

# A HISTORY OF COOPERATIVE FARMING ASSOCIATION IN WALKAIT – SETIT HUMERA, NORTHWEST ETHIOPIA 1969- 1994

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## ABSTRACT

*Cooperative farming led by smallholder farmers might be the feature of Ethiopia's agriculture. The cooperatives were thus permitted to exchange their members' product, improve market access and directly provide their produce to the market through improving the bargaining power of farmer members. The paper explores the potential of cooperative farming and mechanization. It reveals that a number of informal, community supported cooperative practices are already in place, although sesame, sorghum and cotton farming is still labor intensive and inefficient. The paper argues that mechanization of key activities and institutionalization of cooperative farming may reverse the situation and improve food security. In Walkait Setit Humera sorghum and sesame farming is relevant to other parts of rural Ethiopia as well as most of the country is employing similar agricultural practices. Therefore, this study was conducted with the objective of assessing the establishment and developments for agricultural cooperatives growth in Walkait Setit Humara, North West Ethiopia. In this research paper primary and secondary data on cooperative farming association for Walkait Setit Humera was used to review the areas specific cooperative farming association and its implications for economic development.*

*Agricultural cooperatives in the study area faced many challenges including lack of sense of ownership and low follow up and control system; lack of commitment, members little awareness about cooperatives, low participation of members in their cooperatives, limited training access; limited professional support and follow up to cooperatives, lack of commitment to find out the problems of cooperatives and fill the gap; fail to organize and provide adequate, quality and timely information on cooperatives and high employee turnover at zone and woreda levels. The above challenges may be easy if educated cooperative professionals were invited to lead the sector. Training to office bearers and education to the members pertaining to their specific needs is another important aspect for the growth of any cooperatives.*

**Keywords:** *Farming cooperatives, Mechanization and Walkait Setit Humara,*

## INTRODUCTION

Creature farmers may realize mutual economic and even social benefits by amalgamating their limited resources through agricultural cooperatives.<sup>1</sup> Agricultural cooperatives are typically classified into agricultural service cooperatives and agricultural production cooperatives.<sup>2</sup> Cooperatives tend to expand as markets distribute goods and services at reasonable prices and adequate quality.<sup>3</sup> They empower their members, help them obtain products and services for less than what they would individually and also facilitate their efforts in achieving greater profits.<sup>4</sup> Through cooperation, members may share the profits, expenses and manage the risks of production according to their individual inputs.<sup>5</sup>

Ethiopia in general, Walkait Setit Humera in particular is an agriculture dependent, with almost ninety five

percent of its population below the poverty line.<sup>6</sup> In this regard, cooperative movement has failed to materialize the crucial goal of reducing poverty.<sup>7</sup> Even though, sesame, sorghum and cotton growing households are still in a position to benefit through agricultural cooperatives in more than one way, including group procurement and selling as well as group utilization of agricultural land and equipment.<sup>8</sup>

The paper focuses on sesame, sorghum and cotton producers since sesame, sorghum and cotton occupies as much as ninety percent of agricultural land in Walkait Setit Humera, resulting in more than thirty five million metric tons of sesame, sorghum and cotton every year.<sup>9</sup> Sesame and sorghum has gained popularity due to it being one of the cheapest sources of calories and fat, supplying the population with up to two thirds of their calorie intake Walkait Setit Humera.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Central Gondar Administrative Zone Archival Center, Reference Number, 6743/1, Date, 29/11/1967, A Letter written from the provisional Military Government of Socialist Ethiopia Begemder and Semen Province Wogera Awraja Administrative Office, Gondar to Mr. Bezabih Gebrie, Begemeder and Semen Administer, Gondar.

<sup>2</sup> Delelegne A. Tefera and etal, Agricultural Co-Operatives in Ethiopia: Evolution, Functions and Impact, Journal of

International Development J. Int. Dev. (2016) Published online in Wiley Online Library, p, 2.

<sup>3</sup> Zerihun Alem. The process of planning and its implementation in the state farm sector of Ethiopia, A thesis

Presented to school graduate studies. Addis Ababa University, April, 1982, p, 59.

<sup>4</sup> Interview with a former member (Hayilu Woldie and Mantegbosh Aderajaew) of the Management of the Welkayet Setit Agricultural

Development Unit (WSADU), 28 April 2011, Setit Humera.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> Zerihun Alem. The process of planning and its implementation in the state farm sector of Ethiopia, A

Thesis presented to school graduate studies. Addis Ababa University, April, 1982, p, 60, A Letter written

from Setit Humera Farmers Association, Humera to Major general Nega Tegegn, Begemder and Semen Province

Administer Chair Man, Gondar, Reference Number 3/□/67, Date, 17/2/67.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid

<sup>8</sup> CGAZAC, Reference Number, 54/e100/2-2/27, Date 12/9/1963, A Letter Written from Fitawurarie Bekele Zelelew Deputy Administer to Sub provisional Peoples Development Office, Gondar, CGAZAC, Reference Number 97/□/67, Date, 24/2/67, A Letter from Walkait Setite Huemera Farmers Multi-Purpose Cooperative Society Ltd, Humera, Ethiopia to Relief and Rehabilitation Commission Order, Addis Ababa.

<sup>9</sup> Draft Report, For Sesame Value Chain for Pro-Poor Development Projects, Baseline Survey of Sesame Trade

Arrangements, Costs and Risks Ethiopia. Addis Ababa – Ethiopia, 2009, pp. 26-28.

<sup>10</sup> Interview with a former (Chalachew Jenber and Abayenh Mamay) member of the Management of the Welkayet Setit Agricultural Development Unit (WSADU), 28 April 2011, Adiremste, Simoons J. Frederick: North West

Ethiopia, Peoples and Economy, The Univesity of Wisconsin Press, Madison, 1960, p.74.

Most sesame farming households in Welkaiet Setit Humera, however, depend on traditional methods of farming,<sup>11</sup> resulting in reduced yields. Another issue is the large percentage of landlessness amongst rural households. Lastly, government bequest law acts as an encouragement, effectively sustaining land fragmentation and making it harder for many farmers to apply any form of mechanization to their lands.<sup>12</sup>

In this paper, agricultural cooperatives are defined as a service and production cooperative,<sup>13</sup> capable of pooling individual farmers' resources to obtaining required inputs and also assist with marketing produced goods.<sup>14</sup> The objectives of the paper is to assess the cooperative farming practices and capacities of rural farmers within Walkait Setit Humera, Walkait and Setit Humera district, using collected surveys from nine hundred fifty households.<sup>15</sup> The aim to increase member's production and incomes by helping better link them with finance, agricultural inputs, information, and output markets,... agricultural cooperatives also enable farmers to improve product and service quality and reduce risks.

The article starts its narration by reporting on the characteristics of sesame and sorghum growing in Walkait Setit Humera.<sup>16</sup> It then proceeds to identify potential labor substitution through cooperative farming and finally provides estimates through a number of cooperative situations. In Ethiopia the origin of modern cooperatives traced back to the 1960s with the promulgation of farm workers' cooperative society decree No. 44/1960 of the imperial regime which paved the way for the establishment of cooperatives.<sup>17</sup> The declaration recognized cooperative as key actor for the overall development of the country.<sup>18</sup>

Walkait Setit Humera has a long history of cooperative movement in Ethiopia, which has been characterized by strong growth, thus making a significant contribution to the overall economy of the region and the country as well. Cooperatives Farming Associations as a major contributor to the rural and agricultural development. Walkait Setit Humera Cooperatives Farming Associations are established in 1969. From the total population of the region of the people participated and benefited directly or indirectly from cooperatives type of business.<sup>19</sup>

<sup>11</sup> Bezabih Emana. Cooperatives: a path to economic and social empowerment in Ethiopia, Coop AFRICA Working

Paper No. 9, International Labour Organization, 2009, p.20, McCann C. James: People of the Plow: An Agricultural

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Cooperative Society Ltd, Humera, Ethiopia to Setite Woreda Administrative Office, Humera.

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<sup>17</sup> Mengistu Abebe. The March 1975 “Land to the Tiller” Proclamation: Dream or Reality, American Research Journal

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<sup>18</sup> Ibid. CGAZAC, Reference Number 59/□/67, Date, 4/2/67, A Letter from Walkait Setite Huemera Farmers Multi-

Purpose Cooperative Society Ltd, Humera, Ethiopia to The Provisional Military Administer Dereg, Addis Ababa.

<sup>19</sup> CGAZAC, Reference Number 564/15/66, Date, 25/8/1966, A Letter from Walkait Setite Humera Farmers Multi-Purpose Cooperative Society Ltd, Humera, Ethiopia to Meleone Nekenke Peoples

Officially cooperative movement started during Emperor Haile Selassie's regime (1930-1975), the movement was became bubbled during the regime of Derg (1974-1991). The Derg regime considered cooperatives as a mass movement that could ensure equitable mobilization and distribution of resources. They were thus viewed as instruments for planning and implementation of socialist policies/ ideology of the regime. During these periods farmers were forced to pull their produces to the local multipurpose cooperatives and then price of their produce was determined by government. These cooperatives had been served not for their members, rather for political sustainability of the military government. Fortunately, these forcefully organized cooperatives were devastated by their own members, political instabilities in the study areas, when the military regime abolished by the current Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Front in 1994.<sup>20</sup>

During the military regime, the government decided socialist economy that gave a wider scope for the development of cooperatives.<sup>21</sup> Those cooperative

institutions had one of the requirements of the socio-economic system which were included in various policies of the government.<sup>22</sup> Peasant associations were given legality by the proclamation No. 71/1975.<sup>23</sup> In this proclamation, the objectives, powers and duties of peasant associations, service cooperatives and agricultural producer cooperatives were clearly stated.<sup>24</sup> They were also established virtually in government fait and in process of the socialization of agriculture. Thus, they were used as prime instruments in guiding directives and implementing new socialists' policies.<sup>25</sup> To support the policy as indicated cooperatives received special treatment in the supply of agricultural inputs and also enjoyed lower land tax and unequal support from the then Ministry of Agricultural Extension (MoAE) and Cooperatives.<sup>26</sup>

Following the overthrow of the military government in 1991, the context of development strategies and policies have been changed.<sup>27</sup> After the coming of Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Forces

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Development Association Affairs Ministry, Addis Ababa.

<sup>20</sup> CGAZAC, Reference Number 395/37/66, Date, 5/6/1966, A Letter from Walkait Setite Humera Farmers Multi- Purpose Cooperative Society Ltd, Humera, Ethiopia to Begemder and Semen Province Office, Gondar.

<sup>21</sup> J. Markakis and Nega Ayele, *Class and Revolution in Ethiopia*, (Trenton: RSP, 1986), P.132, CGAZAC, Reference Number 59/□/67, Date, 4/2/67, A Letter from Walkait Setite Huemera Farmers Multi-Purpose Cooperative Society Ltd, Humera, Ethiopia to the Provisional Military Administer Dereg, Addis Ababa.

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<sup>23</sup> Veerakumaran G.: *Ethiopian Cooperative Movement – An Explorative Study*, Department of Cooperatives, Faculty of Dry Land Agriculture and Natural Resources Mekelle University, Mekelle, Ethiopia, April, 2007, p.10.

<sup>24</sup> Ibid.

<sup>25</sup> Dawit Alemu and Kassahun Berhanu: *The Political Economy of Agricultural Commercialization in Ethiopia*:

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<sup>26</sup> CGAZAC, Reference Number 97/□/67, Date, 24/2/67, A Letter from Walkait Setite Huemera Farmers Multi-Purpose Cooperative Society Ltd, Humera, Ethiopia to Relief and Rehabilitation Commission Order, Addis Ababa.

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(EPRDF) led transitional government, a transition was made from centrally planned to a market-oriented economic system.<sup>28</sup> Unlike the development policy of the socialist regime, the EPRDF government is said to have created an opportunity to improve the socio-economic and political environment through the process of democratization, decentralization, privatization and market liberalization.<sup>29</sup>

The enactment of the proclamation No. 147/1998 facilitated the establishment of a number of cooperatives among which agricultural cooperatives are in the front line. Some of the salient problems that initiated the establishments were weak organizational structure and lack of capacity to address the needs of their members.<sup>30</sup>

Therefore, it is value to mention that a closer examination of the challenges and opportunities of agricultural cooperatives growth would be a dominant importance in taking preventive actions and corrective measures, and exploit the existing opportunities.<sup>31</sup>

### Objectives of the Cooperative Associations

Cooperatives are highly relevant and important in the realization of the planned supportable development areas. This brief highlights the actual contribution of cooperatives to goals proposed by Walkait Setit Humera cooperative coordinators in the post-1969 Development Agenda in their report of 24/8/1969. Though the specific goals, targets and indicators will not be agreed upon until September

20/1970 as part of the ongoing process, these proposed goals reflect the range of themes that will likely be covered by the goals.<sup>32</sup>

The Clarifying Sustainable Development Goals, as proposed by the Walkait Setit Humera cooperative coordinators on the post-1969 Development Agenda: end poverty, ensure healthy lives, ensure food security and good nutrition, achieve universal access to water and sanitation, and create jobs, sustainable livelihoods and equitable growth. The cooperative enterprise is the type of organization that is most suited to addressing all dimensions of reducing poverty and exclusion. The way cooperatives help reduce poverty is important - they identify economic opportunities for their members; empower the disadvantaged to defend their interests; provide security to the poor by allowing them to convert individual risks into collective risks; and mediate member access to assets that they utilize to earn a living.<sup>33</sup>

For instance, while savings and credit cooperatives (SACCOs) facilitate their members' access to financial capital, agricultural cooperatives help farmers access the inputs required to grow crops and keep livestock, and help them process, transport and market their produce. Similarly, consumer cooperatives make it possible for their members and the society at large to access good quality household supplies like food, clothing, and other products at affordable prices.<sup>34</sup>

<sup>28</sup> Lefort René: Free Market Economy, 'developmental State' and party – state hegemony in Ethiopia: the case of 'Model farmers', The Journal of Modern African Studies. Vol. 50. No.4 (December 2012), Cambridge University Press, pp. 681- 682.

<sup>29</sup> Informants, Leaders of the cooperatives of Walkait Setit Humera (Abohay Mamo)

<sup>30</sup> Ethiopia Proclamation No 147/1998: A Proclamation to Provide for the establishment of Cooperative Society, Section 2, p, 2.

<sup>31</sup> CGAZAC, Reference Number 377/□12/3-2/46, Date, 7/08/67, A Letter written from Yerga Desta

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<sup>32</sup> CGAZAC, Reference No. 167/52/67, Date, 15/02/1967, A Letter written from Girma Alemu Head of Setit Humera Farmers Association, Humera to Nega Tegegn Begemder and Semen Administer, Gondar.

<sup>33</sup> Ibid.

<sup>34</sup> CGAZAC, Reference No. 64/37/66, Date, 3/11/1966, A Letter written from Walkait Setite Humera Farmers Multi-Purpose Cooperative Society Ltd, Humera, Ethiopia to Nega Tegegn Begemder and Semen Administer, Gondar.

Cooperatives contribute to food security by helping small farmers, livestock keepers, forest holders and other producers to solve numerous challenges that confront them in their endeavors to produce food. Farming and agriculture is where the cooperative business model is most widely utilized. Challenges faced by small agricultural producers include remoteness and lack of access to information about food prices on national and international markets; access to high-quality inputs and variable costs of buying seeds and fertilizer; access to loans to buy these inputs; and lack of transport and other infrastructure in rural areas.<sup>35</sup>

Agricultural cooperatives help farmers overcome these obstacles by offering their members a variety of services such as group purchasing and marketing, input shops for collective purchases, and warehouse receipt systems for collective access to credit and market outlet. Cooperatives build small producers' skills, provide them with knowledge and information, and help them to innovate and adapt to changing markets. Importantly, they facilitate farmers' participation in decision-making processes and help small producers voice their concerns and interests, and increase their negotiating power to influence policy making processes.<sup>36</sup>

Cooperatives are increasingly becoming major actors in facilitating access to clean water and sanitation services to make up for the failures of both the public and private sectors. Cooperatives have provided alternative ways for urban communities to get clean water and safe sewerage services.<sup>37</sup>

## METHODS OF THE STUDY

The authors of this paper used the methods that best reflect the character of analysis given in the subject. In a study of cooperatives and associations of farmers as

a model of entrepreneurship in the agriculture of Walkait Setit Humera dominated the qualitative economic analysis. These are primarily in the first place the various legal texts, archival and literary sources of the cooperative associations.

The contribution of this works reflected in the review and analysis process of the cooperative organization in the Walkait Setit Humera farming association. It points to the fact that it is necessary to cooperative preserve it form further collapse, and that it is necessary to improve its operation and business, and to cooperatives performed its function, it is necessary to stop the decline of agricultural production. It can be more efficient implication to measure agricultural policy in the creation must be attended by representatives of cooperatives, as the only indigenous organizational segment of farmers in the Walkait Setit Humera farming associations.

Study area and data collection Surveying was done in Walkait Setit, a region consisting of 3 unions and 33villages. The nine hundred fifty households, three quarters of them being rural, are spread over 60.92km<sup>2</sup>. The region is infamous due to extreme levels of poverty, high level of illiteracy, large sesame, sorghum and cotton yield gaps, and common land drought, which all act as obstacles to farming and food security attempts. Study was administered via face to face interviews using a questionnaire with twenty questions, requiring on average half an hour to complete. Participants were offered no incentives in order to avoid potential bias, with anyone above the age of 40 considered a potential interviewee. Households selected for the interview were required to have at least 0.26 acres of land, effectively excluding landless households. The later were not considered in the study as they had only their labor to contribute to an agricultural cooperative.

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<sup>35</sup> Ibid.

<sup>36</sup>CGAZAC, Reference No. 64/37/66, Date, 3/11/1966, A Letter written from Walkait Setite Humera Farmers Multi-Purpose Cooperative Society Ltd, Humera, Ethiopia to Nega Tegegn Begemder and Semen Administer, Gondar.

<sup>37</sup> CGAZAC, Reference Number 564/15/66, Date, 25/8/1966, A Letter from Walkait Setite Humera Farmers Multi-Purpose Cooperative Society Ltd, Humera, Ethiopia to Meleone Nekenke Peoples Development Association Affairs Ministry, Addis Ababa.

This is crucial since member homogeneity is the prerequisite for successful cooperation. Another criteria required of the households is that they have grown sesame, sorghum and cotton at least once during the last five years, assuring that they have the competencies and knowledge to answer the questions.

Cooperative model are used to demonstrate potential benefits of cooperative sesame, sorghum and cotton farming within Walkait Setit Humera. The model shows how much sesame, sorghum and cotton is being produced using present agricultural practices. A cooperative within a hypothetical village of nine hundred fifty households is taken as an object of the study. Half of the residents are taken to be landless, with the other half structured based on the gathered survey data. The model focuses on sesame, sorghum and cotton growing households who have expressed willingness to be part of an agricultural cooperative without any government intervention. A separate situation where agricultural land of participating households is aggregated is presented. Farmers in this case are assumed to be working together, cooperatively farming the land and sharing potential profits and losses based on each farmer's contribution. The model for distribution relies on the sales value of each harvest, recorded costs and realized profits to determine each farmer's share. This is accomplished through division of individually contributed inputs with corresponding totals and then using the quotient to calculate the share. Some of the benefits of land aggregation are reflected in a joint adoption of best practices, coordinated land preparation, sesame, sorghum and cotton planting and harvesting, with some of the more quantifiable areas.

Estimating sesame, sorghum and cotton production in this case combines recorded yields with country's most common cropping pattern (sesame- sorghum - cotton), while admitting that due to differences in land characteristics such wide application of the pattern may not be possible. Motorized equipment is contrasted with manual labor through a cost benefit analysis for planting, weeding, and harvesting stages of sesame, sorghum and cotton farming.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Agricultural practices of Walkait Setit Humera sesame farmer's results are laid down starting with demographic, ownership, and income. The high percentage of service workers revolves mostly around positions such as a rickshaw driver, small retailer or a local artisan. Presently, only one percent of household members are working in an industry, revealing potential for diversification and a shift in that direction. As much as eighty seven percent of household's own houses they live in, together with some 1.23 acres of land (on average). Unfortunately, land ownership inequality within the region reveals that the top twenty percent of households own as much land as land the remaining eighty percent, with land policies including land ceilings unsuccessful and easily circumvented by the more powerful households. The situation of high landlessness and disturbed land ownership inequality is only one of the three obstructions to cooperative farming. The remaining two include land fragmentation institutionalized by the government inheritance law and the prevalence of traditional farming methods.

Farmers use the land primarily for agricultural purposes (ninety nine percent), with twelve percent of households reporting using the land for dairy farm as well. The average distance of agricultural land from the house is less than a kilometer; however, eight in ten households have their land fragmented with an average of five parcels per household. Similar conclusions may be reached for the forty percent of households who reported owning equipment. Majority of this machinery, however, refers to simple tools such as tractors or rarely farming equipment. Overall, out of nine hundred fifty households, only five have mentioned owning a cultivator and only a single household said they owned a tractor. When it comes to income and spending, the rural households seem to be slightly poorer compared to the national average.

As may be noted, majority of operations are performed manually, with very few exceptions that would otherwise be impossible or extremely hard to perform manually.

Areas with potential for improvement Area of improvement of potential improvement Pest control

(weeds, animal pests, pathogens and viruses) Post harvest practices (harvesting, drying, milling, storing) Note: The percentages present estimated losses caused by poor farming practices.

Land preparation, for instance, is done mostly using equipment, which may lead to a wrong conclusion that many farmers own cultivator and tractors. The reality of it is that just fewer than 3 percent of households own cultivators and tractors, leaving the rest to borrow or hire equipment from the more well off households, delaying their planting activities in the process. Cooperative farming in this case may potentially reduce the wait time for participating households through cooperative land preparation, planting, weeding, harvesting, and other operations. Such strategy would also reduce any inefficiency in using the equipment and contribute to productivity. Sowing and planting, however, are performed by hand. In doing so, farmers typically chose between direct seeding method (seeds are planted directly in the field) and transplanting (seedlings are raised in seedbeds before being planted in the field). The process of planting farmers end up selecting will depend on a number of factors such as location of the land, soil characteristics, and the risk of pesticides. The method brings many benefits with it as it requires half as less seeds as direct seeding and is also a proven form of weed control. It is, however, more labor intensive, the prepared seedbeds take up to ten percent of the land area, and the actual sesame, sorghum and cotton usually takes longer to adept.

Substituting labor with mechanized equipment would not only increase productivity but would also lead to reduced costs. Moreover, equipment such as a cultivator has more than one use due to its detachable engine, allowing it to be used as a water pump, sesame thresher, mill or a transport vehicle.

A good part farming operations performed manually and using equipment Land preparation, Planting, Fertilizer application, Weeding, Harvesting, Transportation, Threshing, and Milling Note: Totals could go beyond hundred percent since households often combine manual work with the use of equipment. Source: own work of the helping staff was extended family members or friends. When asked

about the obstacles for collective farming within their village, forty nine percent named land ownership issues as the most important one, with financial situation at the second position (forty six percent). As for the requirements to participate in cooperative farming, government support in the form of new equipment, loans, seeds and fertilizers was a priority for majority. Such findings give hope that cooperative movement may be revived in Ethiopia and could play the part in establishing food security and alleviating poverty. Moreover, this setup creates opportunities for sesame, sorghum and cotton farmers to take advantage of cooperative farming in the near future.

## CONCLUSION

Food security in Ethiopia is presently a battle fought by the government, numerous non-governmental organization and foreign aid agencies. Cooperative farming may contribute significantly to the outcome by providing rural households with a tool to procure inputs more cheaply, farm more productively and market the goods more expensively. The encouraging increase in sesame production due to reduction in losses and increase resulting from intensified cropping intensity, makes cooperative farming a prime tool for poverty alleviation in rural Ethiopia.

Important aspects of cooperative farming are the potential savings due to mechanization of traditional, labor intensive operations. The cost reductions of up to 92 percent suggest the need for replacing majority of manually performed operation in sesame, sorghum and cotton growing. The prospects and opportunities seem endless as the overwhelming majority of households presently rely on traditional farming methods although willing to partake in cooperative farming and take advantage of the benefits.

Cooperative farming, however, may contribute to growing unemployment as more farmers become redundant in daily farm activities. Moreover, landless households are left out as they have nothing but their labor to contribute. The role of government is therefore a key factor to reviving cooperative movement in Ethiopia and making sure that additional labor and landless households are properly taken care of.

Generally, this article holds important implications and can also be a foundation in promoting the performance/impacts evaluations of cooperatives from economic, social and environmental perspectives as these are minimum criteria to be met for a sustainable development.

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\_\_\_\_\_, Reference Number 5/421/70, Date, 26/1/70, A Letter written from the Provisional Military Government of Socialist Ethiopia Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry Extension and project implementation department, Addis Ababa to Agricultural Industry Development Bank, Addis Ababa.

\_\_\_\_\_, Reference Number 97/ሀ/67, Date, 24/2/67, A Letter from Walkait Setit Huemera Farmers Multi-Purpose Cooperative Society Ltd, Humera, Ethiopia to Relief and Rehabilitation Commission Order, Addis Ababa.

\_\_\_\_\_, Reference No. 2.1.45/2336, Date, 1/04/1967, A Letter written from the Imperial Ethiopian Government Ministry of National Community Development and Social Affairs, Addis Ababa to Begemeder and Semen Province Administrative Office, Gondar.

\_\_\_\_\_, Reference Number 193/15/67, Date, 1/4/67, A Letter from Walkait Setite Huemera Farmers Multi-Purpose Cooperative Society Ltd, Humera, Ethiopia to Setite Woreda Administrative Office, Humera.

\_\_\_\_\_, Reference No. 167/52/67, Date, 15/02/1967, A Letter written from Girma Alemu Head of Setit Humera Farmers Association, Humera to Nega Tegegn Begemder and Semen Administer, Gondar.

\_\_\_\_\_, Reference Number 59/ሀ/67, Date, 4/2/67, A Letter from Walkait Setite Huemera Farmers Multi-Purpose Cooperative Society Ltd, Humera, Ethiopia to the Provisional Military Administer Dereg, Addis Ababa.

\_\_\_\_\_, Reference Number 564/15/66, Date, 25/8/1966, A Letter from Walkait Setite Huemera Farmers Multi-Purpose Cooperative Society Ltd, Humera, Ethiopia to Meleone Nekenke Peoples Development Association Affairs Ministry, Addis Ababa.

\_\_\_\_\_, Reference Number 649/37/66, Date, 3/11/66, A Letter from Walkait Setite Huemera Farmers Multi-Purpose Cooperative Society Ltd, Humera, Ethiopia to Brigadier general Nega Tegegn, Begemder

\_\_\_\_\_, Reference Number 395/37/66, Date, 5/6/1966, A Letter from Walkait Setite Huemera Farmers Multi-Purpose Cooperative Society Ltd, Humera, Ethiopia to Begemder and Semen Province Office, Gondar.

**Appendix****III. List of Informants**

No	Name of Informants	Sex	Age	Date of Interview	Place of Interview	Remark
1	Chalachew Jenber (Ato)	M	75	12/02/2011	Adiremste	He is a farmer and has much knowledge about the farming practice.
2	Hailu Woldie (Ato)	M	68	27/08/2011	Setit – Humera	He is a farmer and has good knowledge about Cooperative Farming Association.
3	Abayenh Mamaye (Ato)	M	52	15/05/2011	Adiremste	He was a farmer and he gave important information about farming practice.
4	Derajaw Gezie (Ato)	M	72	02/06/2011	Setit – Humera	He is a farmer and knows well about Cooperative Farming.
5	Mantegbosh Aderajew (W/ro)	F	59	09/11/2011	Adiremste	She is a farmer with good knowledge of past agricultural practice.
6	Abohoye Mamo (Ato)	M	46	19/12/2011	Setit – Humera	He had worked in Walkait Setit Humera agricultural development office and he has sufficient knowledge about Cooperative Farming association.