



# Determinates of Rural and Per-Urban Youth Participation in Micro and Small Agricultural Enterprises in Gurage and Silte Zone

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## To cite this article:

Seid Mohamed, Destaw Muluye. Determinates of Rural and Per-Urban Youth Participation in Micro and Small Agricultural Enterprises in Gurage and Silte Zone. *American Journal of Environmental and Resource Economics*. Vol. 7, No. 1, 2022, pp. 1-7.

doi: 10.11648/j.ajere.20220701.11

**Received:** December 30, 2021; **Accepted:** January 18, 2022; **Published:** January 24, 2022

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**Abstract:** In southern nation nationalities and peoples' region, youths are less willing to participate in micro and small agricultural enterprises. Due to these, huge amount of money from the government which was allocated for this purpose is not being used as expected. The study was conducted in Gurage and Silte zone of southern nations and nationalities peoples region of Ethiopia with the objectives of identifying determinates of rural and peri-urban youth participation in MSAE, identifying different agricultural enterprises available and the need of the youth, analyze determinants of effectiveness of micro and small agricultural enterprises they were participated and identify constraints and opportunities in their involvement in micro and small agricultural enterprises. In order to attain this objective both primary and secondary data were employed. The primary data were generated from 46 non micro and small agricultural enterprises participant and from 108 micro and small agricultural enterprises participant youths, totally from 154 sample youths. The primary data from Individual interview and key informant interview was generated by using pre-tested, structured questionnaire and check list respectively based on multi-stage random sampling method. This was supported by secondary data collected from different published and unpublished sources. The binary Logit model was used to identify determinants of rural and peri-urban youth participation in micro and small agricultural enterprises. The model result of the study reveals that out of 13 explanatory variables, 5 variables were found to be significant in determining youth participation in micro and small agricultural enterprises. This were Land size, total income, lack of awareness, lack of initial saving and lack of commitment by officials were found to be significantly affecting youth participation in micro and small agricultural enterprises. The study suggested that strengthen the financial capability of youth by providing enough amount of credit without initial saving is a strategy to increases youth participation in micro and small agricultural enterprises. The government should create awareness or information about micro and small agricultural enterprises for the youths.

**Keywords:** Gurage, Siltie, Micro and Small Agricultural Enterprises, Rural and Peri-urban Youth

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## 1. Introduction

The international development community has recognized that agriculture is an engine of growth and poverty reduction in countries where it is the main occupation of the poor [1]. Globally, 13% of youth is unemployed, and 350 million people are working poor. Researchers, policymakers, and think tank have indicated agriculture as a solution to problems like youth unemployment, poverty, and food

security [2]. Furthermore, young people are very important resource required for every nation's development especially for sustainability in agricultural production [3]. However, with low participation of youth in agricultural production, the future of the agricultural industry is questionable. Agricultural sector in many developing countries is underperforming [4]. The many hinders in Ethiopian agriculture need intervention so as to increase youth participation in agriculture and bringing sustainable solution.

Small number of rural youth participation in micro and small agricultural enterprise was found with being the results of social, economical and personal constraints [5]. There is recognition that for Africa to achieve food security, special attention must be given to the youth because the youths are regarded as critical agricultural players [6]. The agricultural sector is believed by many analysts that it is naturally endowed with multiple potentials to engross unemployed and excess or idle labor which consists of youths especially, graduates, from other sectors of the economy [7].

Agricultural sector has a potential of being huge and thriving business to entrepreneurs provided that there is full and active government backstopping [8]. The sector can generate higher income if it is also operated in the scientifically recommended way [9]. Within the Ethiopian context, despite the potential contribution of the MSEs to poverty reduction and employment creation, the Government had not, until very recently, extended adequate support to the development of the sector. Simply put, there has not been meaningful government support in terms of recognition and access to finance and skills required for operating small businesses and enterprises profitably and efficiently [10, 11].

The Ethiopian national youth policy [12] indicated the significance of participating youths in the process of building a democratic system, good governance and development endeavors, and how they can be benefited fairly from the outcomes. The Government of Ethiopia is focusing on the micro and small enterprises, basically, because of their contribution in reducing unemployment. The focus stems from the increasing unemployment problem in Ethiopia and MSEs have significant role in poverty alleviation and job creation in [13].

The Ethiopian government has a package of encouraging youths to participate in small and micro agricultural enterprises by giving legal backup/certificate for those youths who were organized in group to start the business; by giving trainings and by providing financial supports in terms of credit. However, in most parts of the country in general and in SNNPR in particular, youths are less willing to participate in micro and small agricultural enterprises. Even after being organized into groups and associations, and having different supports from government some of them were not totally starting the business and some are interrupting the business they have been organized [2]. Due to these, huge amount of money from the government which was allocated for this purpose is not being used as expected. The reason behind low participation of youths, withdrawal and interruption from the business was not studied so far in the SNNPR of Ethiopia.

Therefore, this study is intended to study and assess factors affecting rural and peri-urban youth participation in micro and small agricultural enterprises in selected areas of Southern Nation Nationalities and Peoples of Ethiopia. This study focused on the following objectives: (a) to identify the different agricultural enterprises available and the needs of youths; (b) to identify determinants of rural and peri-urban youths' participation in micro and small agricultural enterprises in the study areas; (c) to analyze determinants of effectiveness of enterprises they were participated; (d) to

identify constraints and opportunities in their involvement in micro and small agricultural enterprises in the study area.

## 2. Research Methodology

### 2.1. Description of the Study Area

The study was conducted in Gurage and Silte zone in southern nations and nationalities of people's regional state of Ethiopia. Specifically, in Meskan and Endegagn woreda from Gurage zone, Misrak Azerenet and Silti woreda from Silte zone.

Gurage Zone was bordered on the south east by Hadiya and Yem Special Woreda, on the west, north and east by the Oromia Region, and on the south east by Silte zone. According to the Gurage Zone finance and economic development report, the Zone has 13 woredas and two urban administrations with 412 rural and 50 urban kebeles. The Zonal center town wolkite found on the distance of 155 km and 259 km from the capital city of the county Addis Ababa and Regional capital city of Hawassa respectively. Topographically lies within the elevation ranging from 1000 to 3,600 meters above sea level. Siltie zone is named for the Silt'e people, whose homeland lies in this zone. Like other nationalities in Ethiopia, the Silt'e people have their own language, Silt'e. Silt'e is bordered on the south by Alaba special woreda, on the southwest by Hadiya, on the north by Gurage, and on the east by the Oromia Region. Geographically it lies between 38°3'25.812"E 7°45'10.864"N.

### 2.2. Data Types and Sources

Both qualitative and quantitative data types were collected from primary and secondary data sources. The primary data was collected directly from sampled households. Secondary data sources used for this study were journals, relevant text books, Gurage and Siltie Zones agricultural and marketing office reports.

### 2.3. Sampling Technique and Sample Size Determination

The study employed multi-stage sampling technique to select sample households for this particular study. In the first stage, two woreda from each zone were selected purposively. In the second stage, one rural and one peri-urban kebele were selected from each woreda. Finally, from the selected kebele both participant and non-participant youths were identified. The number of samples from each kebele was determined based on proportion of youths participated in each kebele. Finally, a total of 154 sample youths was obtained during survey.

Sample size determination formula was employed to determine sample size for this particular study [14].

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e^2)} = \frac{18,356}{1 + 18,356(0.08^2)} = 154$$

Where, n=sample size, N=population size (sampling frame) and e=level of precision considered 8%.

### 2.4. Methods of Data Collection

Different methods of data collection tools were

implemented to acquire primary data. Among the data collection tools key informant interview and focus group discussion with pre-defined social groups (elders, model farmers, women's, Das and experts) were conducted before formal survey to collect general information about the study area youth participation on micro and small agricultural enterprise. A checklist was also used to guide the discussion conducted to generate data that cannot be collected from individual interviews. The required households' data were collected from selected sample households with the help of pre - tested structured questionnaires.

### 2.5. Method of Data Analysis

Both descriptive and econometric analysis methods were used. Descriptive statistics such as frequency, percentage, standard deviations and means were used. Econometric model used was logistic regression model to analyze determinants of youth's participation in micro and small agricultural enterprises and determinants of effectiveness in enterprises they have been involved.

## 3. Result and Discussion

### 3.1. Descriptive Statistics Results

#### 3.1.1. Demographic and Socio-economic Characteristics of Sample Respondents

The total sample size of the youth respondent handled

during the survey was 154. Out of the total sample respondent, 70.13% were micro and small agricultural enterprise participants and 29.87% were non - participants.

Average age of youth respondent for MSAE participants was 27 years old, while for non-enterprise participants were 24 years old. The average education levels of sample households were 7 grades. The result of t – test shows that there was statically significant mean difference between enterprise participants and non – participants in terms of age. For enterprise participant was 7 grades, while for non-enterprise participant was 7 grades. The average family size of sample respondents was 3 family members. For enterprise participant was 3 members, while for non-enterprise participant were 2 members.

The result of t – test shows that there was statically significant mean difference between enterprise participants and non – participants in terms of family size. In terms of land size, the smallest land size owned by the enterprise participant's youth were 0 hectares while the largest land size were 2.5 hectares. Average land size owned by sampled respondents were 1.54 hectares. The average land holding of enterprise participants was 0.48 hectares while the non-enterprise participants were 0.14 hectares. The result of t – test shows that there was statically significant mean difference between enterprise participants and non – participants in terms of land holding. The average total income owned by enterprise participant was 10246.30 birr, while that of the non-enterprise participants was 3947.83 birr.

Table 1. Demographic and socio-economic t-test result.

Variable	Enterprise participant (108)		Non-enterprise participant (46)		Over all means (154)	t-test	Sig
	Mean	Std.	Mean	Std.			
Age	26.96	6.21	24.30	5.12	26.13	-2.556	0.012***
Education	7.14	3.46	7.28	3.06	7.18	.244	0.808
Family size	3.47	2.19	2.26	2.07	3.17	-3.197	0.002***
Land size	0.48	0.57	0.14	0.35	1.54	-4.646	0.000***
Total income	10246.30	11694.93	3947.83	6416.88	8534.67	-4.284	0.000***

Source: own survey data, 2021.

As indicated in below table 2, out of the total sample respondent, 90.3% were male respondent and 9.7% were female respondent. The chi-square result shows that sex is not statistically significant. The result indicates that 20.13% of the enterprise participant was single, 48.70% was married, 1.30% was divorced and none of them was widowed. On the other hands 20.13% of the non-enterprise participant was single whereas 9.74% was married and none of them neither divorced nor widowed. The overall marital status of the sample respondents was dominated by married youths such that greatly the majority of sample respondents were married, which accounts about 58.4% and followed by single and

divorced which accounts for 40.3% and 1.3% respectively. The result of chi-square shows that marital status was statistically significant.

The result in table 2, indicates that 56.49% of the enterprise participant has his own income and 13.64% has not his own income. On the other hand, 12.34% of the non-enterprise participant has his own income and 17.53% has not his own income. The overall income owning was dominated by the enterprise participant which accounts about 68.8% and the remaining 31.2% was owned by the non-enterprise participants. The result of chi-square test shows that having income is significant.

Table 2. Demographic and socio-economic characteristics  $\chi^2$ -test result.

Variables	Enterprise participant (108)		Non-enterprise participant (46)		Over all (154)		$\chi^2$ -tests	Sig	
	Freq	%age	Freq	%age	Freq	%age			
Sex	Female	10	6.49	5	3.25	15	9.7	0.95	0.758
	Male	98	63.64	41	26.62	139	90.3		

Variables	Enterprise participant (108)		Non-enterprise participant (46)		Over all (154)		ch <sup>2</sup> -tests	Sig	
	Freq	%age	Freq	%age	Freq	%age			
Marital status	Single	31	20.13	31	20.13	62	40.3	20.335	0.000*
	Married	75	48.70	15	9.74	90	58.4		
	Divorced	2	1.30	0	0	2	1.3		
	Widowed	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Have income	Yes	87	56.49	19	12.34	106	68.8	23.167	0.000*
	No	21	13.64	27	17.53	48	31.2		

Source: own survey data, 2021.

**Table 3.** Major micro and small agricultural enterprises available in the study area.

Types of enterprise	Frequency	Percent (%)
Fattening of oxen	38	35.2
Small scale irrigation	22	20.4
Fattening of shoat	20	18.5
Poultry production	15	13.9
Crop production	8	7.4
Dairy farm	5	4.6

Source: own survey data, 2020.

**3.1.2. Major Types of Micro and Small Agricultural Enterprise Available in the Study Area**

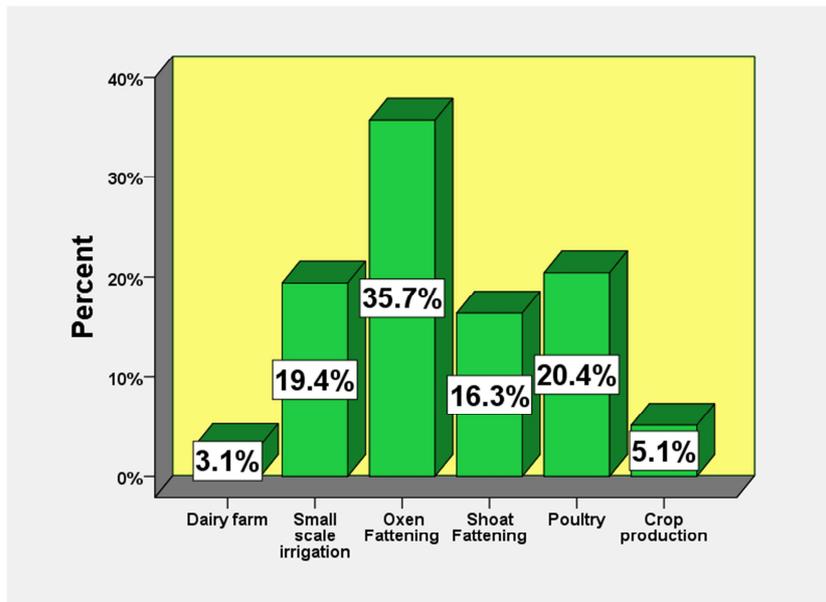
The existing micro and small agricultural enterprises were operating in six major enterprises. The enterprises were fattening of oxen, small scale irrigation, fattening of shoat,

poultry production, crop production and dairy farm. From this enterprise the leading enterprise that most of the youth participating is fattening of oxen which accounts for about 35.2%. The least enterprise that the small number of youth participating was in dairy farm which account for about 4.6%.

**3.1.3. Major Micro and Small Agricultural Enterprises Choose by Youths**

The types of micro and small agricultural enterprise that the youth choose or need mostly at the time of their establishment were fattening of oxen, poultry production, small scale irrigation, fattening of shoat, crop production and dairy farm. From this the leading enterprise which the youth choose the most was fattening of oxen and the least enterprise was dairy farm they account for 35.2% and 6.4% respectively.

**Percent of enterprise choose by byouth**



Percent of enterprise choose by bvouth

**Figure 1.** Major micro and small enterprises choose by youths.

**3.1.4. Factors That Affect Youth Participation and the Success of Enterprises**

According to the survey result, about 34.7% of the sample enterprise participant reported that there is lack of input support like land, shade, forage, refrigerator, and so forth. Due

to this they are exposed for different loss that affect success of the youth involved in micro and small agricultural enterprises. About 27.6% of sample respondent reported that there is lack of market chain creation in the study area. Creating market chain allows the micro and small agricultural enterprises to supply their product directly to the buyer. Due to this lack most

micro and small agricultural enterprises were exposed to loss especially those enterprises who were engaged in a perishable crops and poultry production. Technical support and continuous follow up from the government allow the youths involved in micro and small agricultural enterprises to operate their business in the right way. However about 22.4% of the enterprise participant reported that there is lack of continuous follow up from the government. Due to this most youths involved in micro ad small agricultural enterprises are not successful. 10.2% of enterprise participant youths revealed that short duration of the project is the factor that affects success of

their business. Due to short duration of the project most enterprises are forced to sell their product early before its exact period to the market to cover their credit. This early supply of their product to the market exposed them to loss. Small amount of credit is the other factor that affects success of the youths involved in micro and small agricultural enterprises. Having enough amount of credit allows the youth to run their business in proper way by fulfilling the entire required things. However about 5.1% of the enterprise participant revealed that small amount of credit provided from OMO micro finance were the factors that affect success of their business.

**Table 4.** Major factors that hinder youth participation and success of enterprises in study area.

Major constraints that hinder youth participation			Major factors that affect success of enterprises		
Factors	Percent	Rank	Factors	Percent	Rank
Lack of awareness	28.3	1	lack of input support	34.7	1
Small amount of credit	23.9	2	lack of market chain creation	27.6	2
Long bureaucracy	19.6	3	lack of technical support	22.4	3
Lack of initial saving	15.2	4	Duration of the project	10.2	4
Loan delay	13	5	Small amount of credit supply	5.1	5

Source: own survey data, 2020.

**Table 5.** Opportunity to participate in micro and small agricultural enterprises in the area.

Types of opportunity	Percent	Rank
Know each other	98.1	1
Eagerness to work together	93.5	2
Rule and regulation to govern enterprise	81.5	3
Conducive government policy	78.7	4
Family support	71.3	5

Source: own survey data, 2020.

### 3.2. Econometric Model Results

Under the econometrics analysis 154 sample youths were included from both micro and small agricultural enterprise participant and non-participant. Using logistic regression model, the analysis had provided the result of the determinant factors that affect youth participation in micro and small agricultural enterprises. There are several explanatory variables that influence youth to participate in micro and small agricultural enterprises. The variable included in this study for logistic regression model were sex, age, education level, family size, land size, total income, lack of awareness or information, lack of initial saving, bureaucracy challenge, weak institutional capacity, lack of commitment by officials,

religious prohibit and loan delay.

#### *Factors Influencing Youth Participation in Micro and Small Agricultural Enterprise*

To determine the factors that influence micro and small agricultural enterprises a logit model was used. A total of 13 variables were used (5 continuous and 8 dummy variable) were selected and entered in to logit model, out of which five variables were significantly influencing youth participation in micro and small agricultural enterprises. As shown in the table, variables having significance influence for the decision to participate in micro and small agricultural enterprises were land size, lack of commitment, total income, lack of awareness or information and lack of initial saving.

**Table 6.** Factors affecting youth participation in agricultural enterprises logit model result.

Variables	dy/dx	Coef.	Std. Err	Z	P> z
Sex	0.055	0.358	0.126	0.44	0.660
Age	0.005	0.038	0.007	0.72	0.474
Education Level	0.009	0.066	0.011	0.87	0.383
House size	0.023	0.163	0.019	1.24	0.215
Land size	0.328	2.320	0.103	3.18	0.001***
Total Income	9.27e-06	0.0001	0.00001	1.85	0.065 *
Lack of awareness (Information)	-0.249	-1.418	0.114	-2.17	0.030 **
Lack of initial saving	-0.415	-1.986	0.227	-1.83	0.068 *
Bureaucracy Challenge	0.048	0.325	0.094	0.51	0.611
Weak institutional capacity	-0.091	-0.646	0.071	-1.29	0.196
Lack of commitment	-0.196	-1.324	0.076	-2.59	0.009 ***

Variables	dy/dx	Coef.	Std. Err	Z	P> z
Religious Prohibits	-0.022	-0.150	0.073	-0.29	0.768
Loan Delay	-0.088	-0.672	0.072	-1.22	0.223
Constant		-0.457	1.738	-0.26	0.792

Note: \*\*\*, \*\* and \*are statically significant at 1%, 5% and 10% significance level respectively.

*Land size:* It is one of the most significant factors that affect youth's participation in micro and small agricultural enterprises. Land size was positively and statistically affecting youth participation in micro and small agricultural enterprises at 1% level of significance. This indicates that as the land holding size of the youth increase by a hectare, the probability of the youth to participate in micro and small agricultural enterprises increase by 32.78% held all other factors constant. It is obvious that youth who has more land size has high probability to have his own income that allows him to cover the initial saving amount needed to participate in micro and small agricultural enterprises. Additionally, during focus group discussion (FGD) and key informant interview (KII) the participant stated that there is belief that if the youths want to be changed, they should migrate to urban area, since there is low employment opportunity landlessness and other social factors in their locality.

*Lack of commitment:* According to the econometric result, lack of commitment and giving priority to their relatives was found negatively and significantly influence the youth to participate in micro and small agricultural enterprises and statistically significant at 5% level of significance. This indicates that as the officials lack commitment and gives priority for their relatives the probability of the youth to participate in micro and small agricultural enterprises decreases by 19.60% all other factors held constant. As the officials lack commitment and gives priority for the relative that kills the youth moral and interest this in turns decreases youth participation in MSAE.

*Total Income:* It is one of the factors that influence youth participation in micro and small agricultural enterprises positively and significantly at 10% level of significance. As income of the youth increases by a birr, the probability of the youth to participate in micro and small agricultural enterprises increases by 0.000927% held all other factors constant. This suggests increase in total income strengthens the youth's financial capacity that allows them easily to cover the initial saving amount needed by Omo micro finance that in turn increases youth participation in micro and small agricultural enterprises. During focus group discussion (FGD) the youth stated that the most challenging things to participate in micro and small agricultural enterprise was initial saving. So, the youth who have income have the high probability to participate in micro and small agricultural enterprises.

*Lack of information:* Lack of information of the youth had negatively and significantly affects youth participation in micro and small agricultural enterprises at 10% level of significance. It indicates that as the youth had lack of information, it decreases youth participation in micro and small agricultural enterprises by 24.87% keeping all other

variables constant. The reason behind this is obvious that the youth who have no information about MSAE and its establishment had no chance to participate, there by decreases youth participation in micro and small agricultural enterprises. That is the probability of youth who have awareness about enterprise were willing to participate is much higher than those who were not [15].

*Lack of initial saving:* It is the variable that affects youth participation in micro and small agricultural entries at 10% level of significance. This indicates that for the youth lacking initial saving participation in micro and small agricultural enterprises decreases by 41.52% keeping all other variables constant. It's known that most youths' lives with his family and have no his own income. Lack of own income disallows the youth to cover initial saving amount asked by omo micro finance, there by this in turns decreases youth participation in MSAE.

## 4. Conclusion

Out of 154 total sample households interviewed 70.13% were micro and small agricultural enterprise participants while 29.87% were non- participants. The existing major micro and small agricultural enterprise in the study area were fattening of oxen, small scale irrigation, fattening of shoat, poultry production, crop production and dairy farm. In the study area, lack of awareness, small amount of credit, long bureaucracy, lack of initial saving and loan delay were major constraints that hinder youth participation on micro and small agricultural enterprise. The major factors that affect the success of micro and small agricultural enterprise are lack of input support, poor market linkage, lack of technical support, short duration of the project and small amount of credit supply. The result of logistic regression model revealed that, out of total 13 explanatory variables included in the model. Youth participation decision in micro and small agricultural enterprise was significantly and positively affected by land size, total income, lack of information, lack of initial saving and lack of commitments.

## 5. Recommendation

Based on result of the study the following points were recommended to improve youth participation in micro and small agricultural enterprises;

Lack of initial saving is the most popular factors that determine the youth to participate in MSAE. The government should make facilitation for credit without initial saving.

Creating awareness or information for the youth about MSAE is a vital in order to push them to participate in MSAE. The creation of awareness or information was limited

for most youth. The study recommends government should provide information or create awareness about MSAE for the youth.

The commitment and impartiality of officials starting from kebele to organizing body level is the most significant factor that should be observed in close manipulation. In the study area there is lack of commitment and giving priority by officials for their relatives during enterprise organization. The government should manipulate the organizing body in close follow up to prevent such impartiality and lack of commitment.

The support of government in different level plays significant role in the participation as well as success of MSAE enterprises. The government should reduce bureaucracy and loan delay.

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