



In partnership with



icipe IIRR 平



አዋልድ ኢንዱስትሪ
ORDA Ethiopia

Empowering a Young Woman through Shoa Fattening

MaYEA / BfDE Success Story

Weyzerit Sintayehu Tegegne Dessie is 23, single young woman living with her family in Asamabo Kebele of Gozamen Woreda, East Gojjam Zone, Amhara Regional State. She comes from a poor and illiterate family whose livelihood depends on limited agricultural activities. Before the intervention of BfDE/MaYEA in her dwelling area, she had no assets, income, and access to startup capital. Although she completed 10+3 in Installation from TVET and later obtained a Level II certificate in Accounting and Finance from a private college, she was unable to secure permanent employment. As a result, she remained unemployed resulted in without a clear livelihood pathway.

Recalling this period, Sintayehu explains, *“After finishing my education, I stayed at home without work. I had knowledge but no opportunity and no money to start a business. I was losing hope day by day.”*

Her situation began to change when Bees for Development Ethiopia (BfDE), through the MaYEA Project, started supporting unemployed young women and men in her kebele. Prior to the intervention, Sintayehu had little knowledge of income generation or business management. Through the project, she received soft and core skills training with a strong focus on financial literacy, income-generating activity planning, and technical skills. Following value-chain screening, she participated in four to five days of intensive training on shoat fattening, business management, and financial record keeping.

Describing the impact of the training, she says, *“The training helped me understand how to plan a business, calculate costs and profits, and manage my income properly. It changed my mindset completely.”*

After completing the training, Sintayehu selected shoat fattening as her most feasible livelihood option. Lacking initial capital, she mobilized resources by borrowing EB 85,000 from her family and ETB 79,000 from a local savings and credit association. The total startup cost for the first production cycle was ETB 179,900, which covered the purchase of 30 shoats, feed, vaccination, equipment, labor, transport, and housing constructed from locally available materials.

After three months, she sold the fattened shoats at an average price of ETB 8,000 per animal, generating a total sales of ETB 240,000 and a net profit of ETB 60,100. This first success boosted her confidence and encouraged her to reinvest. *“Earning profit for the first time in my life showed me that I can stand on my own,”* she recalls.





In partnership with



icipe IIRR 平



አዋልድ ኢትዮጵያ
ORDA Ethiopia

For the second production cycle, Sintayehu purchased 34 shoats and invested a total of ETB 203,100 for purchase, feed, veterinary services, labor, and transport. After two months, she sold the fattened shoats at an average price of ETB 7,000 per head, generating a total revenue of ETB 238,000 and a net profit of ETB 34,200. From this income, she successfully repaid all borrowed loans on time.

With pride, Sintayehu says, *“I repaid my loans without delay. This made my family and lenders trust me, and I feel proud of myself as I am creditworthy.”* She is now preparing to start her third production cycle.

Beyond financial gains, Sintayehu has achieved significant personal and social transformation. She has developed strong soft and core skills, practical experience in shoat fattening, and effective financial record-keeping skills. Her success has increased her confidence and positioned her as a role-model young woman in her kebele, inspiring other educated females to engage in productive economic activities rather than remaining dependent or unemployed.

Looking ahead, Sintayehu plans to expand her shoat fattening enterprise to around 150 shoats per production cycle and to diversify into poultry production. She also aims to secure land to expand her business and increase her income. To realize these plans, she seeks access to program-based loan support, having already repaid all previous loans.

Summarizing her journey, Sintayehu concludes, *“My dream is not only to change my life, but also to inspire educated young women who stay at home waiting for jobs. With the right skills and support, we can create our own future.”*





In partnership with



icipe IIRR 平



አዋልድ ኢንዮአያ
ORDA Ethiopia



Contact of the participant: 097527642

