GENDER ROLE IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION IN SOME PARTS OF ETHIOPIA: A

BRIEF REVIEW

DEREJE KIFLE

Department of Rural Development and Agricultural Extension, Haramaya University, Dire Dawa, Ethiopia

ABSTRACT

This essay briefly discussed the roles that men and women played in agricultural activities in Ethiopia. Gender roles are the different tasks and responsibilities of men and women determined by a particular society. Ethiopia is a country where more than 85% percent of the people's livelihood mainly depends on agriculture. Since there are cultural differences among various societies, the gender roles also vary. In some parts of the country such as Menz of Amhara region women did not plough where as in that of Awra Amba they were equally taking part in all agricultural tasks with men. Among the Sidama, women were taking part in agricultural activities such as manuring, harvesting, storing but they were culturally prohibited from ploughing, hoeing, sowing and weeding. Agriculture among the Maqi Oromos was mainly carried out by men. Harvesting and threshing were all the activities of men while women were confined in cooking food,

milking and keeping the house.

KEYWORDS: Gender, Gender Role, Agriculture, Ethiopia