**SNNPR, Pastoral Affairs Bureau**

**Lowlands Livelihood Resilience Project (LLRP)**



**Best Practice Documented on**

**Gatajine CIG Live Cattle Trade,**

**Omohana Kebele, Salamago woreda**

**April 2023,**

**Hawassa**

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1. **Introduction**

A Common Interest Group (CIG)is an informal group of 12 - 25 members from the same village who voluntarily agree to cooperate on economic agricultural and non-farm activities. The activity can focus on production (of livestock or crops), and/or processing and/or marketing; active in livelihoods diversification, active in Rangelands Management and natural resource conservation or sustainable exploitation of natural resources qualifies as well. LLRP promotes and support CIGs of women and youth. It explicitly supports CIGs as part of a participatory extension approach. (LLRP - Common Interest Groups /CIGs Guideline, April 2020, page 6)

The Gatajine Live Cattle Trade CIG, one of the CIGs organized in accordance with the LLRP CIG guideline, is located in Salamago woreda, Omohana kebele. It has 12 members at establishment, all youth.

It was organized by the woreda Job Creation & Enterprise Development, and Woreda Cooperative Development office jointly with the objective of improving the livelihoods and guaranteeing food security of PAP community, particularly of the members.

1. **Objective of Documenting the Best Practice**

The objective of documenting best practice is to share the good experiences, taking Gatajine as a sample, to others engaged in the similar activities so that they would learn some experiences and adapt to their objective realities. Moreover, to point out the weak sides of the groups and make them able to be ready for further success.

1. **General Background**
	1. **Salamago Woreda**

Salamago is one of the six pastoral & agro-pastoral woredas in the region, located in the western part of the Debub Omo zone. Salamago is bordered on the south with Nyangatom, on the west and north with the [Omo River](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Omo_River_%28Ethiopia%29) which separates it from the SWEPRS (Kaffa & [Konta](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Konta_special_woreda) special woreda), on the northeast with [Gofa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gamo_Gofa_Zone) zone (Melo woreda), on the east by [Basketo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Basketo_special_woreda) special woreda and [Bako Gazer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bako_Gazer) woreda, and on the southeast with [Bena Tsemay](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bena_Tsemay) woreda with an administrative capital [Hana](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Hana,_Ethiopia&action=edit&redlink=1).

Demographically, based on the 2007 Census of CSA, Salamago woreda has a total population of 27,866 (13,781 women). 1,233 or 4.43% of the population live in urban centers.

The five largest ethnic groups inhabiting in the woreda are [Dime](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Dime_people&action=edit&redlink=1) (39.23%), Bodi/[Me'en](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Me%27en_language) (33.07%), [Mursi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mursi_people) (22.94%), [Amhara](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amhara_people) (2.2%), and the [Basketo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Basketo_people) (1.26%); all other ethnic groups make up 1.3% of the population. [Dime](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dime_language) is the first largely spoken language by 40.39% of the inhabitants, [Me'en](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Me%27en_language) next largely spoken by 33.07%, and [Mursi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mursi_language) spoken third by 22.94%; the remaining together make up 1.3% spoke all according to the report.

The weather condition includes dega, woina dega & kola (lowland) areas.

Salamago has diverse cultures of the above ethnic groups who live in the woreda: Bodi, Chara, Dimie, Mursi, Amhara and Konso.

* 1. **Omohana Kebele**

Omohana is one of the 21 kebeles in the woreda bordering with Giyo kebele in the north, Gura kebele in the south, Gerfa & Erka kebeles in the east & Arbujo kebele in the west.

1. **Implementation of the Gatajine CIG Live Cattle Trade**

It was planned under component two, Livelihood Improvement & Diversification, under LLRP, to organize six Common Interest Groups (CIGs) in the woreda in 2013 EFY. The Gatajine Live Cattle Trade CIG was one of those planned CIGs found out to be successful and relatively the best in the woreda.

The Gatajine CIG is one of the 15 CIGs organized in the woreda since 2013 EFY. All the 15 CIGs were organized by the Salamago Woreda & Debub Omo Zone Cooperative Development and Job Creation and Enterprises Development sectors as well as Job Creation and Enterprises Development Department technical assistance in collaboration with the LLRP.

The Gatajine CIG is composed of 12 (1 female) youth who had common interest to improve their livelihoods by working together. The Gatajine CIG was organized in March 2013 EFY after being oriented in general youth meetings held by the woreda Job Creation and Enterprises Development Office & engaged in practical activities in November 2014 EFY. Two members of them were suspended from membership for refusal to abide by the group’s bylaw and were replaced by other two who agreed to abide by the bylaw.

Theoretical skills training on live cattle trade and technical training on financial management were provided to them jointly by the Salamago woreda and Debub Omo zone Livestock Development, Cooperative Development and Job Creation and Enterprises Development sectors with the facilitation & budget allocated by LLRP.

Livestock shelter was constructed by the group on the land provided by the kebele. Corrugated iron sheet was donated by the woreda admin while labor cost and nail supplied by the LLRP. The woreda Job Creation & Enterprises Development Office technically over-sighted the overall activities.

1. **Resource implications**

As mentioned earlier, the budget for the general orientation, skill & technical training, operation cost for the stakeholders’ follow up and initial capital for the CIG, was allocated by the Lowlands Livelihood Resilience Project. Accordingly, an initial capital of ETB 349,600.00 (Three hundred forty-nine thousand and six hundred Birr) was provided to the Gatajane Live Cattle Trade CIG to start the actual activity in November 2014.

1. **Results of the practice**

The members assured basic necessities, food, shelter & clothing. They began to send their children to school. As Nana Zinqu, the member **&** cashier of the CIG, stated that they benefitted so much that they could buy food & clothes for their families & schooling their children properly. He added that for the future they intend to grow the CIG to an enterprise or cooperative level.

As observed at the time of the assessment they also started to diversify their activities that they started sesame farming on a hectare provided by the kebele. Moreover, they began to share dividends based on their CIG bylaw where each of them (12) had shared 13,800 Birr which totaled 165,600.00 Birr.

The Gatajine CIG had bought 244 live cattle at 32 market days for ETB **748,300.00** until this data was collected 214 of them were sold for **1,496,400.00** ETB; 27 cattle which cost ETB 364,300 were at hand (not yet sold); and 3 cattle (an ox of 21,500, a bull of 15,500 Birr and a cow of 13,700 Birr) which were bought for 50,700 Birr, were dead.

The capital of the CIG, after sharing the dividend, by the time the data was collected was ETB ***706,150****.****00*** which included a bank balance of ETB ***194,000.00***; ***27 live cattle*** at hand/not yet sold/, costing ETB ***364,300 Birr***; cash at hand ETB 73,550.00.

Hence the CIG members confirmed that they won’t stop working hard and diversifying their activities until they achieved their vision of growing to the next level, cooperative or enterprise.

## Table: Capital of the CIG

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **#** | Item | **Amount** |
| **1** | 27 cattle | 364,300.00  |
| **2** | Bank Balance | 268,300.00  |
| **3** | cash at hand | 73,550.00  |
|  | **Total** | **706,150.00** |

1. **Lessons Learnt**

The Gatajine Live Cattle Trade CIG has been successful because of the joint actions of the stakeholder sectors, which played their roles properly in orienting, organizing, supporting and monitoring & evaluation in collaboration with the LLRP and the coordinator sector, the Pastoral Affairs sector.

On the other hand, a true group of common interest organized on the basis of proper technical & skill training would be successful. The Gatajine Live Cattle Trade CIG is such a group organized with true similar interest. The Gatajine CIG outshined others in that it had had profited up to 10,000 ETB in one market alone. Using it as example many youth, as stated by the Chairman of the Gatajine CIG Esayas Mini, in its surroundings have privately engaged in live cattle trade and have begun obtaining additional income to subsist their livelihoods.

1. **Conclusion**

The Gatajine CIG is one of the 15 CIGs organized in the woreda since 2013 EFY. The Gatajine CIG intervention is the best because comparatively it has brought about better improvement in the lives of the members changed their culture of work, from only running after livestock from place to place engaging in profitable business like this, as well as beginning to diversify their means of livelihood as it has embarked on sesame farming.

Rather astonishing is that the group’s interest and initiative to work harder until grown up to be an exemplary big enterprise in the area.

The LLRP’s collaborative actions with the stakeholders and devotion of the staff have brought about such astonishing results.

# Recommendations

The Gatajine CIG was successful because of the sustained and consistent oversight, monitoring & evaluation and support from the project and the stakeholders. This cooperation and devotion of the LLRP and the stakeholders throughout the project activities has to sustain in the future, too

In this regard the three stakeholder sectors (Cooperative, Agriculture/animal section and Job creation & Enterprises Development sectors) are to be appreciated and recommended to continue the sustained monitoring & evaluation to all the CIGs so that they may sustain and grow to the next step, cooperative or enterprise in the future at the absence of the LLRP.

**References**

 Ministry of Peace, Lowlands Livelihood Resilience project, Common Interest Groups Guideline,

**A**pril, 2020, Addis Ababa

**Participants of Documenting the Best Practice**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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