Good morning mother!

Good morning my son!

Can you talk to me for a moment, please?

Why not? If it is your wish to do so.

Thank you. Let me begin by asking your name.

My name is Haddas Kiros.

You have a very good vegetable garden. Who prepared the land for you?

What do you mean? You suspect that somebody else performed land preparation and Haddas became user by miracle?

No! No! , Excuse me! I do not mean that way. As I see, the land area covered by your vegetable garden is very large. But I understand that you are an old lady. For me preparing such a large gardening place for an old lady like you will be very difficult.

(Laughter!) Who told you that old ladies like me won’t eat? Let me tell you one thing. “I used to be dependent on my children before joining the literacy class. When ANFEAE workers urged us
to be enrolled in their literacy center, I though literacy is for children and young people. However, no sooner I reluctantly went to the literacy center than I realized literacy is about our life. They thought us how to read and write our own life. Besides, they thought us how to generate income, how to use our backyards for income generating purpose. Therefore, if you have friend or relative who is not learning, go and tell them to join learning centers. After getting training I started growing vegetables here. Having seen my green vegetable, goats and sheep started coming in. As a result I put up this fence myself and safeguarded my vegetable. Then, am I not strong?

Ok Mother, really you are doing fine! Now another question. Did you get good yield so far?

(Again laughter!) Ah! If you think I engaged myself on such activities so highly without getting any advantage from it, you must be a fool. So far I have got more than three hundred and seventy kilograms of different vegetables and used it for both consumption and market. That is why I am thinking of getting some more land. I was earning my living only from a petty trade (gulit). Currently, my income and expenses almost depend on and are covered by what I am getting from the sale of vegetables and products of my hens. Moreover, my children are eating vegetables and eggs daily and like them. I am telling you this not by guessing like I used to do some time ago, now I can take note of both my expenses and income and calculate my profit as well. Thanks to ANFEAE’s literacy and livelihood development initiative, I will never stop growing vegetables and raising poultry.

Emamma is an Amharic word that is used as a pronoun for an old lady.