

***SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACTS  
OF PROSOPIS RELATED  
CHARCOAL TRADE IN  
GEWANE WORED A, AFEAR  
REGION***

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# Outline

- ① Context of Prosopis charcoal trade
- ② Organization of trade and actors involved
- ③ Cost and benefits of charcoal trade
- ④ Aspects of governmental regulation
- ⑤ Conclusion and recommendations



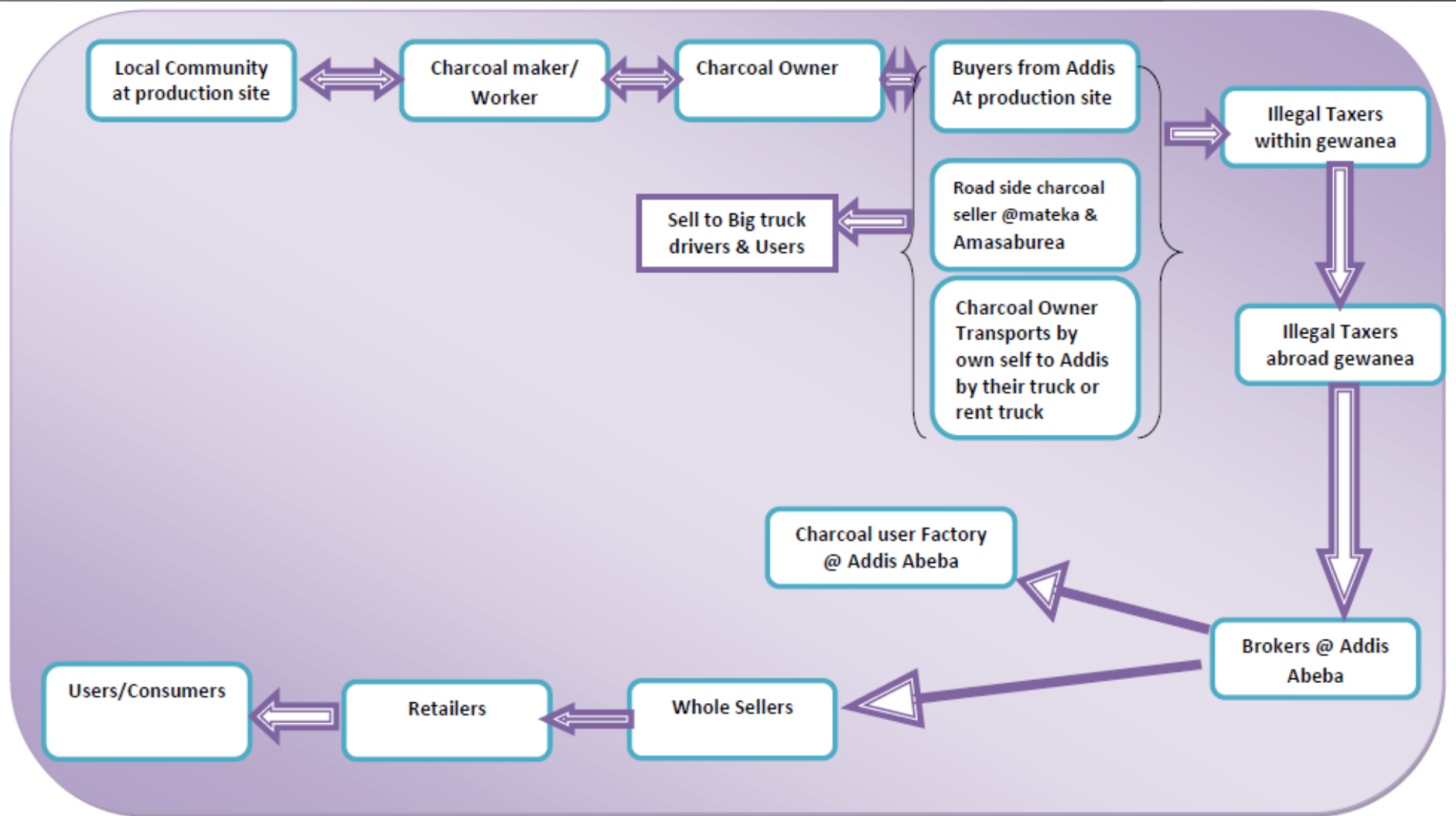
# Context of Prosopis charcoal trade

- Charcoal business started in 1997ec
- Established by FRAM Africa

## Objectives:

- Clearing of Prosopis invaded land
- Production of charcoal
- Cleared land shall be used for crop production
  
- In 2000ec charcoal business became illegal

# Organization of trade and actors involved



# Charcaol owner

- ◉ Mostly young Afar men and highlander
- ◉ Own the produced charcoal
- ◉ Employ workers and control production process
- ◉ Cover costs for workers until charcoal is produced
- ◉ Sell charcoal in different ways

# Transportation of charcoal



Charcoal transported by ISUZU truck for long distance



Charcoal transported by donkey cart for short distance

# Charcoal Makers

- ⦿ Migrants from SNNP, Oromiya and Amhara
- ⦿ Produce charcoal in the forest
- ⦿ Employed by charcoal owners
- ⦿ Paid by sack of charcoal produced





# Charcoal makers at production site



During production process



Charcoal sacks ready to be picked up by ISUZU



# Local community involved

- ◎ Young afar men as guards for charcoal makers
  - Receive small payment from charcoal owners
- ◎ Illegal taxers at the road side



# Benefits of charcoal business

- Income generation for involved Afar
  - 20-25 ISUZUs bought by owners (2000-2005ec)
  - 55-60 houses built in Galaeladora by owners
- Capital accumulation for agricultural investments
- Access to transportation



# Costs of charcoal business

- ◉ Women raped and killed by charcoal makers
- ◉ Increasing incidences of people killed by lions
- ◉ High corruption due to illegality of the charcoal trade
- ◉ Monetarization of society and change of values,
  - weakening of indigenous NRM institutions, Afar Madaa
- ◉ Woreda loses tax income through illegality → estimate:  
60,000-80,000 Birr per day
- ◉ Cutting of indigenous trees





# Aspects of governmental regulation

- ⦿ Existing rules and regulations not implemented
- ⦿ Lack of political commitment
- ⦿ Governmental individuals indirectly involved in charcoal business: partly beneficiaries

# Recommendations

- ⦿ Increased political commitment: Implementation of rules and regulations
- ⦿ Legalize charcoal trade from Prosopis and facilitate distribution of trade licenses to individuals
- ⦿ Create awareness on alternative use of Prosopis and environmental costs of cutting indigenous trees



*Thank you*