Summary of Initial Site Profile at Somali Region, Gobka Dry Valley (GO1W)

A. Basic Data

The survey was conducted on 16/12/21 in Somali regional state, Jigjiga city administration, Gobka village south, specific name of the dry valley is Gobka. The land tenure system of the area is individual. The type of interview conducted was a focus group discussion including both men and women with a total number of participants 14 household heads of which 5 were women headed. The average household size of the area is 6.

B. History of the Area

According to the respondents before 10 years the area was fully covered by vegetation and the rain fall distribution was good enough both in amount and frequency i.e. continuous rain fall through the year with an interval of only one month. The flood from the nearby mountain was used to flow normally without affecting the land and benefiting for agricultural production. But currently due to drought and land degradation things are changed in reverse. For example, the interval of the rain season become wide and sometimes not at all. Currently the biggest problem concerning the natural resource of the area is unavailability of water for both household and livestock consumption.

C. Scope of Users of Available Natural Resources (NR)

At present the natural resource of the area is used for crop; pasture and forest land. The estimated number of primary beneficiaries in the area is about 500 individuals out of this 100 are women headed. Most of the households including the women headed owned a land with different plot size ranging from 0.5 ha. Moreover, during the dry season there are secondary households who do not live in the area but coming from Jijiga east for search of fodder for their livestock. According to the respondents the estimated number of the secondary users is 50 household heads.

Because of the strong traditional resource sharing mechanism available within the communities, so far conflict was not occurred due to the secondary users coming from other area.

D. Livestock and Access to Pasture/Rangeland

After the project dry valley rehabilitation activities started and then enough moisture is available access and quality of pasture for the livestock in the area is increased. But during the dry season water and pasture availabilities are not enough to the meet the demands of the livestock's in the area.

Before the activities of the project started the communities in the area didn't have experience on applying physical soil and water conservation measures to protect the pasture land from erosion. But they have an experience of applying cut/carry and area enclosure measures to ensure availability of fodder for their livestock's. According to the respondents free grazing is only possible during the dry season. Moreover, there is also traditional way of storing fodder like making hut.

Before the activities of the project started the dry valley have been affected by invasive species locally called Guwnde and Hargwtin with a higher level of infestation. Though the communities in the area have a knowledge to prevent the further spreading of the species, it is beyond their capacities to eradicate all and looking for an external support.

Currently the average number of livestock's per household head in the village is summarized in the following table:

Livestock	Average Number of Livestock per Households
Camel	No
Cattle	2 – 3
Goats	2 – 3
Sheep	4 – 10
Donkey	1 – 2

Due to an external factor like drought; land degradation; lack of water and diseases the number of livestock's in the area is declined. As there are not enough trees in the area the communities in the area prefer to keep grazers (cattle/sheep) instead of browsers (camel/goat).

E. Water and Wood: Availability and Access

In the past the communities in the dry valley had experience on accessing water from sand wells with a depth of 3m to 12m. Currently due to drought and urban settlements there is no possibilities of accessing water even with shallow depth. But following the dry valley rehabilitation measures of the project implemented in the area at least some water is stored behind the water spreading weir structures and benefiting the households and livestock of the area for about one month. Moreover, the available moistures play a key role in further supporting of the farming activities which can secure production of grains.

As currently there are no other water source in the area water tracking is the only options which is available for the communities on payment basis. To minimize the challenge, there is an experience of constructing water harvesting structures during the dry season.

F. Trees/Shrubs

The tree species locally called Agercy; Hairmat and Suksuk are the most common and important tree species found in the area which are useful for fodder and firewood. But, the communities are not considering the numbers of trees/shrubs found in the village are enough for their livestock. The women's in the area spent on average less than an hour a day for collecting firewood. So far, the communities didn't have experience of propagating trees/shrubs, but they are interested and needs an external support.

G. Crops

Most of the households in the dry valley have experience of cultivating crops and vegetables in the past production season. As the land use set up in the area is on individual basis the cultivation was done individually. But there was no external support provided regarding agricultural inputs and tools. The crops which mostly cultivated last season were maize; sorghum; teff and onion. The users in the area had been done three times harvest for the last three years and the productivity (yields/ha) was also increased due to the available moisture after the dry valley rehabilitation measures implemented by the project.

H. Organizational Issues within the User Community

Besides the traditional structures in the community there are two woman's milk production cooperatives currently operating. The communities in the area have access to the nearest market at Jijiga town but they faced with a difficulty of accessing roads with in the dry valley due to big gully created by erosion.

So far, the communities of the area didn't face with conflicts over the uses of the natural resources but some disagreements on ownership of farm plot was developed due to the big gullies which apart the plots. Whenever it happened they have a strong traditional conflict resolution mechanism.

I. Skills and Income

Livestock production and rain fed agriculture are the typical livelihood options in the area to create income. Moreover, selling of fodder and seeds of sorghum are the newly developed livelihood options to generate additional income which the communities started based on the dry valley rehabilitation measures implemented by the project. Regarding the skills some of the communities in the area have a masonry skill.

Implementation of more DVPRU measures; beekeeping and development of water source are the other potential/future livelihood options on the rehabilitated land that could generate additional income.

J. Suggestions

For further development of the area the following points are suggested by the communities in the dry valley:

- For sustainably solving the water shortage in the area, water sources should be developed.
- Supports regarding agricultural extension services including inputs (seeds; tools; pesticide etc…) should be considered.
- Training on agronomy practices for efficiently utilize the moisture available through the dry valley rehabilitation measures implemented by the project. Moreover, literacy training specially for those who are engaged in cooperative activities for enabling them managing their business successfully.