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ECONOMIC HISTORY OF DALE DISTRICT SINCE 1941 TO 1991, SIDAMA ZONE, SOUTHERN ETHIOPIA

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ABSTRACT: *The major goal of this study is to reconstruct the economic history of Dale District, 1941-1991. To achieve this goal, an attempt was made to collect qualitative data source from local elders, officer and archives of the administration office. The written documents which have relation with the study also examined and cross checked. The Dale District practices different economic activities like Agriculture which is based on cereal crop farming and cash crop farming. Coffee is mainly grown under the shade of tree (shade or forest coffee), either within forest or forest like environments, or in farming systems that in corporate specific shade plants usually indigenous (native) trees, time fruit trees and other crop plants. The high profitability of chat has also motivated farmers to hire labor for chat production in the district. Other economic activities like animal husbandry, hand craft technology and trade are common in the District. However agriculture was based on traditional farming system. The infrastructural development in dale District is a recent phenomenon. Un proportional service facilities and infrastructures compared with the high number of population found in the District. The main basic infrastructure like road, school, health centers, electric service, water supply has been established in the District before three decades but did not showed rapid economic development in the District.*

KEY WORDS: History, Dale Wereda, Economy, Infrastructure, Development.

INTRODUCTION

Back of ground of Dale District

Dale District is one of the nineteen Districts as in the sidama zone, Southern Nationality Regional state (SNNP). Dale District has 32 kebeles of which 16 are located in the country side or rural kebeles whereas the rest four kebeles are belongs to urban administration. YirgalemTown is capital

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of the district. It is located at the distance of 160 kilometers away from Addis Ababa and found at 40 kilometers in the south of Hawassa city or the center of Sidama zone. [1]

DaleDistrict is found at the elevation of 1200 meters above sea level along the shores of Lake Abaya to about 3200 meters at its western most point rivers include the Gidabo.The district is bordered in the south by AletaWendo and AletaChuko, on the west by Loka Abaya, on the northwest by Borcha, on the north by Shebedino and on the east Wensh[2]

The total land of Dale district is about 647 kilometer square. From this total land, forest covers 1.5% hectare, cultivated land 49% hectare, arable land 38.4% hectare and pasture land is about 11.5%. Types of land use changes from time to time depending on the economic changes. For instance, the grazing land, natural forest and follows lands are decreasing from time to time. While cultivated land, manmade forest and residential lands are increasing. The average farm land holding size per house is one and half hectares and most of the farmers in the district have two hectare of land which include cultivated, residential and private forest land. [3]

Source reveals that the soil of Dale district varies in type and character. But the major types of the soil found in the district are litho, loom and humidity soil are founds in few packet areas of the district. As are salt of its content, the fertility status of the soils is medium which is suitable for production of cash crop[4]

Dale District is composed of different nation, nationalities and peoples from different part of the country. However the District is predominantly in habited by Sidama people. According to the 1994 census this District had a population of, 306,329 of whom, 156,772 were men and, 149,557 women, 24,183 or 7.89% of its population were urban dwellers. The largest ethnic groups reported

[1]Dale District municipal office report,2009

[2]Informants Ato Tarku Negash and Belamo Dinato

[3]Dale District agricultural and rural office report 2007

[4]Informats Baranbas Lalima and Getachehu Desta

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in Dale were the sidama, 91.29%, the Amhara 3.98%, the Oromo, 1.16%, and the wolayta, 1.01%, all other ethnic groups made up, 2.56% of the population. Sidaminya is spoken as the dominant language by , 92.57% of the inhabitants, 5.93% speak Amharic, 0.46% wolayta and 0.33%oromiffa,the remaining 0.71% spoken other languages.[5]

Based on 2007 census conduct by the CSA, this District has a total population of, 242,658, of whom 122,918 are men and 119,740 women, 30,348 or 12, 51% of its population are urban dwellers. The majority of the inhabitants were Protestants with 79.98% of the population reporting that belief, 8.04% practiced Ethiopian orthodox Christianity, 4.69% were Muslim, and 3.46% were catholic and, 1.3% traditional religion follower.[6]

The community of Dale District is belongs to Sidama people which are one of the southsCushitic speaking families. Oral tradition disseminated among the sidama people in general and the Dale district in particular narrate the foundation and the naming of Dale coincide with Queen of Sidamacalled Fura.The entire population of the sidama society believes that the Fura the great was queen renown to aid the regression (supremacy of women) over men atrociously, as men blame her even today. In the dominion of gender issues, Fura is remembered with respect and curse among the sidama society throughout the generations.

According to oral informants, a legend spread in the society indicate that queen Fura ordered the subordinate people an abstract and complex duties. For instance she requested people to construct house between the sky and earth. She also demand them to slaughter a cow without chime in order that she would not be discredited and destroyed by the knowledgeable elder of society. Consequently, it is said that people had met oneknowledgeable elderman secretly. The wise and knowledgeable man advised the people to slaughter a caw being fed with milk only when she asks

[5]Population and housing census of Ethiopia results for souther Nations Nationality and people Archived November, 19, 2008. PP .74-76

[6]Statistic 2007 southern nationality and people region Archived November 13, 2012. PP.117-119

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for it. Further, when she demands a house to be constructed between the sky and earth, he used to advise them to lay down the foundation by her.[7]

Lastly to demonstrate her dictatorship she asked them to get her a giraffe to ride from the forests, as the queen placed herself on the animal, After Fura was tied on the back of animal (giraffe) she began riding. As the giraffe run, her part of the body "*dale*" lap dismantled and was scattered on the field. Consequently, people called the place where this accident happen on queen Fura as *Dale*, later the place grown in to settlement area and gradually into Dale District.[8]

2. Main Income sources and activities in Dale District 1941-1991

2.1. Agricultural Activity

Agriculture is the social and conical back bone of Ethiopian people .The economic activities and people's level hood was directly or indirectly related with agriculture. In 1960s more than 85% of Ethiopian population engaged on agriculture and accounted about 60% of the national Gross domestic products. More than 90% of the national export had come from the products of agriculture coffee took the lion share about 60% of the export .Recently conducted research indicate that agriculture contribute more than 50% of the GDP,80% export and 85% of employment opportunity of Ethiopian citizens.[9]

Agriculture is the dominant human activity and back bone of economy of the society of the rural people in Ethiopia. Because the majority of the society in the rural area engaged mainly in subsistence agricultural activity performance. The value of exports was derived from agricultural commodities such as coffee and oil seed. The country livestock population was reputedly one of the largest in Africa and per capital consumption of meat was among the highest in the continent.

[7]Iformants:IyasuAdamo and MilkiyasTuche

[8]*Ibid*

[9]BahiruZewude a history modern Ethiopia 1955-1991 second edition (London, Athens, Addis Ababa,2001) p.87

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Accordingly most of Ethiopian Districts economy is based on agricultural product micro industry and trade.[10]

Agriculture was for long period of time served as source of income for majority of Ethiopian people in general and Dale District people in particular. However, the land tenure system was used as a means of operation towards the majority Ethiopian peoples and a means of fame and prestige for few aristocrat classes. Land tenure was on acceleration of the process of privatization of land. The Northern provinces did the old communal kinship system of land tenure continue to wage defensive struggle against the pervasive influence of privatization. In the south private tenure increasingly become the norm. The process had three factors. Firstly, northern settler who had acquired tributary right over southern peasants, the gabbar ended up by owning the land actor there through purchase from the distressed gabbar or through forcible seizure. Secondly, maderya land given to those in government service in lieu of salary which was made convertible to free hold. Thirdly and these appears to have been the most prevalent pattern, the government made extensive land grants from its large reserve which come under the conveniently vague rubric of government land. [11]

Land has been remained a central problem to the development of the agricultural sector and hence the issue of the land holding systems was at the core of Ethiopian economy. Land tenure systems in Ethiopia are to be seen within the context of different systems of regimes in the past the feudal system and the military government.[12]

In the Dale District land holding system were divided in to three. Rist which government access to land based on one lineage, the glut allocated to the Orthodox Church and the crown (strata) holding systems during imperial regime two contradictory land holding systems were noticed

[10]AssefaBenqule and EshetuChole,Aprofile of the Ethiopia in Nairobi p.17

[11]Cohen J.M and weintraubD.Land and peasant in Ethiopia, p.23

[12]Taye Guilty the tax in lieu of tithe and the new agricultural income tax dialogue 1968, p.16

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tendencies of privatization and nationalization of land. Not only the land plots but also the peasant (tillers) was supposed to belong to the state or the king. When we come to consideration of the government's strategy for agricultural development the result is disappointing. A package approach to agricultural development was introduced to provide high quality seed and fertilizers to poor peasant.[13]

Agriculture is base of Dale District economy. The major agricultural activities of the district includes production Inset, root crop and some cereals predominantly barley, maize, sorghum and livestock rearing. Dale District is suitable for agricultural activities having various climatic conditions. Dale district is rich in both plant animal resources regarding vegetation, natural vegetation cover land in the district. This is due to the fever able climatic condition and determinants of agricultural production.[14]

Climate is one of the determinants in the production and distribution of agricultural products. It has paramount impact on the peoples way of life settlement pattern, recopies livelihood and the special distribution or variety of plant animals. This in turn trends to influence the, economic activity and development potentials of the study region. The rain fall pattern of the districts seasonal, varying in amount over space and time. There is the long and have a seasonal rain fall. The district has been the four distractive rain fall season. These are summer, autumn, winter and spring.[15]

However Dale district is characterized by two main rain season namely summer and winter. The district receives the long rain fall during summer season. Also the district gain little rain during the winter season or dry season.[16]

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[13]*Informants Ato Ashagire Worana and Ato Kebede Dulacha*

[14]*Ibid*

[15] Informants: AtoTujara Bolka and Ato WorkeneM amo

[16]Dale District agricultural and rural development office file No 25 folder no 27\2005, p.54

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Agriculture is the dominant activities in Dale District. It is due to fact that the major it's of the inhabitants lives in the rural areas and engaged mainly in subsistence agricultural performance. [17]

Agriculture is the country most promising resource potential exists for self-sufficiency in grains and for export development in livestock, grains, vegetables and fruits. Many other economic activities depend on agriculture and export of agricultural products. The most fruitful agricultural productions in the District is cash crops which include coffee, chat, cereal, potatoes and sugarcane. Exports are almost entirely agricultural commodities and coffee is the largest foreign exchange products produced in the District.[18]

Dale District has great agricultural potential because of its vast areas large labor pool. Because in the District agricultural activity is still followed traditional mode. Like the part of the people of dale district practiced mixed agriculture that is subsistence farming with animal husbandry. Almost all farming tools in District are traditional and made of from different wood materials. These tools includes sickle, pick oxen, plough shaft, plough share, and plow beam animal force as machines. The plough shaft, beam and plough share as made of wood and the sickle, pick ox plow are made of metals. Ploughing the land using these tools is ambiguous and time consuming. According to distinct farming this ploughing the land to prepare the soil fore requires around two quarter of a year. Ploughing the land to soften the land takes three month and from sowing and seedling to the harvesting of the crops requires three to four month. The Districts farmers plough their land by combining tools for such three months to get yearly consumed food.[19]

The major product dale District are, Inset (false banana), maize, potatoes and tomatoes. The people of the district utilize substance agriculture they produce hand to mouth production or there is no

[17]Informants: Ato Barasa Bilso and Ato Digasa Gikiso

[18]Informants: Ato Dubso Wankara and Ashagirre Worana

[19]Dale District agricultural and rural development office file No 25 folder no 27\2005; p. 35

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surplus for large scale marketing. Nonetheless agriculture practice of the area is not uniform varies from one geographical area to another based on the climatic variation and fertility of soil.[20]

Crop production is one of the components of agricultural activity the area. The amount of crop productions is distinctive from one to another's in the district and it's the production in the entire parts of the district is used for home consumption. The most dominant growing crops in the District include sorghum, maize, potatoes and tomatoes. The farming activities in the areas are highly depends on seasonally rain fall. Among the cereal crops, *teff* is less grain consumed in the low land and rural center throughout the district. The low land cultivated sorghum, maize are the staple food of the majority in the low land parts of the district. *Inset* known locally as false banana is an important food source in the district. It is cultivated on by sidama zone. It also inset is the most popular food in the district. Its resistance of drought during the dry season[21]

Livestock production is the second major sources of income generating for the district Agricultural activity in the districts is strongly related and greatly supported by livestock power. Therefore a cattle rearing the main activities in the district, because of their vital important in the farming economic practice especially ploughing.The peasant in the district mainly keep cattle not only for milk, meat and hides, rather they keep cattle in order to secure their farming and transportation. [22].

Incomes from the sales of animal product subsidize the district economy. Livestock production contributes a lot of the economy of district. The other important roles of livestock in the district especially pack animal are used transport people and the commodity. Among these horse and donkey have been used for the purpose of transport action in the District. They are used for

[20]Informants Ato Kebede Dulacha and Bekele Qitiso

[21]Ibid

[22]Informants AtoDawakoBolka, AlemuAlado and MengistuShura

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breading and farming to supply power for plowing. However, due the shortage of pasture land, animal husbandly has been reducing from the time to time.[23]

Agricultural development during imperial period in the district was very low productivities it was related by a number of tenancy and land reform problem, the government neglect of the agricultural sector. The issue of land reform was not addressed until the Ethiopian revolution in 1974 the government had tried to introduce program to improve the condition of farmers.[24]

In 1971 the ministry of agriculture introduced the minimum package program to bring. Dale District follow these strategies to economic crudity for the purchase of items such as fertilizers improved seeds and pesticides innovative extension services, the establishment of cooperatives. During early period of Derg, Dale District farmer was better productivities from their agriculture. Agricultural development during the dreg regime in the district was less developed. Because the socialist principles and economic policies of the county was government controlled. There was no circumstance in which privet sector participation in economic activity or encouraged.[25]

The comprehensive and minimum package projects launched during imperial regime continued in the dreg period. However Dale District has these projects were transform in to peasant agricultural development extension projects. In district also organized the small holders along socialist line for the purpose of the collection and marketing of agricultural output and distribution of inputs. It also Dale District organized peasant association, service cooperation and producers cooperatives, mainly to used their strategy. [26]

[23]Informants AtoWorkneMamo and BiruNuguse

[24]Wubne Mulatus agricultural and subsection account Ethiopia, p.33

[25] Dale District Agricultural and rural Office annual reports 2007, p. 72

[26]*Ibid*

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2.2. Trade activity

Trade is one of the third economic activities and source of income in the district followed by agricultural production and animal rearing. Trade refers to the process of selling buying and inters exchange of commodities. Dale District is one of cash crop area coffee and chat mainly product in the district. It has connect with its neighboring District like Aletawendo, LokaAbsya and WenshoDistrict are mainly market connected and fundamental place of trade activity performed. The emergence of market centers District and local area were facilitated for the development of local trade among the society of the district. There are two local market places in the district. These market placesare *Deela* and *Kawaado* are the market centers. [27]

The major types of trade activities which practiced by indigenous people of the district are trade in grain and cattle.During the market days many people come from the different corner of the district to meet and to exchange their products the major products which are coming to the market from the surrounding have been largely agricultural products such as cereal crops. Coffee and varieties of fruit and vegetables. Women's are actively involved in theproduction andselling local alcoholic drinks like *Arake*, *Tella* and *Teji*which contributed for the economy of their households.[28]

2.3. Hand Craft technologies in Dale District

A minorities of the people of dale has been engaged in hand craft economic activities. The reason for this is its least income to support the producer and his/ her families as well as the society attitude towards the producers. The fact is that industry is controlled by the outsider group such as tanner smother, potters and soon. In Dale District the major hand craft products are knifes, swords, shields, plough, Claytons, sills, *mesob* equipment to making in the District. Craft workers sold

[27]Informants Ato Tesema Getu ,Beyene Bifato and Ato Agez Adato

[28]Dale district finance and economy development office annual report 2004, p.21

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their product in the local market called *deela* and *kaawado* and also to a big market outside of their localities in exchange of their items. [29]

3. The Role of Cash Crops in Economic Development

Dale District is one of the cash crop areas. Cash crop is an agricultural crop which is grow sale to return of a profit. The term is used to differentiate marketed crop from subsistence crop. Cash crop farming is for profit. It also called commercial faming and cash cropping. District has cash crops are those which are produced for the purpose of generating cash or money to products the marketed for profit. Dale District farming methods employed vary from farmer to farmer and from District to District according to informants District has many traditional farmers continue to adopt their customary practices. The district has mostly production of cash crops like coffee and chat are grown in the district.[30]

3.1. Coffee production and Marketing in Dale District

Ethiopian coffee is grown under different environmental conditions in altitudes ranging between 1,000 and 2,000 meters above sea level. Coffee tolerates an annual rainfall of between 900 and 1300 mm per year and the optimum temperature from 18 ºC to 24ºC. Optimal conditions for coffee growth are from an elevation of 1,200 to 1,700 meters, mean annual temperatures from 17oC to 23oC, mean annual precipitation ranging from 1,500mm up to 2,800mm, and fertile volcanic or alluvial soils. The bulk of coffee production in Ethiopia came from three major coffee growing regions, namely: western, southwestern, southern and eastern regions with variation in elevation ranging from 900 to 2,300 meters. The three coffee producing regions can be characterized by their dominant type of coffee production system, range and duration of rainfall, soil type, percent of total land covered by coffee, and the total contribution to the national coffee market.[31]Ethiopia's

[29]*Ibid*

[30] Informants AtoTesema Getu,BeyeneBifato and AtoAgeze Adato

[31]DagmAlemayehu, History of Coffee in Limmu awraja south west Ethiopia(Lambert academic ,2017),p.43.

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coffee is almost exclusively of the Arabica type, which grows best at altitudes between 1000 and 2000 meters coffee grows wild in many parts of the country, although most Ethiopian coffee is produced in the Oromia region 63,7% and in the SNNPR 34.4% with lesser and in the Gambela region and around the city of Dire Dawa.[32]

During the 1970s coffee exports accounted for 50-60% of the total value of all exports, although coffee share dropped to 25% as a result of the economic dislocation following the 1974 revolution by 1976 coffee exports had recovered and in the five year ending in 1988/89,44% of the coffee grown was exported, accounting for about 63% of the value of exports. Domestically coffee contributes about 20%of the government's revenues. Approximately 25%of Ethiopia, population depended directly or indirectly on coffee. The amount of coffee inspected in the fiscal year 2007/8 by the Ethiopian coffee and tea Authority was 320,247 tons a decrease of almost 30% from the previous fiscal years total of 236.714 tons.[33]

Arabica coffee grows over a wide range of agro-ecological zone and geographical regions in Ethiopia. Across those coffee growing regions it is common to observe different coffee production system, on the basis of management level, vegetation, structural complexity and agronomic practices, coffee production system in Ethiopia in general and Dale District in particular can be categorized into four namely ,forest coffee, semi forest coffee garden coffee and plantation coffee.[34]

The first three production systems have been practiced for by small holder famer and there considered as traditional coffee production system. Commercial plantation coffee production system was introduced around 100 years ago in eastern part of the country, Gololcha district of Arsi zone and later in Jimma, Limmu sidamaawrajas. Traditionally production system account for

[32]WubneMulatu agriculture and subsection account study Ethiopia

[33] National statistical abstract section D. agriculture. P. 67

[34]GoleTeketayD.Denich and Borch the 2001.Diversity of traditional coffee production system in Ethiopia and their contribution for the conservation of coffee genetic diversity. P.237.

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90-95% of the production, while plantation may range 5-10%. Generally the areas of plantation and home gardens are increasing. Areas covered by coffee production are estimated to be about 800,000 hector with productions of about 400,000 tons of green coffee in Ethiopia. The coffee production systems are mostly forest based and the differences between the systems are manifested by the level of forest management intensities. Accordingly the level of forest, garden and plantation system differ from other in the planting stocks and agronomic practice.[35]

3.1.1. The forest coffee system

In this system coffee is harvested directly from spontaneously natural population of the coffee tree in the forest of dale District. This system is also found in south eastern and south western part of Ethiopia (mainly in areas likes Bale, Bench-maji, Ilubabor, Kafa, Limmu, Jimma, Shaka and the west Wollega). [36]The local communities living in around the forest simply pick the wild coffee barriers from naturally growing coffee plants and there is no management, to improve coffee productivity. The floristic composition, diversity and structure is close to the natural situations, with little human intervention. The only management practice in forest system is access clearing to allow movements in the forest during harvesting time. There is a high density of tree. Forest strata are characteristically made up of different tree species and coffee is one of the understory plants in most rural kebeles of the District. [37]

3.1.2. The semi-forest coffee system

Semi forest represents a system in which the forest is managed or manipulated mainly for coffee production. It is a type of coffee production system where instantly the forest coffee system is converted and density. The structure of the forest is also modified while converting from forest

[35]*Ibid*

[36]*Ibid*

[37]*Ibid*

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coffee to semi managed forest coffee. The structural modification of the forest leads to the formation of a tall tree canopy or few shade trees and coffee layer with limited number of intermediate canopy layers. [38]

This is the production system is dominant among Dale District coffee farmers. In this system small tree and shrubs competing with coffee are cleared. Clearing is twice a year one before harvesting season starts. The number of large canopy trees is highly reduced in order to open up the canopy to enhance the potential of coffee trees to bear more barriers. Accordingly the traditional cultivation practices in Ethiopia support local forest bird biodiversity better than any other coffee is traditionally grown under shades of native trees.[39]

Coffee is mainly grown under the shade of tree (shade or forest coffee), either within forest or forest like environments, or in farming systems that in corporate specific shade plants usually indigenous (native) trees, time fruit trees and other crop plants. The forest coffee system uses wild stands of coffee, which exist naturally within the forest and the farmer under takes minimal management and intervention. In some areas coffee is grown with little or no shade coffee. No shade coffee farming system are usually small and mostly fall in to the category of coffee gardens, which are planted in a regular sized plot high density sun coffee is usually found at higher altitudes.[40]

Forest (shades coffee and sun coffee can be considered as the two main coffee production systems in district. Irrigation is confined to few locations and mostly where water is easily available and can be diverted to the farm using simple means, example as diversion from rivers using trenches. Irrigation is mainly practice. The use of chemical input, such as pesticides, fungicides and artificial fertilizers is rarely practices. The importance of forest for coffee growing it provides the right condition for successful cultivation by reducing day time air and soil temperatures increasing

[38]Ibid

[39]Dagm,p.43; Informant Ato Tesema Getu,Beyene Bifato and Ato Agez eAdato

[40]Dale District Agricultural and rural office report 2005 p18

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humidity and preserving soil moisture. It also has key benefits for agricultural and ecosystem, including nutrient recycling, soil preservation water shed preservation, pollination services temperature buffering, shelter from wind and heavy rain fall and carbon storage. [41]

According to informants witness the main horticultural crops that are inter copped with coffee and shade tree include banana, avocado, mango and *inset*. The main cash crops are banana, coffee and mango other crops are mainly for own food consumption and local market. Farmers in the area have established a good market linkage with fruits whole sellers in the market. The whole sellers by fruits farm gate. Most farmers relay in agriculture only he invest the money from coffee and fruits sells on small business in the village.[42]

Dale District finest coffee is grown in the shade of native trees, which allows the coffee cherries to retain their moisture until they are ready to be picked without the shade of these generation old trees, the coffee bushes would produce bitter tasting inferior quality beans. Farmers started getting support from the agricultural service workers in their village. As a result they started using improved seeds, which dramatically increased the productivity. They were invited to the national coffee conference and learned that other more advanced countries, which use the same types of seeds, that he used produce up to 30 or even 40 quintals per hectare. [43]

However coffee is the most important cash crop commodity for the Dale District in the coffee producing area. It also share of their productivity and exchanged nations. According to informants, sidama coffee was the greatest economic importance for the community. Especially the Dale District was mostly production of coffee plantation determines the social hierarchy of wealth among the district. People who gatherer to construct a hot for weeding or harvesting in coffee

[41] *Ibid*

[42] *Ibid*

[43] Informanst: AtoTekle shura and Ato Fenda Kare

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fields though work part or individuals hire for labor are served coffee either at the beginning the job[44].

About 2% of the coffee was produced by peasants on small holdings of less than a hectare and the remaining 0.5% was produced by district farms. Some estimates indicate that yields on peasant farmers were higher than those on district farms. In the 1980s are a part of an effort to increase production and to improve the cultivation and harvesting of coffee, the government create to ministry of coffee development which was responsible for production and marketing. However beginning in 1987 the decline in world coffee price reduced Ethiopia's foreign exchange earnings. In this cases in the Dale District coffee producer farmer's consumption as very low productivity because their coffee, exchanged prices is decline in district.[45]

3.2. Chat/Khat cultivation

Chat is most cash crop production in Ethiopia next to coffee. Chat a plant native to Ethiopia that has been consumed for several centuries for mental and physical stimulation. It commercialization started at the beginning of the 20thcentury in eastern Ethiopia and other growing region. The crop grow in a wide range of Agro-ecological zone between 1500and 2700 meters above sea level.It is mainly cultivation by small holder farmers on average of less than one tenth of a hectare. Chat is sold in almost all concentrated sentiment area in Ethiopia. But the amount of chat collected and trade depends on the proximity of farming area. There are three exports centers in the country. Dire Dawa ,Jijiga,and Addis Ababa which send chat to Djibouti, Somalia, the UK and china. [46]

Chat is an evergreen tree cultivated in parts of Ethiopia for of its fresh leaves which are chewed for their euphoric properties. the study identifies chat is agricultural land scopes but more

[44] Informants: Ato Duguna Doyamo and Ato Ashenaf Dukamo

[45]Senbeta WF2006 Biodiversity and ecology Afromontane rain forest with wild coffee Arabica population in Ethiopia ecology and development . P139

[46]CSA (2010) agricultural sample survey 2008/ 2009 repot on area and production of crop, P. 324

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important addresses the spatial flow of the chat trade and the agricultural value chains connected with the crop from producer to final consumer, the latter often located in Europe and distance countries. The dynamics of the value chain are analyzed in terms of employment income generation and financial flows and small holder led improvement to chat production in different agricultural holds capes. Such improvements include technical change innovations and adaptation, capital investment, and institutions[47].

3.2.1. Chat Production and Expansion in Dale district

Socio economic and agro economic reasons have contributed to chat expansion. The driving forces have probably been increased market opportunities and favorable price. Production is mainly located close to the road network and farms with irrigation facilities. The profitability of chat production is considered by 37% of the farmers as the primary reason for the expansion of chat planting in the area. The average income (25 farmers) from the intercropping system of chat. The high profitability of chat has also motivated farmers to hire labor for chat production in the district.[48].

Decrease in the productivity of the land is the second most important reason why farms expand chat production has expanded particularly at the expense of annual cropping (maize, sorghum, inset) but land under coffee has also been reduced. The major agro ecological constraint of annual crops and coffee is drought and chat serves as good substitute for these crops, because it is less vulnerable to drought. Other ago ecological factors that have triggered the change from annual crops to chat according to farmers are lack of oxen for plowing, soil erosion, weed infestation and the prevalence of pests and disease.[49]

The planting of chat is also considered by farmers in the area as a way to ensure land entitlement because annual crop land is more affected by land redistribution than land under perennial crops.

[47]Gessesse Dessie 2013 Favoring demonized plan chat and Ethiopia small holder enterprise, P. 149

[48]Informanst Ato Talo Adama and Ato Mustafa Jemal.

[l]59 *Ibid*

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Chat producers can also more readily gain access to labor because they can offer chat to the works, crudity is also more easily available for chat growers. However chat is high economic values than other crops since it is very difficult to get exact information on price it is possible to compare their income on is consider to profitable, chat gives steady income two or three times in a year. The expansions of chat cultivation decrease the amount of maize, inset, sorghum and other plants in the district.[50]

The increased passing out of food crops and this can be seen as a threat to food security. Chat medley replacing the cultivation of tree which has been almost destroyed except a few trees between the thick vegetation of chat. Chat based economy with its important cash flow is affecting a wider range of on and off farm income possibilities compared to other crops.[51]

4. Economic Activity and Growth in Dale District, 1941-1991

4.1. Infrastructural Development

Infrastructural service is the fundamental facilities and system servicing district or area including the services. It is necessary for economic growth and development of a country. Some of the major infrastructural developments include education, telecommunication, water supply, electricity, health service, transportation or road construction and postal services. The established of such institute are vital to countries economic development and prosperity but to do these it needs both financial and technological advancement and strengths as well.[52]

[50]Informants Ato Rashid Abilah and TafeseGetu.

[51]Informants Ato Samuel Urkiso AtoTesema Mulugeta.

[52]AsefaJalala urban center in Oromia consequence of spatial consent nation of power in multinational Ethiopia, USA, University of Tennegea 2010 p.p 5-10

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4.1.1. Education service

Education is the most important factor for economic, social and cultural development service of the people. Skilled human power is generated from school and it is clear that educations are the means of improving the life of the societies. During the, emperor Hailesillasie I regime education in the district had very low service. Schools drop out are highly exercised which is directly related with the drought and distance of schools from the local residence. To meet the millennium goal of education such problems are minimized in the district. Specially females as highly victims of these dropouts. This is because only females are obliged to fetch water from faraway places. The community believes or accept that the duty of fetching water in the responsibility of females specially daughters. In addition to this in the most kebeles of the District[53].

But, towards the end of Imperial regime in 1974, one primary school was opened in Dale district. The name of school was BeraTadicho schools and the first teachers who taught in the period under discussion AtoMola W/Michael, TafeseHamito, TadeseHamesso and YohanisDoyamo, are students learning programs are the regular to the two o'clock to six o'clock students teaches regular program accounts 355students that are 150 students are grade one, grade two four students, 35 students and grade four 130. [54]

At that time the school faced shortage of teachers and educational materials, thought initially, the school was began schooling from grade one to four in 1974. Generally the school beginning from its establishment to attend not only by the children of the Dale district also by those who come from the surrounding rural kebele of the District. Upgrade Dale primary school or up to grade eights. During the *Derg* regime also built up new primary schools in the three kebele in the Dale District, which leads in to the participation in those large numbers of student's primary schools However until in 1974 there was no high school in Dale District. After the Derg (FDRE)

[53] Dale District educational office report 2003 p42

[54] *Ibid*

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government five elementary schools in the five different rural kebele built and two high school opened in two kebele like Bera Tedicho Moto Secondaryhigh school[55].

4.1.2. Health service

The People of Dale District stayed for a long period of the town without getting health service. During emperor Hailesillasie regime did not appeared health service in the Dale district, most of District are swampy and the dominant disease effecting the community is malaria there should be a means to drain the swampy places and provision of be next to the people. Many people are affected by TB, the community should get awareness on how this disease transmitted from one to the other. Because of TB is highly related with the deficit of food, there should be immediate provision of balanced diet, for these who are in need and seek long lasting mitigation of the problem by restoring suitable condition. But the health service was started a few service established in the Dale district end of imperial regime.[56]

During the *Dreg* regime clinic both for human and animal separately builtparticularly in the year 1981. The first private clinic was opened in 1986. The health center of the District provides in sufficient service for the people of the area. It was said that the public health service center had only three personals. After fall down derg many health center built open in the dale district rural kebele and four more individual or different clinic, pharmacy or drug stores one hospital open. Animal health center (veterinary center) was also established in the Dale District in the period under discussion. But the awareness of the people to treat their cattle, sheep and goats was very low that the number of cattle treated at the center was less than two thousands per annually. [57]

[55]*Ibid*

[56] Informants AtoAsefaWolde and AtoTeshaleYohanis

[57]Dale District agricultural office report,2003

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4.1.3. Electricity service

Electricity services is one of the most important social services in the district it also helps the development of various economic firm. Currently it become impossible to do anything without electricity in its long history the absence of electricity affected the growth of the distinct. In generally the District and the surrounding areas had the fest of this service in 1941. The source of electricity was desire a generator. In 1970s the district began to receive a 24 hour electricity service from hydroelectricity power. [58]

After twelve years of complaints and efforts of the local people like previously governmental organization school and health centers have frequently repotted that they have a problem of electricity. As the result, the school was unable to use electrically operating teaching aids and assigned technical the teachers were also sitting idle. Similarly, the health center was also unable to use its refrigerators and laboratories. The power supply of Dale district is connected with yirgalem town. In general the total numbers of customers that use the supply of electricity including the governments instructions are 23, 16 sub- satellites and the total numbers of employers are. [59]

4.1.4. Transportation services

Dale is aless developed Districtas compared with other neighboring Districtsits catchment area as a result its transportation system is not well developed. There is only mode of transportation in Dale District, road transport people move on foot from place within the town. An important means of transport for the District are horse drawn cart, motorcycle and carto facilitate their commodities from market place to their homes and vice versa. Before the introduction of modern transportation services animals like mules, horse and donkeys were used for transportation. [60]

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[58] Archive of Dale municipal office electric service folder NO 14, file No 13, 2005 p. 90

[59] *Ibid*

[60] Transport Agency of Dale district report 2004, p. p 47-50

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During the dreg period road construction began a dry weather road which was interrupted during the rainy season as the result of heavy rain fall. This problem of transportation had stagnated the development of the District and under coffee trade of the region. An all-weather road was constructed in Dale district during the dreg regime. It linked Dale district with other urban centers like yirgalem, Aletawondo, Aletachukko and wensho beginning from 1976 onwards gravel roads were constructed in the District. [61]

4.1.5. Telecommunication and postal services

Telecommunication service is of one important tool for communication and it is important to receive or send money, urgent, tax massage from country and even at global at large. Telephone services established in Dale in 1941. Dale has telecommunication assessed and services delivered to customs like wireless telephone services. The other communication service is postal services. The post office of Dale District at Yirgalem town began its function in 1952. The main duty is collecting and distribution letter to the dwellers of the District and its environs. In addition, it brings and distributes newspapers, magazines document to its customers. Although the Districtis lined with other towns through roads, postal services and telecommunications, well facilitated communication became serious problem. [62]

4.1.6. Water supply

Water is basic necessary for human beings to live. During imperial regime Dale District is critically affected by the problem of water shortage in the district. Generally most members from the community utilize water for human beings and animals from ponds which are polluted and lost only for not more than three months. From the visited kebele. The team has recognized that there is no availability of water. Thus there should be a means to provide water from the neighboring kebele and Districts to the community. In this time the Districts people highly affected water borne

[61] *Ibid*

[62] Dale District telecommunication and postal service report 2003 p54

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diseases like amebic and dysentery. During this region District has begun to receive pond water supply in 1941. However population growth and expansion of the District affected the availability of pure water supply in the district. [63]

The traditional ponds should be changed in to modern ones there is also possibility to construct dam and to harvest water distribute to the community. In 1960s Dale District got clean water during that time the government of USA funded 72,000 birr and community contributed 32,000 birr to but water pumping (motor). During the derg regime sidama zone together with the federal government began the process of expanding the water supply infrastructure by using the 56 million birr obtained from the world Bank ,UK thus this expansion enabled the pure water coverage of the six (6)kebele in rural. After the derg regime pure water 42% the dade district community 29 rural kebele the hand pumps 32 and head waters 19 kebele facilitates.[64]

CONCLUSION

Dale District is arural District found in Sidama administrative zone in Southern Nation Nationalities and peoples region. The District found south of the region's capital Hawassa. Dale worda is composed of different ethnic groups that live and activate the day today activities of their life beside the indigenous Sidam people. Dale District is suitable for agricultural activities having various climatic conditions. Dale district is rich in both plant animal resources regarding vegetation, natural vegetation cover land in the district. This is due to the fever able climatic condition and determinants of agricultural production. Consequently, the economic activity of the District was predominantly based on agriculture. The major agricultural activities of the district includes production of *enset*, root crop and some cereals like barley, maize, sorghum and*teff*. Livestockwas the other agricultural activity of the rural and urban people of the District like rearing caws, sheep, goats and other.

[63]Dale District water supply office report. 2005 pp, 41-43

[64] *Ibid*

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Beside mixed agriculture, trade and craft activities are the other economic activity in the District. Coffee and chat/khat crops are income generating cash crops for the people of the districts, especial in peasant sector.The economic change and growth in the Dale District are determined by development of infrastructures and fundamental facilities. However the development of these facilities and infrastructures like electricity, education, health service, water supply road and transportation and others are on stagnant development during the period under the study, 1941 to 1991.

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