Awura Amba community seems an exception to Garrett Hardin’s tragedy of the common. Through careful stewardship of their environment, they maintained productivity of their plots despite collective ownership of land property. So much so that this community believes its social system is not only its own but a treasure of the world.

Finally, Awra Amba is unique in the area in one important way: communities are eager to embrace formal science and are open to new knowledge. Therefore, they are the most likely candidates to benefit from PIRE project in the future.

Core values of Awra Amba community

- No labour division between man and woman
- Stealing is a social curse
- Land ownership is communal
- Help each other when you are alive
- Burial ceremony shall be conducted by few people; grieving families should return to work immediately
- Human beings are equal
- There is only one God and the relationship is direct
- Pension plan to the aging/disabled

Who is Zumra?

Zumra is a visionary community leader in Ethiopia who founded the Awura Amba community in the early 1960s. As a teenager, he revolted against the unfair labor division between men and women which was the norm in his village. He noted that women who equally labored in farm activities during the day had also to grabble with domestic chores after returning home. As a young man he was able to attract his peer and formed followers who were trained to work not only in the field but also in the kitchen domain. Through this unique philosophy Zumra succeeded in abolishing labor division between men and women in his community.

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For more information
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