalization. They contribute to sustainable human development and have an important role to play in combating social exclusion. Thus, the promotion of cooperatives should be considered as one of the pillars of national and international economic and social development (Levin, 2002). In addition to the direct benefits they provide to members, cooperatives strengthen the communities in which they operate. According to Somavia (2002) cooperatives are specifically seen as significant tools for the creation of decent jobs and for the mobilization of resources for income generation. Many cooperatives provide jobs and pay local taxes because they operate in specific geographical regions. According to Wikipedia (2006) and Levin (2002) it is estimated that cooperatives employ more than 100 million men and women worldwide.

Currently, the practical situation in the world shows that countries are experienced to join together believing the power of cooperation. For instance, following the end of the Second World War, to cease the other war, they unified and formed United Nations. In the same way, to struggle the era of colonization and to solve their own problems in cooperation, Africans established African Union, which is recently changed its name to African Union. The formation of European Union, G-7, G-20 and etc. indicates that even countries are cognizant of working together to become more powerful (Desalegn, 2019)<sup>[12]</sup>.

Evidence from various sources reveals that cooperatives are contributing to the country's economic and social development. For instance, report of International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) (2021) stated that about two billion people are involved in cooperatives, either as members or, as employees or both. The same source further indicated that nearly 280 million people get employment opportunities from cooperatives at global level. The livelihood of almost half of the world's population is safeguarded by cooperative enterprises. This is particularly true in the rural areas where it provides an important potential for income generation and equity for the dwellers. In order that cooperatives play their role, government said is highly required. Government supports cooperatives in creating enabling environment. These include putting in place sound economic policy, technical, legal and administrative support to sector development, providing regulatory frameworks and transparent system; all of which together will create an environment conducive to sector development (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), 2014).

As modern business structure, cooperatives originated in Britain by Robert Owen in 1844 and it was introduced to Ethiopia by 1960 during imperial Hailesillase regime. Successive governments, starting from the Imperial period to the Reformed governments in Ethiopia have given due attention to the role of coops and made deliberate effort to promote the same. However, the principles and approaches

followed were obviously different, reflecting the political thinking and ideology of the regimes.

As indicated in the work of Kifle (2015a)<sup>[27]</sup>, the present government provided Proclamation No. 147/1998 and 402/2004, which served as a legal framework. This declaration combined universally accepted principles of cooperatives. As a result of these; many cooperatives have been established in new forms in Ethiopia since 1998 following the initiatives taken by the government.

For cooperatives principles to be fully implemented; there should be efficient policies to guide it. However, the process of policy making in the country lacks the fundamental elements of the activities. Furthermore, the policy making in Ethiopia is not following a systematic and consultative procedure rather it is top-down approach while a genuine bottom-up policy process is possible and preferable making (Teshome, 2007, cited in Kemal *et al.*, 2018<sup>[25]</sup>). This shows it is against the guiding principles especially in the case of cooperative sectors.

Consequently, in line with these realities, this study was carried out to show the contributions of cooperatives and encountering challenges in Ethiopia. In doing so, the study tried to show the status of cooperatives in the Ethiopia, the gaps existing within the members and the government structures whose concern is on the sector, and ultimately briefs about the challenges encountering the sector as a result of the mentioned shortcomings and ultimately indicates the way forward to mitigate the problems of cooperatives.

## 1.2 Objectives of the Study

### 1.2.1 General Objective

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The overall objective of the study is to analyze the role of agricultural cooperatives in enabling women members to build sustainable livelihood.

#### 1.3.2 Specific Objectives

The specific objectives of the study are:

1. To evaluate the role of cooperatives in enabling rural women to access livelihood capitals and modality service of the cooperatives to the rural women.
2. To assess the factors affecting primary multipurpose agricultural cooperative societies in Ethiopia.

## 2. Literature Review

### 2.1 Multi-Purpose Cooperative Societies

Multipurpose cooperatives are cooperatives which engage in many activities unlike single purpose cooperative. It has applied diversified activities. Multipurpose cooperatives has many function, which is based on a fully integrated framework of activities, and it is planned according to member's requirements which identified at the grass root level and taking the socio-economic life of the farmer members in its totality (Chukwu, 1990).

### 2.2 Concepts of Economic empowerment

Economic empowerment is the process of enabling or authorizing an individual to think, on behaves of take action, and control work in autonomous way. It is the state of feeling of self-empowered to take controls of one's own destiny Abadi, (2007).

Economic empowerment is the process by which the powerless gain greater control over the circumstances of their lives. It includes both controls over resource (physical, human, intellectual and financial) and over ideology (beliefs, values and attitudes). Empowerment can also be viewed as a mean of creating a social environment in which one can take decisions and make choices either individually collectively for social transformation. That participation needs to empowerment can be strikingly observed in the case of the poor and deprived sections of the communities expressing their assertion through the vehicle of a cooperative. Empowerment involves a participatory approach that enables people to emancipate themselves. It challenges and transforms the basic structure of subordination. It is the dynamic of power that is one's capacity to influence or control others. One group can have effective power to control others by having control over resources and ideology. Empowerment, therefore, is a social process that aims at changing the nature and the direction of the systemic forces (Gyllstro, 1998).

### 2.3 The Role of Multipurpose Cooperatives in Socio-Economic Empowerment

Multipurpose Cooperative play an importance role based on economic empowerment. The private and public company operating dynamically within a system continually attempting to match supply and demand elements which is the most important and effective means enabling individual to have access to the socio-economic development they need. The market services of the cooperatives empower many countries with their economic status for change. Some factors contributing to economic status beyond the allocation mechanism of the market policy, cultural, knowledge based and social justice dimensions among the Markets service in the local, regional, national and international are never perfect. The subject to a constant barrage of manipulative marketing demand which is may serve to reduce the negative impact on market policy. The development institutions which make some role on socio-economic development to the extent strategies mechanisms are require by the members economic (David J, 2008)<sup>[10]</sup>.

In addition too, primary market policies help much new company to secure and maintain minimally acceptable economic and social empowerment for poor households. The role of cooperatives institution is to support economic objectives such as Food security which should operate in the ways that Promote social empowerment at national, regional, local, household and individual levels. Raise nutrition and improve the diets of food, people Help improve the availability of safe water for the affected population Promote availability and accessibility of foodstuffs for the affected population Contribute toward the balanced economic and social development of affected peoples in both rural and urban settings, especially with regard to the equitable Treatment of male and female that Help to make a recipients of agents of their own development Increase domestic food production Reduce dependence on food aid. (Daniel, 2006).

Multipurpose cooperatives provide the means for escaping from indebtedness and for effective financial management. Their provision of insurance and services for health and social care, as well as affordable and appropriate housing, and their contribution to food security are clearly major

contributions to the alleviation of poverty. A significant proportion of the world's poor continue to be small-scale, resource-poor farmers and other rural entrepreneurs in developing countries. In the absence of improvement in their productivity, and the provision of opportunities for marketing with fair returns, their condition is unlikely to improve, and problems of unemployment, underemployment, excessive migration, poverty and social disintegration will not disappear, while food security will be even further from achievement. Only by means of a people-centered participatory approach will effective transformation of the rural sector occur; cooperative enterprise is one of the most efficient organizational vehicles for such transformation in developing regions as it has been in the past when similar conditions existed in the rural economies of currently developed countries. Individuals and communities also empower themselves to escape from or to avoid poverty by setting up cooperatively organized enterprises in the supply of utilities, transportation, household equipment and clothing. The strategies adopted at the three recent international conferences clearly recognized the important role of cooperative enterprise in revitalizing rural economies. Cooperatives, especially agricultural and multipurpose cooperatives are considered as institutional intervention to increase agricultural production and productivity According to Schroeder (1992).

Theses cooperatives are functioning with provisions of agricultural credit, provision of agricultural inputs, facilitating sale of agricultural products, operating a consumer store, inclusion of thrift and saving habits of members. These are the most common types of cooperatives which are very much dominant in my study area. Therefore, the study gives more emphasis on the role of multipurpose cooperatives than any other types. Irrigation cooperatives are also common in the rural areas of Ethiopia. Farmer members of any irrigation cooperatives are cultivating more than two crops in a year and this practice will increase the production and productivity of poor people in turn the practice increases food production and food self sufficiency of the people. Even though fishery cooperatives are yet established in my particular study area, irrational fishing and irresponsible fishing practices are very communal. Despite fishery cooperatives are to provide employment opportunity to fishing community through fishing and marketing fish, most fish cooperatives in all over the countries are operating in an informal way on small scale and need the support of many others for larger scale production, processing and marketing of fish and fish products.

More specifically cooperatives can contribute in market/economic stabilization, they can carry out services to their members otherwise not or available at high cost. More over cooperatives can build countervailing power and above a certain economies of scale they act as competitive yardstick for non-cooperatives and whole sectors with a better influence on the market and price. Cooperatives in some cases can also increase technological and market efficiency and carry out activities with a higher added values. The role of cooperatives in decreasing transaction cost with a better flow of information to the consumers and increasing the income of members by lowering the transaction and production cost contribute to the food security situation of particular society (Douglas and McConnen, 1999).

## 2.4 Major Benefits of the Cooperatives

The theory of cooperative organization provides several reasons why farmers join the cooperatives. Cooperatives provide quality supplies and services to the farmers at the reasonable cost. By purchasing supplies as a group, the farmers offset the market power advantage of other private firms providing those supplies. The farmer can gain access to volume discounts and negotiate from a position of greater strength for better delivery terms, credit terms, and other arrangements. Suppliers will also be more willing to discuss customizing products and services to meet farmers' specifications if the cooperative provides them sufficient volume to justify the extra time and expense.

Increased farmers bargain power in the market places is the other advantage of the cooperatives. Marketing on a cooperative basis permits farmers to combine their strength and gain more income. The farmers can lower distribution costs, conduct joint product promotion, and develop the ability to deliver their products in the amounts and types that will attract better offers from purchasers. According to Parliament *et al* (1990) a cooperative gives farmers a means to organize for effective political action. Farmers can meet to develop priorities and strategies. They can send representatives to meet with legislators and regulators. These persons will have more influence because they will be speaking for many, not just for themselves. According to Folsom (2002) having a businesses owned and controlled on a cooperative basis helps farmers' entire community. Cooperatives generate jobs and business earnings for local residents. They pay taxes that help finance schools, hospitals, and other community services (Chukwu, 1990).

Recently the government of Ethiopia (GOE) has embarked on a ten-year economic development plan (2021 to 2030) where agriculture is on the top of priority sector. The agriculture sector is projected to grow at 6.2 percent per annum over the next ten-year development plan aims at boosting agricultural export revenues and substituting imports by reducing production costs. To achieve this GOE seeks to leverage on developing unutilized arable land, modernizing production systems and improving uptake of technology. Furthermore, the ten-year plan envisages building a climate resilient green economy. In this regard, Ethiopian pursues to expand development effort to fight land degradation and reduce pollution, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase forest protection and development, increase production of electricity from renewable source for domestic use and for export, focus on modern and energy saving technology. Therefore, the recent, economic development plan has prepared to give good attention for expanding agricultural activities through supported modern and energy saving technology which enabling the cooperatives to achieve radical change in livelihood outcome.

## 2.5 The Socio-economic Contribution of Cooperatives to Women

According to FAO (2010), Cooperatives can provide a wide range of economic and social services to women in rural areas. These include access to input and output markets, as well as financial services such as credit and insurance. By acting collectively within cooperatives, women increase their bargaining power and income while reducing their transaction costs. In addition, cooperatives play an important role in job creation by directly supporting productive self-

employment and generating additional employment opportunities. Ultimately, cooperatives can create a safe environment where women increase their self-confidence, identify their own challenges, make decisions and manage risks. Cooperatives can enable women to exercise political leadership and to learn about financial profitability and accounting. As a result, women are empowered and become active agents of change, entrepreneurs and promoters of social transformation who can improve their own lives and those of the community. Agricultural cooperatives also promote the participation of women in economic production, which, in turn helps in food production and rural development. Through cooperatives, women are able to unite in solidarity and provide a network of mutual support to overcome cultural restrictions to pursuing commercial or economic activities (UN, 2009).

By enabling women and men farmers, or women only, to come together for purposes of acquiring inputs, production services, and the marketing of their produce, among others, agricultural cooperatives enhance productive capacity and give access to markets to those such as women small holders - who when operating individually would not be able to benefit from these opportunities due for instance to a low purchasing power, a lack of productive assets, or cultural barriers. While women's presence in agricultural cooperatives in Africa is limited (because of factors such as landownership patterns, the division of roles and types of jobs in agriculture), women are becoming increasingly cooperatively organized in agriculture, and there is solid evidence that cooperative membership enhances productivity, incomes and the quality of life for both the members as well as the community at wide. Experiments made in different parts of the world clearly indicate that women's participation in cooperatives and other local government bodies not only provides them an opportunity to articulate their problems but it also helps them to be an active partner in decision making process (Daman P, 2003). Cooperation offers not only economic benefit to members but also confers a number of benefits to the society. This is so because the object of cooperation is to transform the member's condition in such a way that he makes his social life richer and happier. The ultimate aim of cooperation is to develop men-men imbued with the spirit of self-help and mutual help in order that individually they may rise to a full personal life and collectively to full social life (Dr.Fauquet cited in Desalew, 2009).

Moreover, Cooperatives, organized as business enterprises for the benefit of their members, offer a model of enterprise that is particularly relevant in difficult economic times and instances of market failures. As a self-help group, a cooperative organization is widely accessible, especially for the impoverished and the marginalized. Where private enterprise or government is weak, particularly in remote rural areas, cooperatives enable local people to organize and improve their conditions. Cooperatives promote and support entrepreneurial development, creating productive employment, raising incomes and helping to reduce poverty while enhancing social inclusion, social protection and community-building. Thus, while they directly benefit their members, they also offer positive externalities for the rest of society and have a transformational impact on the economy (Desalew, 2009).

Furthermore, apart from their economic potentials, cooperatives are also reported to offer their members socio-



psychological benefits such as a sense of security and belonging, an awareness of personal influence and importance in the local organization (Saikou, *et al.*, 2008). For member entrepreneurs, cooperatives provide the setting for collective problem solving and articulation of strategic and basic needs. The support and mutual encouragement a group of entrepreneur can assist each other in order to maintain or boost their self-confidence. Solidarity, social responsibility, equity and caring for others are among the core values on which genuine cooperatives are based (Ibid).

## 2.6 Factors Affecting Women Participation in Cooperative

The world over, statistics show that women's participation in cooperatives is low, especially in rural cooperatives. In the developing world, cultural and religious factors are often hinder its movement: women's "inside" role, discretion, not speaking in front of men, traditions of men negotiating and handling money matters, illiteracy, family size supposed inferior abilities, and social pressures make it difficult for women to play an active and visible public role (Journal of International Women's Studies, 2002).

To date women's active involvement and leadership in agricultural cooperatives continue to be rather low. Beyond the social, political and economic constraints, women often face cultural barriers that restrict their involvement in public meetings or that place their domestic responsibilities before their economic or social involvement in agricultural cooperatives. In some countries, this is due to the basic fact that only owners and tenants of land, most often men, can become members of agricultural cooperatives or that the fee charged for cooperative membership is beyond the means of economically dependent rural women (FAO, 2010).

The reasons for the persisting gender inequality are numerous and complex, but include, among others factors, basic structural and socio-cultural issues beyond the control of the cooperative movement – such as inequalities in access to resources, education and training, unequal division of labour and use of time between women and men as well as stereotyped conceptions on the roles of women and men – as well as legal constraints stemming from cooperative law or, as is more of frequently the case, related legislation (property, land and inheritance rights) or cooperative by-laws (Eva M., 2010). A research conducted on Socio-economic factors affecting the participation of women in agricultural co-operatives in Gwoza local government, Borno state, Nigeria revealed that cultural beliefs and low level of education were found to be the major problems militating against women participation in co-operatives (YL Idrisa, *et al.*, 2007).

## 3. Methods

From the total population of rural women 4,867 in the

members of primary multipurpose agricultural cooperatives society's that intent in the target of investigation, 356 sample sizes was determined and raw data was collected by using simple random sampling. The sample size was determined by using Kothari (2004) formula but the researcher used with 95% confidence level under normal curve (1.96), estimates proportion of population at  $P=0.5$  and  $q=0.5$  and 5 % of precision for this investigation (acceptable error term).

A sample is a segment or sub-set population that is selected for investigation. This subset is carefully selected so as to be representative of the whole population with the relevant characteristics. Each member or case in the sample is referred to as subject, respondent or interviewees. The research instruments (questionnaires) are structured and self-administered to the respondents. The researcher had arranged sessions through supported by each head of cooperatives from all chosen primary multipurpose agricultural cooperatives and accordingly, all respondents had been involved in filling questions supported by researcher and head of cooperatives at where they did not understood. The questionnaire is opened and closed ended items to collection of data from women members of primary cooperatives in the target area of research. Additionally, for focus group discussions were Jawi Buri and Kilinto primary multipurpose agricultural cooperatives societies had been selected from Dendi and T/Kutaye depend on the proximity of cooperatives to the Zonal office through thinking those cooperatives would be got access what they needs from the zone office rather than exist at distance. Each FGD group had eight (8) members. The research has been contacted key informant interview of three respondents from the cooperative office of zone through depend on the level of position and experience who enable to provide adequate information about the role of primary multipurpose agricultural cooperatives societies in building sustainable livelihood of rural women. The FGD had been selected basis on their stay & positions in the cooperatives, level of experience and their educational status. The selected rural women in survey was not again contacted and the researcher had been communicated the new members of rural women in PMACS for the FGD and KII for the purpose of get addition information about the role of PMACS in building sustainable livelihood of rural women.

## 4. Result and Discussion

### 4.1 Demographic characteristics of the Respondents

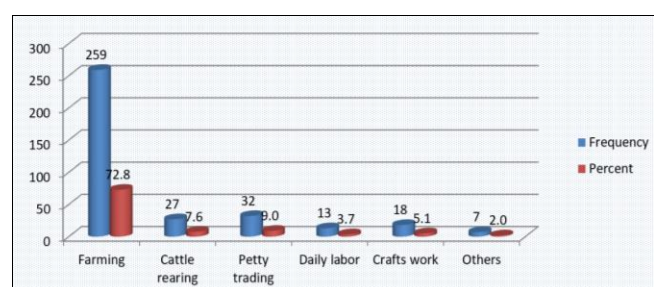
Under this topic, all of dummy or continuous variables were clearly explained. The demographic information of the respondents such as age categories, marital status, and education level of rural women in cooperative members, family size and head of household were clearly summarized with under table stated.

**Table: 4.1:** Demographic characteristics of the respondents

Descriptions	Count	%	
Age categories	18 to 25 years	53	14.9%
	26 to 35 years	68	19.1%
	36 to 45 years	124	34.8%
	46 to 55 years	69	19.4%
	above 55 years	42	11.8%
Marital Status	Total	356	100.0%
	Single	42	11.8%
	Married	237	66.6%
	widowed	37	10.4%
	Divorced	40	11.2%
Are you a household head	Total	356	100.0%
	Yes	190	53.4%
	No	166	46.6%
What is the size of your family members?	Total	356	100.0%
	I have no family	3	0.8%
	Less than 2 family size	46	12.9%
	2-3 Family size	121	34.0%
	4-6 Family size	134	37.6%
Your level of education:	Total	356	100.0%
	Can't read and write	86	24.2%
	Can read and write	68	19.1%
	Attended grade 1-4	80	22.5%
	Attended grade 5 -8	66	18.5%
	Attended grade 9-12	30	8.4%
	College diploma and above	26	7.3%

**4.2 Livelihood Activities of Women in Cooperatives**

The mainstream of economic activities in Ethiopia is the agricultural farming that exist at first stage followed by industrial development and in building sustainable livelihood activities of women, agricultural activities is the best alternatives in cooperatives to improve daily life of women by improving their livelihood outcomes by diversification of farming, (Daniel, 2023). Under herewith stated Figure 4.8 has clearly stated what women has engaged in livelihood activities to improve their livelihood outcomes.



**Source:** Computed of Own Research Survey, 2023 n=356

**Fig 4.1:** Livelihood Activities of women in Cooperatives

The result as shows above Figure 4.7: 72.8% of respondents has engaged in agricultural farming and 7.6 % participants are involved in cattle rearing to cope with the stress and shocks and improve their livelihood outcomes. The majority of the respondent had engaged in farming activities to subsistence of their living and some part of participant has engaged in mixed livelihood activities such as cattle rearing and farming activities were the main common among the mixed livelihood activities. Among participants, 9% of respondents have reacted as they engaged in petty trading service such like kiosks and retail trade of consumer good, distribution of construction materials and small stationery

shops. Some of participants 5.1% and 3.7% has involved in craftwork or aircraft and labor work correspondingly. Minimal participants 2% has involved in others activities such as retail trade of cereals crops, commission work as agents, knitting or interweaving garments, mining gypsum stone or quarry of materials that used for gypsum broad work and aggregate crushing hard stone for housing construction, those are main the activities of rural women to bearing dynamic change for their lives habits or to empower their living conditions. When the livelihood strategies pursued generate adequate food and income and the household is resilient against shocks such as drought and price fluctuations the outcome will be sustainable livelihood (Fekadu, 2009).

The majority of participants are engaged in farming activities which activities is more sensitivity easily affected by others factors such shortage of rainfall or heavy rainfall at harvesting time, soil fertility status, political stability of farming area. Therefore, concentrated on one of livelihood activities might be reasonable to the rural women missed to cope with from shocks and stress that will be sudden comes to their farming activities, so engaged in different livelihood activities or diversification of business is the main mechanisms to mitigate shock of stress events run thorough the livelihood of human beings (Daniel, 2023).

As I made with FGD and interview with the selected women participants from Jawi Buri and Kilinto PMACS, from Jawi Buri, they said that currently we have failed in risky due to the cooperatives could not provide farming inputs with a time since 2021 and accessibility of credit service to utilize for purchase of farming inputs also others constraints that we passed through and union existing in our zone had applied excess interest rate to avail credit service such events has made us to loss our livelihood of outcomes. In addition, they said that we would like to access to farming inputs without any intermediation of individuals and

recently, intermediaries has been increased to distribute farming inputs for instances UREA and DAP fertile, such chain has made us the price of farming inputs to overrun and one factors that affected our livelihood outcomes. Besides discussion with Kilinto PMCAS, they raised issue that as they faced with the problem of accessibility of agricultural inputs which increased their production yield, increased income and pursue to reduce vulnerability, those deficits has made us to earning unexpected yield of production. They also stated that the main core we joined cooperatives by expected to obtain an adequate access of modality service such as credit service at our demand, agricultural inputs and variety seeds were the common but we could not get that service adequately from our cooperatives and sometimes they distribute fertilizer under our needed without consider our farm size.

During research survey, the researcher had observed that the main livelihood activities of the members were rely on farming activities such cultivation of cereals crops (teff, maize, sorghum, wheat and barley) and followed by petty trading service which was off-farm activities such as retail trade of cereals crops, retail trade of kiosks and consumer goods and services (small shop), distribution of construction materials in small scale and aircrafts (pottery, weaver and knitting garment) to empower their subsistence of livelihood activities. Sustainable livelihood can be ensured by what household members achieve through their livelihood strategies, such as levels of increased productivity, increased income, reduced vulnerability context (health, well-being, asset accumulation and high status in the community). Thus, in order to improve the livelihood of women members or communities, the intention of government work with cooperative's and running to solve poor accessibility of agricultural ingredients is the best strategy to enhance socio-economic development such as increased earning capacity, create employment opportunities and increased infrastructure facilitates and social welfare. Unsuccessful livelihood outcomes commenced from lack of accessing of sufficient farming inputs, variety seeds, credit services and political stability that could be sensitive for food and income insecurity, high vulnerability to shocks, loss of assets and impoverishment and poor secured livelihood assets.

Women member's in cooperatives has engaged in different agricultural or farming activities such as cultivation of cereals crops, pulses or oilseed, cash crops and vegetables and fruits were the common activities and off-farm activities included petty trading services, labor work and air craft or hand crafts to ensure their subsistence of living. The common ways of the members earned cash is through selling their agricultural productivities and then return to use for accessing the consumer goods and services from the petty trading service available surrounding their living. Before joining cooperatives, the majority of the participants or members were not participating in cultivation of cash crops and vegetables and fruits to earn more assurance about their livelihood outcomes and subsistence to nurturing their consumption without constraints. However, after joining cooperatives, the majority of the members has been started to cultivate Cash crops and vegetables and fruits by supported the awareness creation of their cooperatives and training service inline of agricultural product diversification (Daniel, 2023).

The main types of cereal crops cultivated by members are maize, sorghum, wheat, barley, white and red teff are the common activities. A great yield of production are used as a main source of their own food consumption and they sell some part of their agricultural products yields at their local or nearby their town for purpose of get cash to utilize for the consumption of goods and service, their child education expense, clothing or addressing expense, their farm land tenure tax and others associated cost to sustain sustainable livelihood. The rural women in cooperatives also engaged in cultivation of oilseeds or pulses such as bean, pea, soybean, lentil, and sesame for the purpose of obtain adequate cash to runs their livelihood activities in better ways and some of those product yield used for home consumption. Pulses production is the common cash earning of the women in cooperatives.

Particular of members in cooperatives has been engaged in cultivation of cash crops (coffee and spice ingredient) and vegetables and fruits of lettuce, spine, potato, tomato, sweet potato, carrot, sugarcane, cabbage and redroot, from fruits avocado, mango, banana and apples. They used partially for home consumption and the remaining supply to their nearby market service to earn cash which encourage their livelihood outcomes. As a research result shows some of members were in engaged in off-farm activities and with mixed activities means off-farm and farm activities with along together to survive their livelihood and increase their source of income. off-farm activities included petty trade, hand or air craft and labor work, hence, some of women in cooperatives has been survive their livelihood through participated in petty trading such like retail trade of agricultural products, grain milling services, kiosk or small shop, supply of stationery materials and retail trade of construction materials, from hand crafts work like pottery, woodwork, knitting or weaver garment product. For minimal number of participants used labor work as source of income to ensure their livelihood outcomes through participate in mining or quarry working activities, harvesting time to collect matured grains with relative rent price and daily force work.

During the observation of livelihood activities, the researcher had observed that specific stress react women to risk and affect their capacity to cope with shocks and stress. The stress likes declining fertility of soil, declining farm size, declining common property resources, declining of rainfall or sometimes heavy rains are the common stress that faced women in cooperatives and disposed to them to decreasing their livelihood assets or income. Therefore, in order to cope from these risks and stress, the members needs support from their cooperatives with integrated government organ in ways of enabling them to access adequate livelihood capitals such as natural, human, physical, financial and social capitals and access of livelihood outcomes of women in cooperatives impacted by the factors of accessing livestock, land, labor and capitals. For poor accessing of this factor, some of participants are faced with the problem of food consumption especially during summer from the beginning of August to end of September, due to harvested ended and the fresh crops ongoing to mature, in this period they survive by employed strategy to claims relatives or credit service from nearby friendship and sometimes they got fund from government in consideration

of hard situation.

### 4.3 Modality Service of the Cooperatives to the Rural Women

According to FAO (2010), Cooperatives can provide a wide range of economic and social services to women in rural areas. These include access to input and output markets, as well as financial services such as credit and insurance. The main role of cooperatives is to bring a dynamic changes by financially and economically independent to their members with equally treating the membership through provide different modality service such as agricultural inputs, credit service, irrigation materials, training service, marketing access with develop from bottom to higher level linkage which could be highly influence marketing of member’s final products (Daniel, 2023).

#### Training service

One of the diligent of cooperative is providing structured training service through equal opportunity for the men and women members with the purpose of promoted building capacity of the individuals (Daniel, 2023), Accordingly, cooperatives has provided training service for the majority of rural women members as per survey collected from only considered rural women for assure their sustainable livelihood. Rural women had affected with different factors when compared with men because of in perceptive of cultural women did not have equal access with men to engage in agricultural activities and others. In cultural perceptive, women worked homework and around the garden and the men authorized to work for external activities with going far from their home residence.

**Table 4.2:** Training Service of cooperative to the members

Accessibility of training services from cooperatives to Membership			
Have you attended any formal training as provided by your cooperative?		Count	% of total
Response	Yes	248	69.7%
	No	108	30.3%
	Total	356	100%
For ‘yes’ how many times have you attended the training?	A week	109	30.6%
	Two weeks	64	18.0%
	Three weeks	49	13.8%
	a month	14	3.9%
	More than a month	12	3.4%
	Total	248	69.7%
If ‘No’ response, what was the reason?	Because the cooperative didn’t provide training	37	10.4%
	Because I didn’t want to participate in training	3	0.8%
	I couldn’t attend training because of my personal problems	41	11.5%
	Lack of equal opportunities with other’s members	27	7.6%
	Total	108	30.3%

Source: Computed of Own Research Survey, 2023 n=356

The above Table 4.4 has depicted that the summary of the number of rural women had got whether not training service from their respective cooperatives. The researcher provided question of have you attended any formal training as provided by your cooperative? As a result, the survey shows

that from total respondents 30.3% (108) responded ‘No’ that they did not get training service with reason out different factors, out of which 10.4% (37) reason out that the cooperative could not provide training service, 11.5% (41) of respondents were reason out that because of the personal case could not get the training service provided by cooperatives, 0.8% (3) of respondents stated that because of I did not want to participate and 7.6% (27) respondent could not participate due to lack of equal opportunities with other’s members. Overall, the scholar had understood that the performance level of the cooperatives provide training service to their members on right ways but mode of provide training service should be in ways of pre-communication for the proposed trainee to sparticipate on training service to minimize complain of the members.

Besides of members obtained training opportunities, from total respondents, 69.7% (283) had got training for different period of time, thus, the majority of respondents 30.6% (109) had taken training service for a week and followed by 18% (36) of respondent had been participated on training programme for two weeks, 13.8% (49) of participants had been obtained training service for three weeks. The minority of participants 3.9% (14) and 3.4% (12) had been participated in training service for a month and more than a month correspondingly. This is reflexed that the cooperatives has properly assured training program for their members to promote building capacity of the rural women. In others, cooperative has reduced inequality between women and men that developed from traditional perception through stated almighty of God had been given woman for man with powered of man on women.

As the interview with respondents having Director, finance officer and secretary has unprotected that training is provided to women with objective of ensuring better benefit for women who are participating in the cooperatives. Human capital development is at the center of the service provision. Training is rendered for women on different aspects. Among others, cooperatives give training for women regarding the rules and regulations, and organizational structure of the cooperatives. This is with intention to attain the better understanding of women so that they can participate in the cooperative in effectively, and get benefit in sustainable way. The cooperatives also provide training on agricultural activities with the aim of inducing the agricultural productivity of member women. Consequently, the cooperatives provide training regarding appropriate use of fertilizers, conservation of soil, trees, grazing areas, water bodies and other natural resources, utilizing effective farming system, efficient use of financial resources, creating business and investing further, accumulation of assets and resources as aspects of the livelihood of women. In carrying out these activities, the cooperative closely works with the *woreda*’s cooperative office.

#### 4.4 Aggregate Service of Cooperatives to their Members

Cooperatives had been provided collective service to their members to develop their capacities of copies with from shocks and stress that sudden encountered through their daily life of women. Among the collective service renders from cooperatives to the members of cooperatives such as credit service, agricultural inputs supply, saving and marketing services had clearly stated under here with the Table 4.7.



**Table 4.3:** Collective service of cooperatives to their members

Which one of the following services does the cooperative provide to you? * If the cooperative provide you with agricultural inputs, what are the inputs supplied to you by the cooperative? Cross tabulation								
Which one of the following services does the cooperative provide to you?		If the cooperative provide you with agricultural inputs, what are the inputs supplied to you by the cooperative?						Total
		Fertilizer	High yield crops	Water pumps	Variety of inputs	Herbicides	Pesticides	
Supply of agricultural inputs	Count	173	18	8	64	2	2	267
	% of Total	48.6%	5.1%	2.2%	18.0%	.6%	.6%	75.0%
Credit services	Count	19	6	3	11	2	0	41
	% of Total	5.3%	1.7%	.8%	3.1%	.6%	0.0%	11.5%
Marketing services	Count	12	4	2	11	0	0	29
	% of Total	3.4%	1.1%	.6%	3.1%	0.0%	0.0%	8.1%
Training service	Count	1	1	1	2	0	0	5
	% of Total	.3%	.3%	.3%	.6%	0.0%	0.0%	1.4%
Saving services	Count	3	5	0	4	1	0	13
	% of Total	.8%	1.4%	0.0%	1.1%	.3%	0.0%	3.7%
Other	Count	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
	% of Total	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	.3%	0.0%	0.0%	.3%
Total	Count	208	34	14	93	5	2	356
	% of Total	58.4%	9.6%	3.9%	26.1%	1.4%	.6%	100.0%

Source: Computed of Own Research Survey, 2023 n=356

The data shows that cooperatives has provided collective service to its members, horizontal line represented what does the cooperatives provide service and vertical line represented what types of cooperatives provides agricultural inputs services.

**Agricultural inputs supply:** about 267(75%) of the respondent has responded that cooperative has provided fertilizer with affordable price rely on ownership right of farming land size and purchase of power of them, mainly included both DAP and UREA in order to increase the agricultural productivity of women, almost 64(18%) of participant have got variety input from their own cooperatives for more assure their subsistence of their daily consumption anddecreasing of the disturbance of food insecurity. Among the respondents 18 (5.1%) and 7 (2.2%) has replied that cooperative has provided high yield crop seeds and water pump respectively to enhance increment of yield and three to four times cultivation in a year which

before the member had engaged in agricultural activities for once or rarely in twice in a year. Minority of respondent about 2 (0.6%) and (0.6%) where forwarded that the cooperatives had rendered herbicides and pesticides to safe for agricultural activities. Women had got special support from cooperatives with attention given basis on passed trend that did not get service because of shortage of service delivery.

**Credit service:** Cooperatives are provided credit service to their member to ensure them to overcame financial problem and to enforce the women to meet upon time access of the different types of services shall be rendered through their cooperatives chain, about 41 (11.5%) of the respondents) has replied that cooperative diligently provided credit service with to all members. Regarding the question about what amount of money have got from your cooperatives in the past five years and for what purpose do you use the money get from your cooperatives through credit.

**Table 4.4:** Purpose of credit service to members

What amount of money have you got from cooperative through credit service in the past five year?	For what purpose do you use the money you get from the cooperative through credit?						Total
	For home consumption	To pay debts	To buy farm inputs	For trading purpose	Other		
Less than ETB 20,000	Count	16	17	155	27	5	220
	% of total	4.5%	4.8%	43.5%	7.6%	1.4%	61.8%
ETB 20,000 to 50,000	Count	7	5	44	42	2	100
	% of total	2.0%	1.4%	12.4%	11.8%	.6%	28.1%
ETB 50,000 to 100,000	Count	1	1	7	13	3	25
	% of total	.3%	.3%	2.0%	3.7%	.8%	7.0%
ETB above 100,000	Count	2	1	4	4	0	11
	% of total	.6%	.3%	1.1%	1.1%	0.0%	3.1%
Total	Count	26	24	210	86	10	356
	%	7.3%	6.7%	59.0%	24.2%	2.8%	100.0%

Source: Computed of Own Research Survey, 2023 n=356

In further, the researcher has investigate for what purpose the amount of money received from cooperatives, as a result majority of respondents 220 (61.8%) has received less than ETB 20,000 credit service from the cooperatives and has reacted their response to be utilized for home consumption 16 (4.5%), to pay debts 17(1.8%), to buy farm inputs 155 (43.5%), for trading purpose 27(7.6%) and for others purpose 5 (1.4%) such as to cover education fees, labor

wages and fattening animals activities. Among the participants 100 (28.1%) has answered that they has received credit service from ETB 20,000 to 50,000 to purpose of cover for home consumption 7 (2%), to pay debts 5(1.4%), to buy farm input 44 (12.4%), for trading purpose 42 (11.8%) and for other purpose 5(1.4%) such as purchase of motor cycle and sprayer herbicides and pesticides materials. In others, the majority of credit service provided

to the rural women has concentrated for the less than ETB 20,000 and secondly on concentrated from ETB 20,000 to 50,000. The small of number of participants 25 (7%) and 11(3.1%) has utilized credit from amount of birr 50,000 to 100,000 and above birr 100,000 respectively for the purpose of trading service, to pay debt, for trading service, for buying farm inputs and others (fattening animals, for purchasing motor cycle, for purchase of oxen and cows that used for cultivating to their farm land size and high breeding to intent of yield of milk. In aggregate, 26 (7.3%) of participants has used credit service for home consumption, 24(6.7%) of respondents are utilized for paying debt, 210 (59%) employed credit to purchase farm inputs, 86 (24.2%) exploited for trading purpose and 10 (2.8%) of the participants are utilized credit amount received for other purpose such as for purchasing motor cycle, fattening animals, purchase of sprayer of herbicides and pesticides, oxen and cows for strongly cultivating their held farm size land and high breeding to hybrid which can be provide high yield of raw milk per days in sake of increase income.

**Marketing services:** Markets are believed to play key role in the development of rural economy and ensuring sustainable livelihood for rural poor. In light of lack of good access to markets, women may face challenges including difficulties for market they produce, obtain inputs, sell labor, obtain credit, learn about or adopt new technologies, insure against risks, or obtain consumption goods at low prices. Cut off from markets, they are forced into self-sufficiency, whether for food, labor, or other items. Its own subjective valuations, rather than market prices, then determine how its resources are used. Under the current free market situation, small holder farmers have faced the difficulty of high competition in the market. To alleviate this difficulty, the role of cooperatives has become bigger than ever before (Alemu, 2011).

In the case of output market, the market share of cooperatives is very low due to shortage of finance, poor infrastructure, inadequate and poor quality warehouse, and weak entrepreneurship skills including business management, planning and financial management. About 29 (8.1%) of the respondents has reacted that cooperatives has facilitated market service for rural women in way of they could be get market access for their agricultural products. Accessibility of market for the final agricultural products are enhanced as a member or women come to economically independents by giving awareness to add economic value along with marketing convenient nearby their residential areas or promoted linkage with private or NGO organization as they utilized the products of women at their get with good negotiable price.

**Table 4.5:** Types of marketing service provided by cooperatives

Descriptio n	What type of marketing services does the cooperative deliver to you?					
	Bargainin g for better prices	Providing market informatio n	Purchasin g for better prices	Affordab le price with best quality products	Other s	Total
<b>Frequency</b>	102	72	100	80	2	356
<b>Percent</b>	28.7%	20.2%	28.1%	14.8%	0.6%	100.0%

Source: From Survey, 2023 n=356

As data presented in Table 4.7: about 52 (33.5%) of respondents are replied that cooperatives provided different agricultural inputs with purchasing for better prices or with affordable prices and followed by bargaining for better prices with 45 (29%) of respondents. The cooperatives has benefited rural women through ensure the development of agricultural productivities by rendering agricultural inputs which more enhanced the yield of crops. Among respondents 23(14.8%) has replied that cooperative provided service with affordable prices with best quality products. The scholar has interviewed the some number of respondents from both primary multipurpose agricultural cooperatives means Jawi Buri and Kilinto Primary Multipurpose agricultural cooperatives societies rely on their higher position to lower level and duration of period they join cooperatives, As result, women has rose the main issue encountered regarding marketing service that lacks of transportation service to convey their products to market access with more relevant price and the government could not facilitate infrastructure which main of their product development such as poor stability of peace, poor road facility and electric line had been adversely affected the production performance of products. Specially, due to poor stability of peace, the members missed market access, fright of freely moving from place to place and lacks of consistency in the region was the reason affect marketing trend of overall communities’ agricultural activities.

**Saving and other services:** Cooperatives has learnt their member in ways of saving their money with keeping up with NBE’s directives standard and relied on capacity of their saving, has rendered for different purpose such as for home consumption, for pay debt, trading service, buy agricultural inputs and others. As result, about 13 (3.7%) and 1 (0.3%) has released them suggestion, the cooperative has provided saving service and others service to women members. The others service stated from respondents providing funding, cleaning service and medical service in form life insurance for some members specially focused marital status of women divorced, widowed and household head women to recovery their life from different shock and stress.

**4.5 Production Capacity of women before and after Joining Cooperatives**

As stated above, all members of cooperatives had engaged in different types of livelihood activities such as farming, cattle rearing, petty trading, daily labor and crafts works, retail trade of cereals crops, aggregate hard stone crushing, and mining of raw materials of gypsum stone to cope with stress and shocks that might be affect their livelihood outcomes. Accordingly, to warrant changes comes to women members through that build their sustainable livelihood from their contribution of cooperatives, the researcher has provided enquiry to the rural women who are cooperatives members inline of their production capacity of cereals, pulses and cash crops and vegetables and fruits before and after joining their cooperatives. Multi-purpose cooperatives are considered as institutional intervention to increase agricultural production and productivity. Multi-purpose cooperatives play a vital role in providing small holders with access to input (fertilizer, improved seed, pesticide input loan, chemicals, etc).

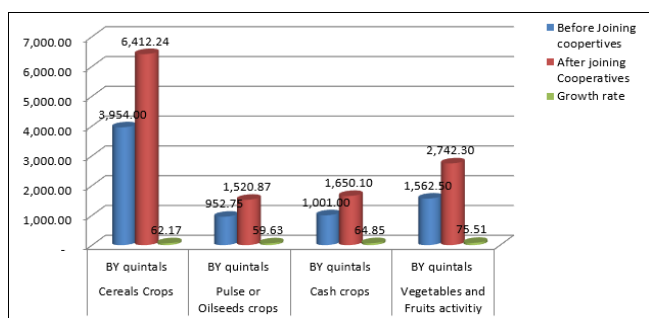
According to Ellen and F.Sheriner (1996) study shows that One solution is to encourage farmers to mobilize collectively in agricultural and marketing cooperatives that engage in the production, processing and marketing of agricultural products and gives them access to markets. Also, as stated Askale (2005), environmental degradation that resulted in recurrent drought and hunger forced most of the inhabitants of moist deficit low land including the study area to remain in short of resources - land, livestock and labour. Such constraints greatly affected the ability of households in such area to construct viable livelihood and led them to experience problems that could push them to disadvantaged position.

Besides, food security, multipurpose cooperative societies play crucial role to bearing sustainable food security for communities. The centric role of primary multipurpose agricultural cooperative societies is increasing incoming level of the societies and reducing the consequence of vulnerability which adversely affects the exposure of livelihood outcomes of members in cooperatives. The study implies that the cooperatives has promoted the culture of members diversify from consolidated from specific farming activities to multidimensional activities, in this sides, before joining cooperatives, the major of members were not engaged in cultivation of cash crops and vegetables and fruits but after joined cooperatives they were commenced to cultivate those activities which promote their livelihood activities. The income level of members had been increased after joining cooperatives and they can sustain their livelihood in better situation by survive every associated cost comes to their living standards.

Environmental sustainability has great role in building sustainable livelihood of women in cooperatives by ensuring their capacity to properly utilize natural resources available surrounding them without compromising the future generation and provided access of natural resources and tangible assets that advance livelihood outcomes and sustainable alive of women in cooperatives (Daniel, 2023). The below Figure 4.8 has stated clearly the production of capacity of the rural women before and after joining to the cooperatives and also the growth rate of the production elaborated in clear ways. The scholar has understood that as the primary multipurpose agricultural cooperative societies play incredible changes to building sustainable livelihood of the cooperative's members and the improvement has learnt from data obtained from primary sources like questionnaires, observation, interview and focus group discussion with the selected participants in cooperatives.

The above Figure 4.8 revealed that the aggregate production of respondents had produced quintals of cereals crops 3954, pulses crops 952.75, cash crops 1,001 and vegetable and fruits quintals 1,562.5 before joining cooperatives and the aggregate production of respondents after joining cooperatives quintals of cereals crops 6,412.24, pulses crop or oilseeds 1,520.87, cash crops 1650.10 and vegetables and fruits of 2,742.30 had been produced. The figure indicated that the production capacity of participants are increased after joining cooperatives for instance, production of cereals crops of the products has increased by 62.17% growth rate when evaluated with before joining cooperatives, the production capacity of pulses or oilseeds augmented by 59.63% growth rate as evaluated along with before joining cooperatives, production trend of cash crops and vegetables and fruits improved by 64.85% and 75.51% as gaged along with before joining cooperatives. Thus, cooperative had a significant role to improve livelihood outcomes of women in cooperatives by providing fertilizer, variety seeds, water pump, credit services and hybrid animals genesis for the respondents involved in cattle rearing and currently the capability of the cooperatives to deliver agricultural inputs on time had been decreased due to higher shortage of their accessibility from the sources.

The researcher had made FGD and Interview with the selected participants from Jawi Buri and Kilinto PMACS, As a result, they stated that before three years ago, the members had got sufficient farming inputs, variety seeds, and the linkage of government with cooperative was good, but recently, there were poor linkage of our cooperatives with government, and NGO who could play crucial role to support our farming activities by providing subsidiaries and sufficient agricultural supply inputs within affordable price upon time as per our needed depend on our faming size and types of activities. In others, political instability in area had affected our production capacity by prevented us to access farming inputs and almost of farmer cultivated without gained such inputs because of political disorder had frequently happened in our region. The interviewee, "had suggested that the government should give attention to bring political stability because of political disorder did not have benefit rather than demolish our economic activities and reason out our country to lack of subsistence and will be carried out economic burden to the country". FGD discussion with eight members from Kilinto Primary agricultural cooperatives societies had released same impression with FGD done with Jawi Buri PMACS. The study depicted that majority of participants before joining cooperatives not produced cash and vegetables and fruits and they concentrated on cultivation of cereals and oilseeds but after joining cooperatives they begun to produces cash crops and vegetables and fruits by taking training services from their cooperatives, rural development agents or extension, NGO (USAIDS, FAO,ILRI) and government organs (Federal cooperative Agency and Oromia Cooperative Promotion Office and in respective office from Regional to Worked Offices). Adapting to engage in additional farming activities had increased the capacity of membership to reduce vulnerability and capacitate them withstand by with shocks and stress probability run to their livelihood outcomes. So, it is considered as the best livelihood strategy employed to prevent uncertainty or risky events that could be discouraged livelihood activities.



Source: Form Researcher Survey, 2023 n= 356

Fig 4.9: The Production capacity of rural women before and after joining cooperatives

### 4.6 Factor affecting Participation of Women in Cooperatives

The problems of women in cooperatives are classified as organizational or internal problems, external problems, and infrastructural related problems. Internal problem is emanated from the poor management, lack of adequate skilled and experience, poor technical competency of managerial, poor transparency and accountability. Inadequate capital, unequal participation men and women in decision and lack of knowledge about duties and responsibilities but those problems are under the capacity of members to manage. External factors are factors that beyond the capacity of members to manage the events happen and

adversely influenced all livelihood performance of women such as high cost of production, low prices of produces, interference of government on internal affairs of cooperatives, distance from cooperatives location, political instability and social conflict, tribe and race discrimination, market saturation for the final products are some instances of external factors. Finally, infrastructures constraints are other factors that affect the participation level of women in cooperatives; those can be emanated from external factors issue or internal factors due to poor managing the infrastructures facilities already stretched at location site of the cooperatives.

**Table 4.8:** Factors affecting participation of women in Cooperatives

Constraints	Degree of Importance							
	Important		Less important		Don't know		Total	
	Count	Row N %	Count	Row N %	Count	Row N %	Count	Row N %
<b>1. Organizational Constraints</b>								
<b>In efficient Managerial system</b>	138	38.8%	156	43.8%	62	17.4%	356	100.0%
<b>Lack of transparency and accountability</b>	130	36.5%	166	46.6%	60	16.9%	356	100.0%
<b>Inadequate capital</b>	211	59.3%	145	40.7%	0	0.0%	356	100.0%
<b>Unequal participation of men and women in decision making</b>	130	36.5%	168	47.2%	58	16.3%	356	100.0%
<b>Lack of knowledge about duties and responsibilities</b>	132	37.1%	167	46.9%	57	16.0%	356	100.0%
<b>Poor management working activities</b>	125	35.1%	157	44.1%	74	20.8%	356	100.0%
<b>2. External Constricts</b>								
<b>High cost of production</b>	215	60.4%	136	38.2%	5	1.4%	356	100.0%
<b>Low prices of produces</b>	89	25.0%	166	46.6%	101	28.4%	356	100.0%
<b>Interference by government on internal affairs of cooperatives</b>	96	27.0%	186	52.2%	74	20.8%	356	100.0%
<b>Distance from cooperatives location</b>	98	27.5%	166	46.6%	92	25.8%	356	100.0%
<b>Political instability and social conflict</b>	235	66.0%	121	34.0%	0	0.0%	356	100.0%
<b>Tribe or race discrimination</b>	81	22.8%	126	35.4%	149	41.9%	356	100.0%
<b>Market saturation for the final products</b>	73	20.5%	174	48.9%	109	30.6%	356	100.0%
<b>Highly speed inputs cost increased</b>	228	64.0%	105	29.5%	23	6.5%	356	100.0%
<b>3. Infrastructures Constraints</b>								
<b>Lack of transportation facility</b>	190	53.4%	97	27.2%	69	19.4%	356	100.0%
<b>Shortage of electrification service</b>	184	51.7%	107	30.1%	65	18.3%	356	100.0%
<b>Accessibility of rural road and easily linkages urban rural</b>	193	54.2%	100	28.1%	63	17.7%	356	100.0%

Source: Computed of Own Research Survey, 2023 n=356

**Organizational problems:** under organizational factors some of factors are stated which adversely affected participation performance of women in cooperatives. Thus, factors turn by turn mentioned as under herewith:

**Inefficient Managerial System:** It is expected that the management who have efficient managing systems or tactics could be pull or renovate mind of all members to equally participate in general meeting or at every time the affairs of cooperatives held to improve in internal structure of cooperatives. As it is shown in Table 4.8: the majority of participants 43.8% identified the existence of inefficient managerial system as less important whereas 38.8% of respondents has reacted that inefficient managerial system is more important, 17.4% of participants answered that do not know either exist or not inefficient managerial system in cooperatives. *The maim issued raised during the researcher discussed with interviewee and discussion, they stated that the employee assigned to cooperatives did not have good managerial competency and per weeks for once coming to office rather than he/she engaged in others activities, In others, they said that the concerned government organ assigned temporary or permanently employee who can act their politics rather than employees who have efficient*

*managerial system to improve our participation equally with men in cooperatives. such events has made women as could not get opportunity of equal participation and head of cooperatives who more linked with government organ has reflected their politics action in cooperatives which violated the principles of cooperative independent and autonomous.*

**Lack of Transparency and Accountability:** About 46.6% of the respondents replied that lack of transparency and accountability is as less important while 36.5% and 16.9% of participants answered that the lack of transparency and accountability is as important and don't know about the problem respectively. The researcher has understood that there is less important lack of transparency and accountability which slightly affected participation of members in cooperatives.

**Inadequate Capital:** From the question provided to participants about majority of respondents 59.3% replied that inadequate capital is as an important problem while 40.7% of respondents reacted that as less important problem of cooperatives and all participants has identified inadequate capital which is one of the main problem that made women do not participate in cooperatives. As interview and FGD made with particular participants, they stated that inadequate



capital is the serious problem including inability to provide credit service, inability to hire full time staffs, limitations to increase the cooperatives with necessary facilities and to provide better training service so as to capacitate both the members and administrative staff, the members and administrative bodies of cooperative provided different reason for the inadequate capital, the core reason stated from administrative staff was the delay as well as cut-off credit service from lending institution (union, micro finance and banking industries, reduction of financial fund from NGOs and the trend in international market that challenge profitability of the cooperatives are the causes for inadequate capital and as observed from the participants, the main problem for inadequate capital was lack of accessing of farming inputs with time, poor credit service, political instability through the region and poor business movement of cooperatives.

**Unequal participation of men and women in cooperatives:** The data depicted that 47.2% of participants recognized that unequal participation of men and women in cooperatives is less important problem and 36.5% respondents acknowledged that as it is important problem, about 16.3% of respondents responded that don't know about whether exist or not unequal participation of women and men in cooperatives. The FGD and interview discussion also shows that there is no such considerable gender-based discrimination among members of the cooperative in terms of accessing the services. Though the respondents demand increased presentation in the administrative positions, they are happy with positive treatment from both the managerial staffs and men members of the cooperatives.

**Lack of Knowledge about Responsibilities:** Asked to rate the extent of lack of knowledge about responsibilities as a problem of the cooperative, 46.9% of the respondents replied that it is less important problem of the cooperative, about 37.1% of the respondents graded it is as important problem of the cooperative while 16% of them replied that they don't know about the problem. There are problems with some members of cooperative, ranging from minor offences like absence from meeting up to serious disruptions including selling their products to local merchants who exploit them, and have unwanted consequence on the performance of cooperative. While the problem has to do with ignorance, limited awareness of the members also is contributing factor. In addition to this, producing quality coffee and other agricultural product is still difficult for some members of the cooperative as they don't consider the problem.

**Poor Management Working Activities:** The researcher had provided question to rate the extent of respondents' response in regarding poor management activities, accordingly, 44.1% of respondents had reacted that poor management working activities is less important problem which sometimes abuse equal participation of women in cooperatives and 35.1% of respondents reflected that poor management activities is as an important problem of women in cooperatives that adversely impact the contribution of women and principles of cooperatives' member economic participation while 20.8% of participants replied that don't know about the problem. Poor management activities would be made the members to hate their cooperatives and reason out poor image or reputation of cooperatives. As per FGD taken with particular members of cooperatives from Jawi Buri and Kilinto PMACS, from the both primary

cooperatives the same suggestion emphasized as the followed: *"In our cooperatives, frequently delivering service basis on lineages or friendship relations had been presented and the members had complained why for such irregularities happened to senior administrative staff at districts cooperative office but it did not get solution till now such irregular activities are continuously materialize, therefore, lack of experience, technical competency and qualification of head of cooperatives had made our implication to hesitate of administration of cooperatives. Hence, we suggest that supervision and coordination of districts cooperatives office should be taken to improve the weakness of management frequently visible in cooperatives and ensure fair participation of members on internal affairs of cooperatives (audit report, capitalization of dividend, annual meeting and general assembly) and others gears."*

**External Problems:** External factors are factors that beyond the capacity of members to manage the events happen and adversely influenced all livelihood performance of members. To investigate the external problem, the researcher has asked the respondents to rate the extent of problem of participation of women in cooperatives. So, particular external factors in cooperative are explained under:

**High Cost of production:** From the asked regarding high cost of production, 60.4% of respondents answered that high cost of production is one of the important problems of the cooperative, 38.2 % of the respondents replied that it is as less important. The majority respondent's responses have failed under important and less important problem of cooperatives is high cost of production. From this figure, the researcher has identified the main issue of women in cooperatives is lack of accessing varies agricultural inputs with affordable price while 1.4% of participant had reacted that we don't know about the problem. Like problem is emanated from poor government intervention into market exposure and the producer setting price through consider their high income rather give attention to the end users to generate medium income and they endorse that the government intervention is the most important as the price of materials charged over.

**Low price of produces:** Low price of produces is another problem of cooperative. As a result, majority of respondents 46.6% replied that low price of produces is less important problem of the cooperatives and 28.4% of respondent's ranked as don't know about the problem while 25% of respondents reacted that low price of produce is an important problem of the cooperatives. The data from interview and FGD has disclosed from the respondents of cooperatives, the main issue is not low price of product but the increment of price on our agricultural output and farm inputs has mismatched meaning the price of farm inputs has increased over than output of agricultural products, such event has minimized our income level less than what we generated in preceding years. Also, the discussants declared they feel that if the managers are committed and proactive, the cooperatives would have been more profitable by providing the products for better price. In order to increase the profitability and capital of the cooperatives, managerial staff of the cooperatives should be committed and proactive through purchase agricultural products at time of harvesting and store in warehouse while waiting for increasing the price of agricultural products.

**Interference by Government towards internal affairs of Cooperative:** From asked, 52.2% participants ranked Interference by government on internal affairs of cooperatives is less important problem and 27% of respondents replied that it is as important problem whereas 20.8% of participants reacted that we don't know about the problem. The survey research has revealed that interference by the government is not important problem in the cooperatives for majority of the respondents. Particular of respondents expressed that there is some degree of intervention by government in internal affairs of the cooperatives. As discussed with zonal managerial staff of cooperatives the government is not interfering in the affairs of the cooperatives despite attempts to work together with the cooperatives so as to enhance their capability and efficiency especially during structural reform government organ had presented as advisor organ. Despite this, the government doesn't interfere in any social or economic affairs of the cooperatives.

**Political instability and social conflict:** Political instability and social conflicts among the factors affecting the participation of women in cooperatives is the second ranked next to highly speed costs of inputs increased. Accordingly, political instability and social conflict is the serious important problem of cooperatives for 66% of respondents while 34% of participants replied that it is as less important problem of cooperatives. The data from interview and FGD is exposed that community has faced with a serious problem of political instability after propensity party of Ethiopia came to power associated with different opposite party returned to their home residence and they started armed the structural reform of government. For the fact of conflict raised up among different political party, the innocent person passed away and sometimes in same family around 3 to five family members were died, they also stated that, due to political disorder happen in their farming area, some members of cooperative stopped to cultivate and harvest for fright of fighting, some part of members of cooperatives has lost by robbery or unknown party what they harvest, their heifer, oxen and other resources that associated with political instability.

**Tribe or Race Discrimination:** Tribe or race discrimination is another factor that made the cooperative to suffer. From the asked, the majority of respondents 41.9% replied that don't know about the problem in regarding the tribe or race discrimination, about 35.4% and 22.8% of respondents ranked race discrimination is less important and important problem respectively. Therefore, the survey has depicted that case of tribe or race discrimination is rarely happen in cooperatives and majority of PMACS has delivery service without race-based discrimination.

**Market saturation for the final products:** It is lack of sufficient market for the final product due to similar competition or new entrant who supply same or better-quality product increased in the market destination. In order to rank market status of final products of the women in cooperatives, the researcher has asked participants, as result about 48.9% of respondents responded that market saturation for the final product is less important problem and 20.5% of participants reacted that it is as an important problem while 41.9% of participants shows that don't know about the problem. The result of interview for particular participants shows that as they did not face with the problem of market for their final product but their main problem is

lack of capacity production due to political instability and shortage of agricultural input supply from the sources and inflation price of input farms. They stated that government had not facilitated marketing service through our cooperatives with better price, so difficulty of market service does not come to our final products. They recommend that government also solve the shortage of agricultural supply and inflation of price of farm inputs which can play to improve our production capacity and our participation in cooperatives.

**Highly speed cost of inputs:** Primary multipurpose agricultural cooperatives is one of cooperatives which have mandate to provide agricultural inputs to their members. Therefore, agricultural inputs such as fertilizer; variety seeds, herbicides and pesticides are main inputs that used to increase the yield of production. To investigate its accessibility and costs of those farm inputs, from the researcher asked about 64% of respondents replied that highly speed increased cost of input is a serious important problem and 29.5% of respondents answered that it is as less an important problem of women in cooperatives while 6.5% of participants replied don't know about the problem in case of speedily increased cost of inputs. The researcher has made interview with particular members, they has complained that the price of agricultural input supply since 2021G.C has increased from time to time and it has reached at a level of members could not afford to utilize for their production and some of members has started to cultivate with bare agricultural inputs specially for fertilizer and herbicides inputs, accordingly their yield of production was highly decreased due to shortage of agricultural input supply and overrun of its costs.

**Infrastructure Related Problems:** Government organ has primary duties and responsibilities to facilitate infrastructures to the communities and societies for ensuring sustainable development through the country. Thus, accessibility of transportation service, rural electrification and accessibility of rural road and easily linkage urban-rural societies are the other factors that contribute to socio-economic development to the cooperatives. In further, the influence of infrastructures on cooperatives has stated hereunder:

**Inaccessibility of Transportation Service:** Poor access of transportation service is adversely affecting the participation level of women in cooperatives, in contrary adequate access of transportation motivated or initiated rural women to easily participated in cooperatives through saving their time which previous burned their time on voyage for reality of poor access transportation service and road facilities. From enquiry, 53.4% of respondents replied that inaccessibility of transportation service is an important problem of the cooperative and 27.2% of respondents answered that it is as less an important problem while 19.4% of respondents reacted that don't know the problem inline of transportation service. As per interview and FGD made with Jawi Buri PMACS with particular members, they stated that poor transportation facility has adversely affected our access of market service and the majority of members has gone with bare foot above 10 Km distance to market destination for getting market service, the existing road also destructed and the government has not taken road maintenance activities.

**Shortage of Electrification Service:** Inaccessibility of electrification service is also other factors that influence the members to concentrate on one dimension of product.

Specially, for agro processing industry such as bakery processing, dairy processing and vegetable and fruits processing and fattening animals are common agro processing industries. For poor access of rural electrification, the cooperatives could not develop such as activities that play significant role in their business diversification from farming activities. As per primary data collected from participants, about 51.7% of respondents ranked that shortage of rural electrification are an important problem and 30.1% of respondents replied that it is as less important problem for the cooperatives while 18.3% of participants reacted that don't know about the problem of inaccessibility of electrification.

**Accessibility of Rural Road and Linkages with Urban-Rural:** Poor accessibility of infrastructures is adversely affected mutual benefits of rural and urban residences. As observed, 54.2% of respondents reflexed that inaccessibility of road is a serious important problem of cooperative and 28.1% of participants replied that it is as less important problem whereas 17.7% of respondents shows that don't know about the problem in regarding accessibility of the road facility which encourage interconnection of rural and urban residence. The researcher has made interview and FGD with specified members regarding accessibility service of rural road and linkages of urban-rural, they stated that government has good vision to stretch infrastructure development through rural areas, mode of develop creational area in rural which more increase the interconnection of rural –urban but because of political disordered government could not carried out pre-oriented activities and some activities has stacked which previously stared with the government effort.

## 5. Conclusion and Recommendations

### 5.1 Conclusion

Primary multipurpose agricultural cooperatives societies has a great contribution in socio economic development by rendering different service such as farming inputs, credit service, herbicides and pesticides, training service, variety seeds, modern technology and education access to members which promoted their production capacity, food security, economic growth and their well-being. The study shows that primary multipurpose agricultural cooperatives is crucial point in building sustainable livelihood of women by solved different constraints that would have been came to the agricultural activities of the members.

The study revealed that the members of primary multipurpose agricultural cooperatives societies about 61.5% of rural women obtained income which was less than EBT 20,000 and followed by 27% of rural women were obtained income which was intermediate between EBT 20,000 to 50,000. In others, members of primary multipurpose agricultural cooperatives about 11% and 0.6% of participants has attained income from birr 50,000 to 100,000 and above birr 100,000 respectively. This implies that the cooperatives could not satisfy its members with comparison of recent economic value due to the purchasing power of the societies adversely affected with highly inflation price of agricultural inputs and other relevant involvements.

The production capacity of women in cooperatives has increased after joining cooperatives for instance, production of cereals crops of the products has increased by 62.17% growth rate when evaluated with before joining

cooperatives, the production capacity of pulses or oilseeds augmented by 59.63% growth rate as evaluated along with before joining cooperatives, production trend of cash crops and vegetables and fruits improved by 64.85% and 75.11% as gaged along with before joining cooperatives respectively. The study also depicted that the majority of respondents are illiteracy that they can't read and write which has driven from poor training services, poor creation of awareness and education access of cooperatives to their members.

The problems of women in cooperatives are classified as organizational or internal problems, external problems, and infrastructural related problems. Internal problem is emanated from the poor management, lack of adequate skilled and experience, poor technical competency of managerial, poor transparency and accountability, Inadequate capital, unequal participation men and women in decision and lack of knowledge about duties and responsibilities but those problems are under the capacity of members to manage. External factors are factors that beyond the capacity of members to manage the events happen and adversely influenced all livelihood performance of women such as high cost of production, low prices of produces, interference of government on internal affairs of cooperatives, distance from cooperatives location, political instability and social conflict, tribe and race discrimination, market saturation for the final products are some instance of external factors. Finally, infrastructures constraints are other factors that affect the participation level of women in cooperatives; those can be emanated from external factors issue or internal factors due to poor managing the infrastructures facilities already stretched at location site of the cooperatives. As a result, shows that high production cost, highly speed increased of inputs, political instability and social conflict, lack of accessibility of transportation service, poor rural electrification and accessibility of rural roads were the main challenges that affect the extent of women participation in cooperatives.

### 5.2 Recommendations

The major findings has founded during the research study is the best attention of researcher to recommend for improving in the future by the concerned bodies and it can be used as inputs for others researcher to fulfilling the gapes that stated upon recommendation. Therefore, based on the findings, the following recommendations are forwarded:

- The role of cooperatives had in increasing the access of resource, as result, cooperative had provided service to their members such as agricultural inputs (variety seeds, herbicides, pest insect, irrigation materials), fertilizers, and credit service is a great. The great problem was the cooperatives do not deliver such modality service upon the time and they delivered after the majority of agricultural activities taken without agricultural inputs. Therefore, proactively standby of the cooperatives to delivery core modality service is very important to build sustainable livelihood of women in their cooperatives by capacitate their production level in their livelihood activities.
- The study is reflected that social conflict, marketing fluctuation upon the price of agricultural and industrial inputs, increases of borne disease and epidemics of crops pests and animals are commonly occurring shocks which has a deep impact in livelihood outcomes of the



women. Though, the government has the power to prevent social conflict, minimize level of borne disease by ensuring healthcare quality with subsidize sufficient medicine and by marketing intervention on a core matter of setting overrun price of agricultural or industrial inputs which can adversely affects sustainable livelihood of cooperatives' members or overall communities or societies.

- The study has implied that an inadequate capital is the serious problem including inability to provide credit service, inability to hire full time staffs, limitations to increase the cooperatives with necessary facilities and to provide better training service so as to capacitate both the members and administrative staff. The main problem for inadequate capital was lack of accessing of farming inputs with time, poor credit service, political instability through the region and poor business movement of cooperatives. Therefore, timely accessing of agricultural inputs, credit service and political stability has positive implication to the improvement of capital of cooperatives' members. Thus, the cooperatives have to ready every time to delivery ingredient of agricultural inputs and credit services upon time and creation of awareness to women in actively participate in livelihood activities.
- Poor access of transportation service is adversely affected the participation level of women in cooperatives, in contrary adequate access of transportation is motivated or initiated rural women to easily participated in cooperatives through saving their time which previous burned their time on voyage for reality of poor access transportation service and road facilities. In the study, inaccessibility of transportation service is identified as a serious important problem of the cooperative and the majority of members has gone with bare foot above 10 Km distance to market destination for getting market service, the existing road also destructed and the government has not taken road maintenance activities. Since infrastructures development is main factors that boosting performance of cooperatives, so transformation plan should be developed to extend fast transportation service and road construction through rural which develop rural-urban interconnection.
- The study implies that income contribution of cooperatives to their members is not satisfied their members with comparison of recent economic value due to the purchasing power of the women has adversely affected with highly inflation price of agricultural inputs and other relevant involvements. The shortage of income contribution of cooperatives to their members might drive from the price inflation of materials and poor diversification of business mechanisms, thus, the cooperatives have to develop best strategies which can boost income of members like purchase of agricultural inputs as harvesting time and store in ware house while waiting for price increment of outputs and delivering effectively training service in ways of members promote their saving habits.
- The principles of cooperatives is provision of education, training and information for their members, elected representatives, managers and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperatives but the study shows that the majority of

participants could not read and write due to less provision of education to the members. Education accessibility is strength the members to effectively participate in their cooperatives and has positive impact on income growth of the cooperatives, therefore the cooperatives should be focused on delivering education service with formal and informal to improve the human capital of rural women in cooperatives.

- Finally, to timely fulfill the interest of members in cooperative societies, widely communication of head of primary multipurpose agricultural cooperatives societies with necessary stakeholders, improving linkage among vendors and creation strong relationship private and NGO organ is very important to pre-facilitate sufficient access of materials or inputs needs of members for improving their production capacity which can increase their livelihood outcomes and by other side reduce vulnerability context to the societies.

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