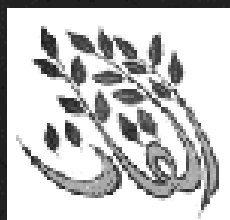


Peer Gatter

The Political Economy of Qat in Yemen



The Changing Use and Misuse of
Catha Edulis in a Changing World
Tradition, Trade and Tragedy

Linköping, Sweden
5-9 October 2009





Economic importance of Qat

- Qat officially represents 14% of agricultural area (138,000 ha.)
- In 1970 the area was estimated to be just 7000 ha.
- Qat makes up more than 40% of agricultural GDP
- and around 6% of Yemen's total GDP
- It stands for 11% of household expenditures
- In low income families the share may reach 34%
- Between 1991 and 2006 increase in production by 79%
- Qat is responsible for 48% in the increase of irrigated area
-





Is Qat production profitable?

What decides over profits?

- Distance from market
- Road conditions
- Marketing forms (self, agent, etc).
- Supply
- Mobile phone coverage
- Weather
- Ownership of irrigation means



Production Regimes of Qat decide over profits

Rainfed – 42%

Wells – 39%

Flood irrigation 1%

Stream irrigation 5%

Truck irrigation 9%



Climatic factors impact production volumes and farmers' profits





Percentage of qat holdings with machines (of total qat holdings by type of machine)

Tractors	Harvesting machines	Treshing machines	Irrigation pumps	Spray motors	Other machines
0,8%	0,0%	0,0%	3,4%	1,1%	2,4%



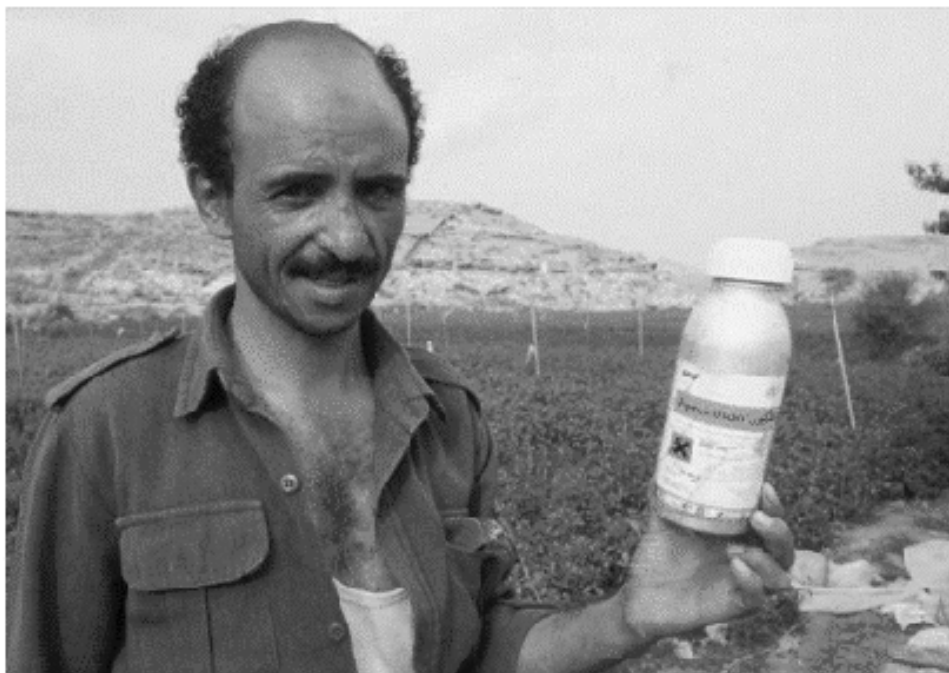


Pesticide & Fertilizer Use

72% of Qat farmers use pesticides
highest in al-Dhale Gov. (93%)

15% use chemical fertilisers
highest in al-Baydha Gov. (59%)

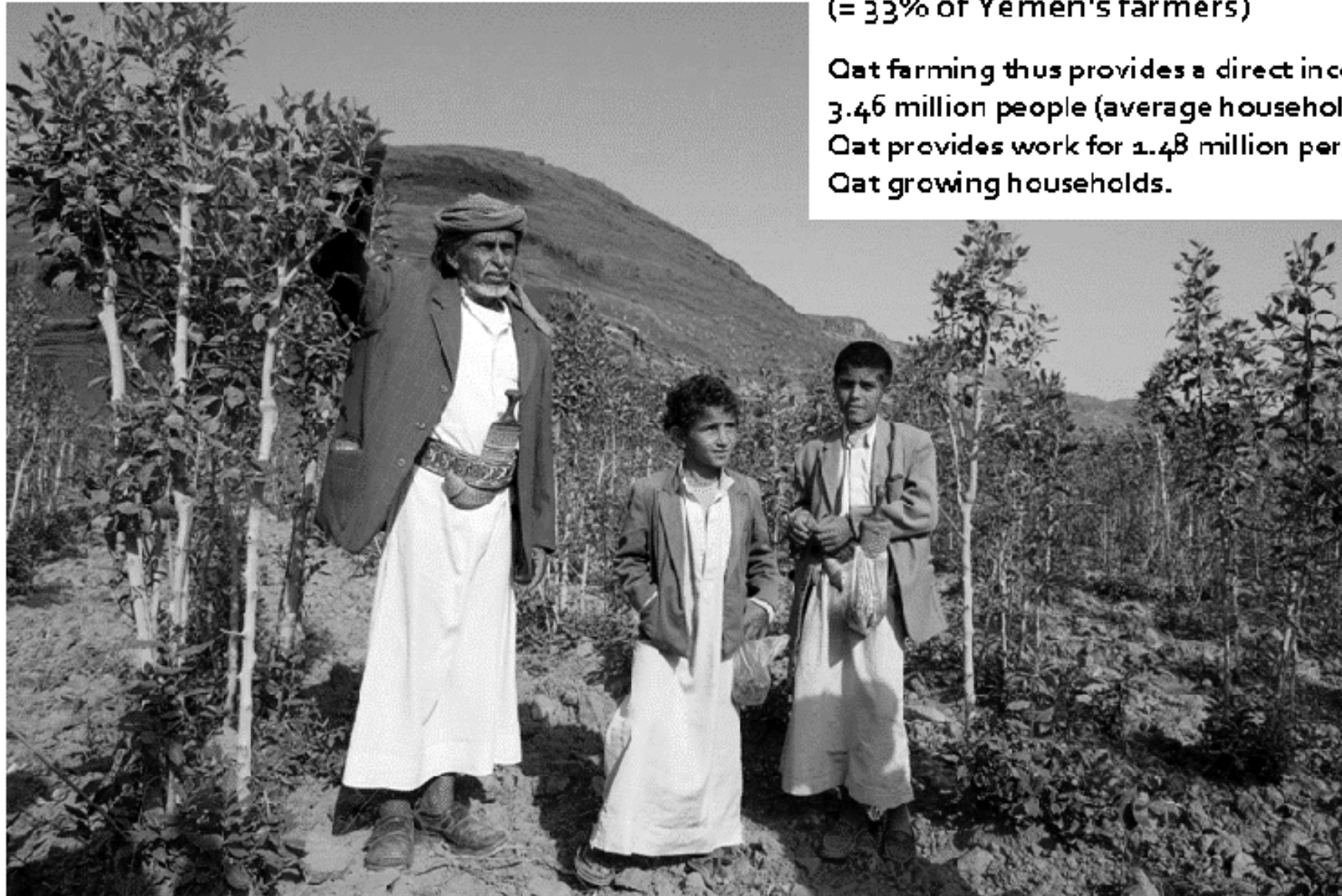
... at unknown cost for national health





**Qat is grown by 494,000 families
(= 33% of Yemen's farmers)**

**Qat farming thus provides a direct income for
3.46 million people (average household size of 7).
Qat provides work for 1.48 million persons within
Qat growing households.**





Qat feeds 145,000 agricultural laborers and their families (1 million people)



Qat supply industries feed an estimated 120.000 families (840.000 people)



**Qat Transport and Marketing
feed an estimated 80,000
families (560,000 people)**

ca. 14,000 Qat sellers in Sana'a City
ca. 5,500 Qat sellers in Aden
ca. 1,300 in Hadhramawt



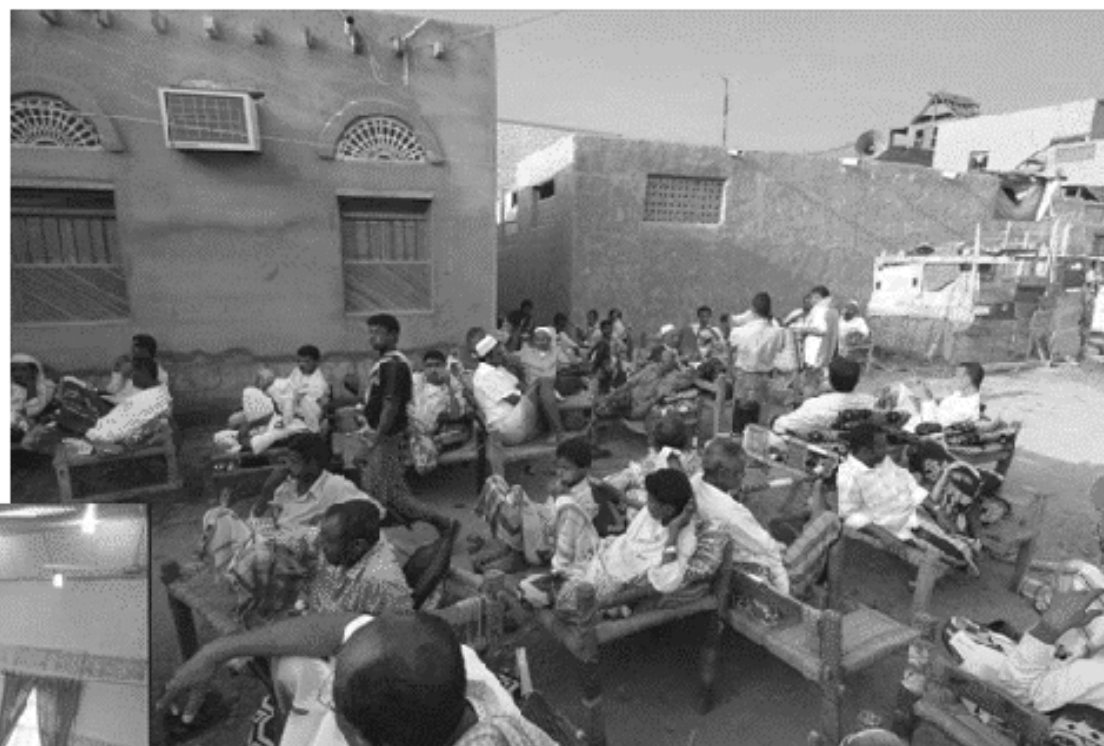


Qat market owners & helpers
Hostels for Qat drivers
feed an estimated 15,000 families
(105,000 people)





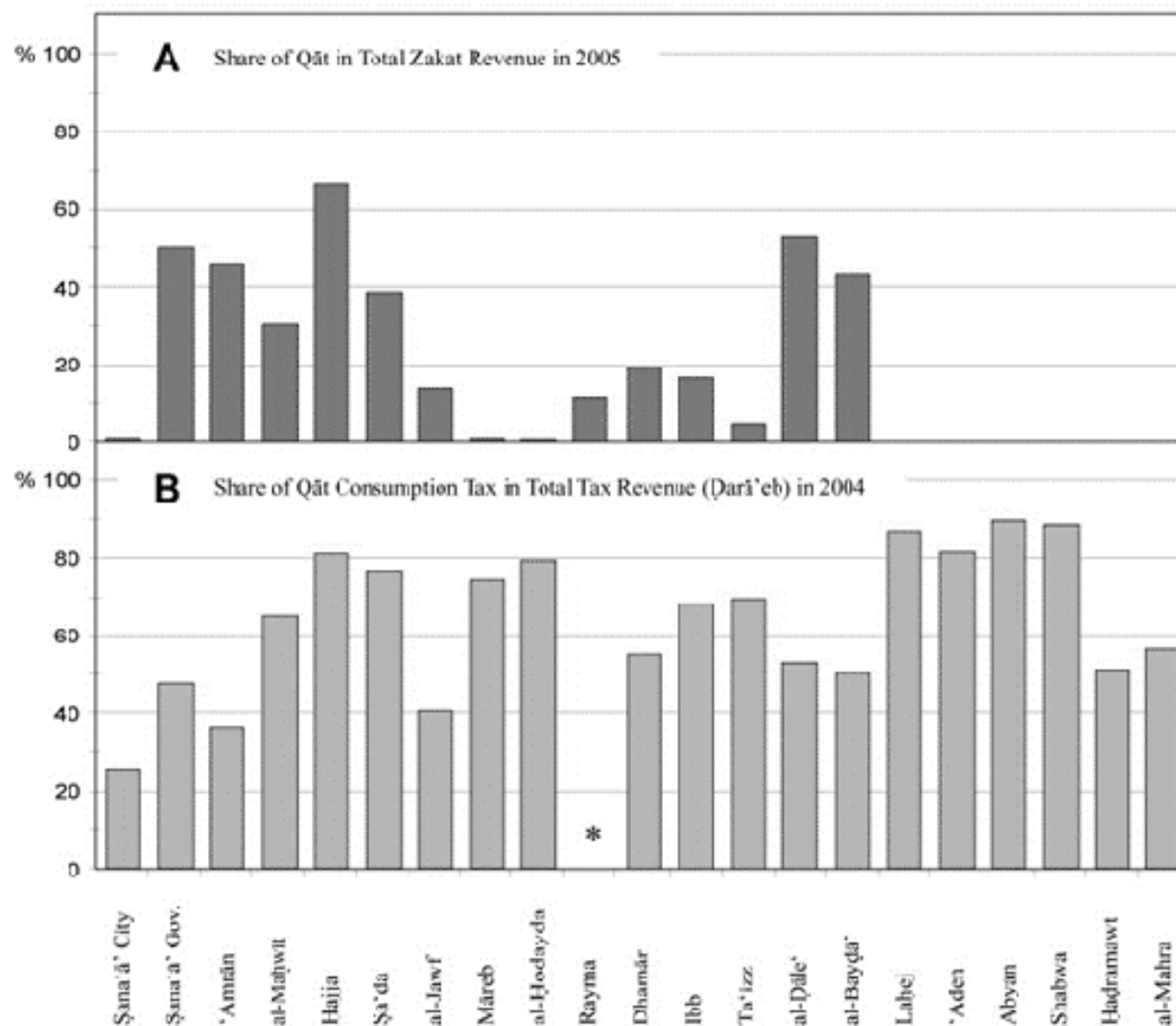
Tens of thousands of petty merchants selling diverse commodities profit from the commotion in Qat markets. So do restaurants, barbers, sweets sellers, etc.



.... so do those renting out benches or other premises for chewing.



Table.....: Qāt Revenue in the Budgets of Governorate and District Local Authorities within each Governorate

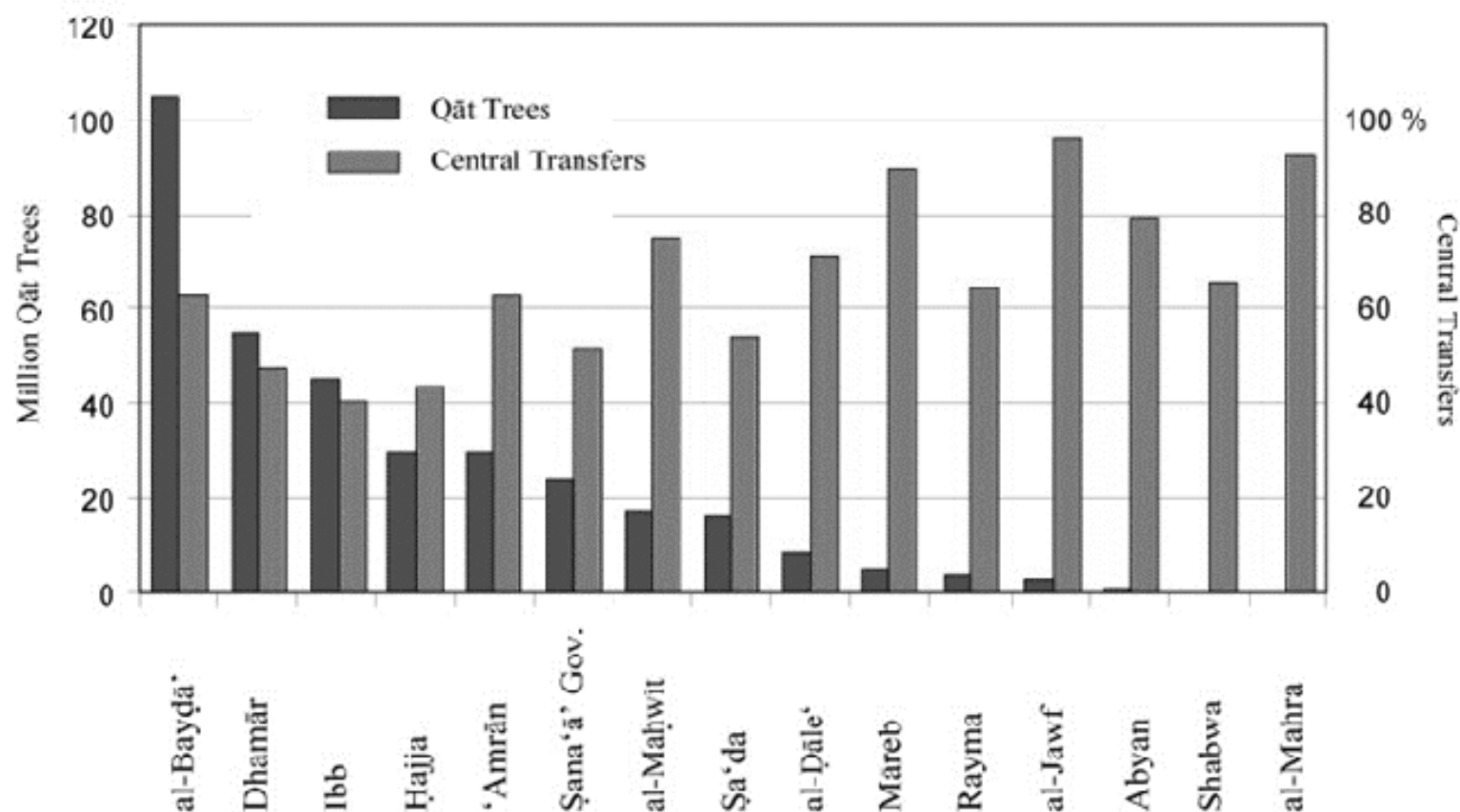


Source: Tax Authority, *Financial Accounts 2004*.

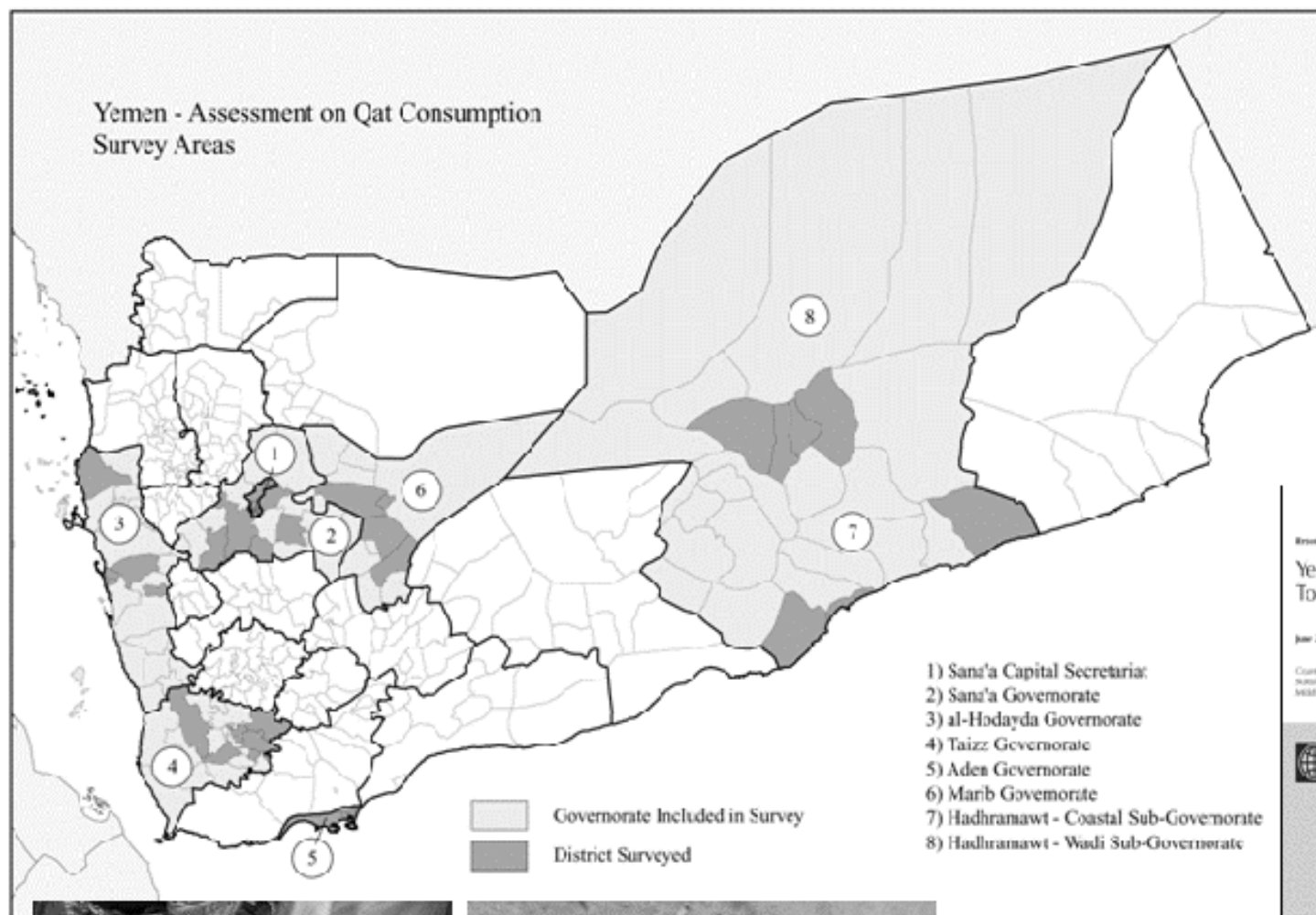
* Rayna Governorate which was founded in 2004 is here still included in the Figures for Şana'a' Governorate.



Number of Qat Trees per Governorate (in Million) and Shares of Central Transfers in the Budgets of Local Administrations (in Percent).



Source: CSO/EU-Agricultural Census 2003 and Ministry of Local Administration, Financial Accounts 2004 (Zakat), Tax Authority, Governorate Revenues 2004 (Dhara'ib), DLDSP 2005, p. 28 (Central Transfers).



Qat consumption survey of 2006

How many Yemenis
really chew?

Report No. 357344E

Yemen Towards Qat Demand Reduction

June 2007

Country Department III
Subsidiary Activities Department
Middle East and North Africa Region



Document of the World Bank





Percentage of Population Chewing per Gender and Governorate (n=4,017)

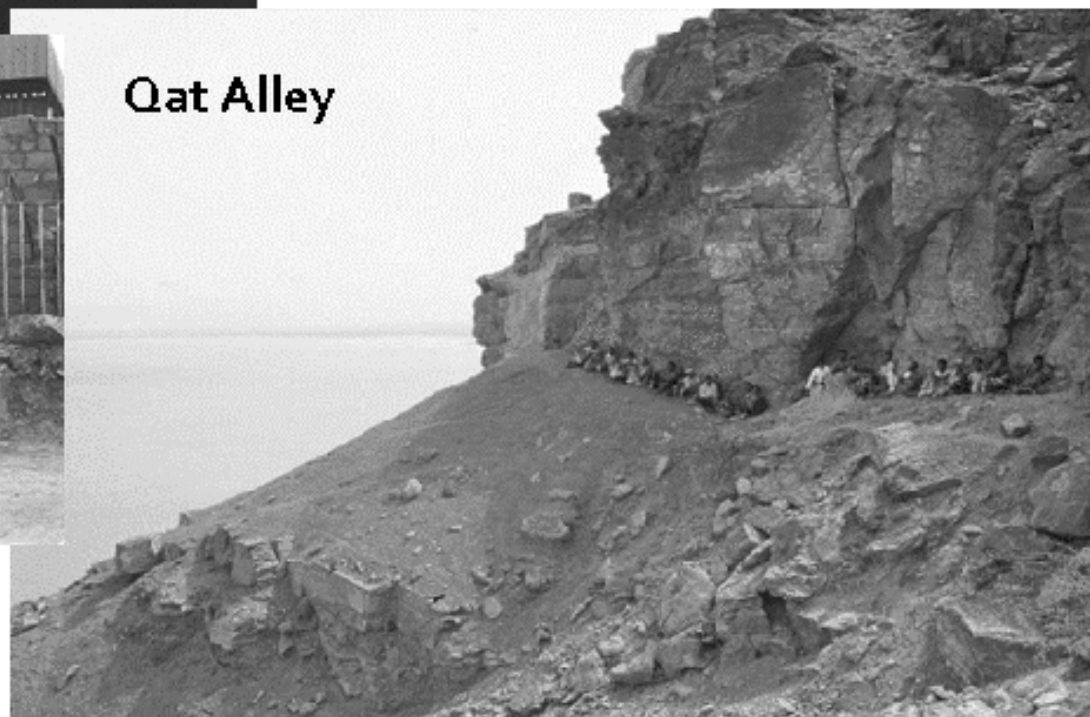
Governorate	Males	Females
Sana'a Gov.	87.0	53.5
Sana'a Capital Secretariat	78.0	53.2
al-Hodayda	90.0	33.0
Tafizz	86.1	55.3
Marib	71.3	32.0
Aden	83.2	19.4
Hadhramawt (Wadi)	27.7	4.4
Hadhramawt (Coast)	61.4	1.1
TOTAL	72.0	32.6

Strong regional and gender differences



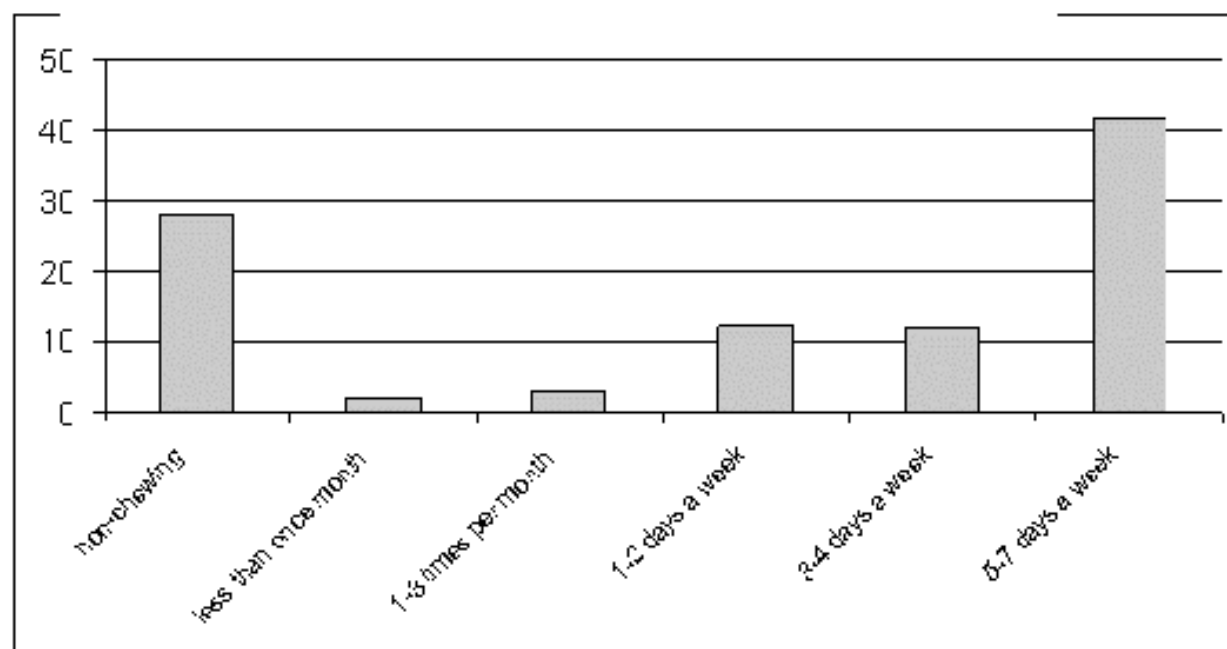


Qat Alley



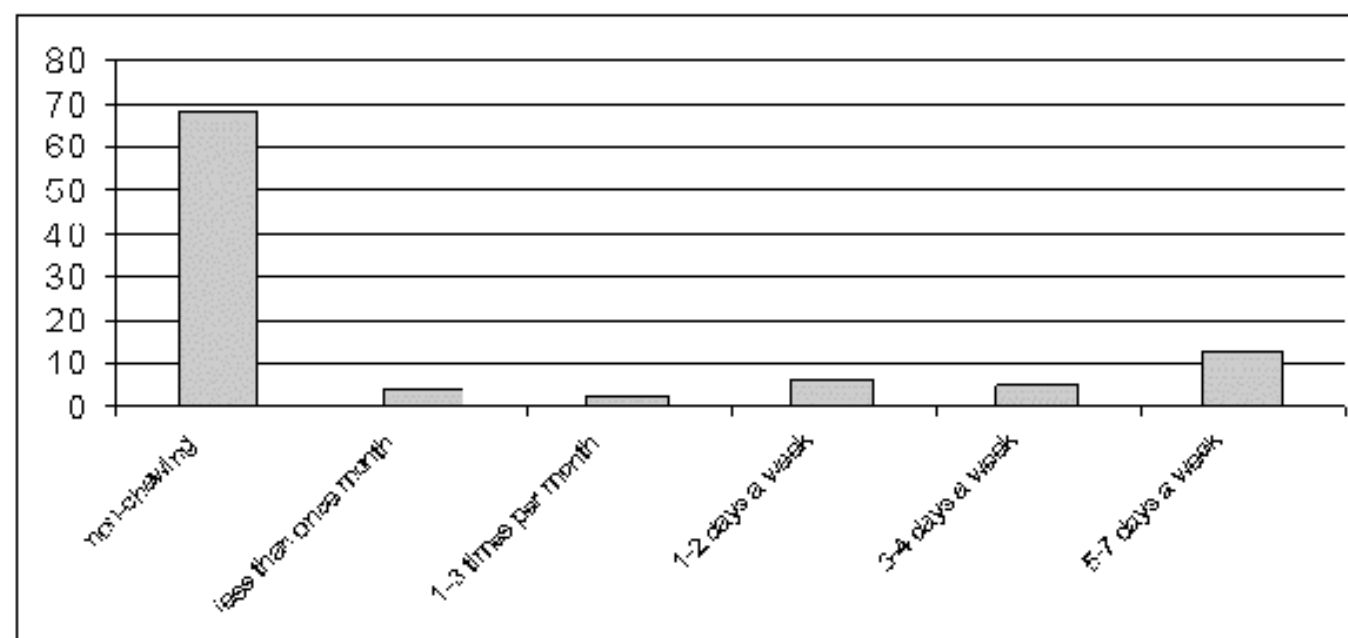
Where to chew?

A strategic decision that may well take half of the day to decide



Chewing Frequency of Yemeni Males

(in %, n=2,205)

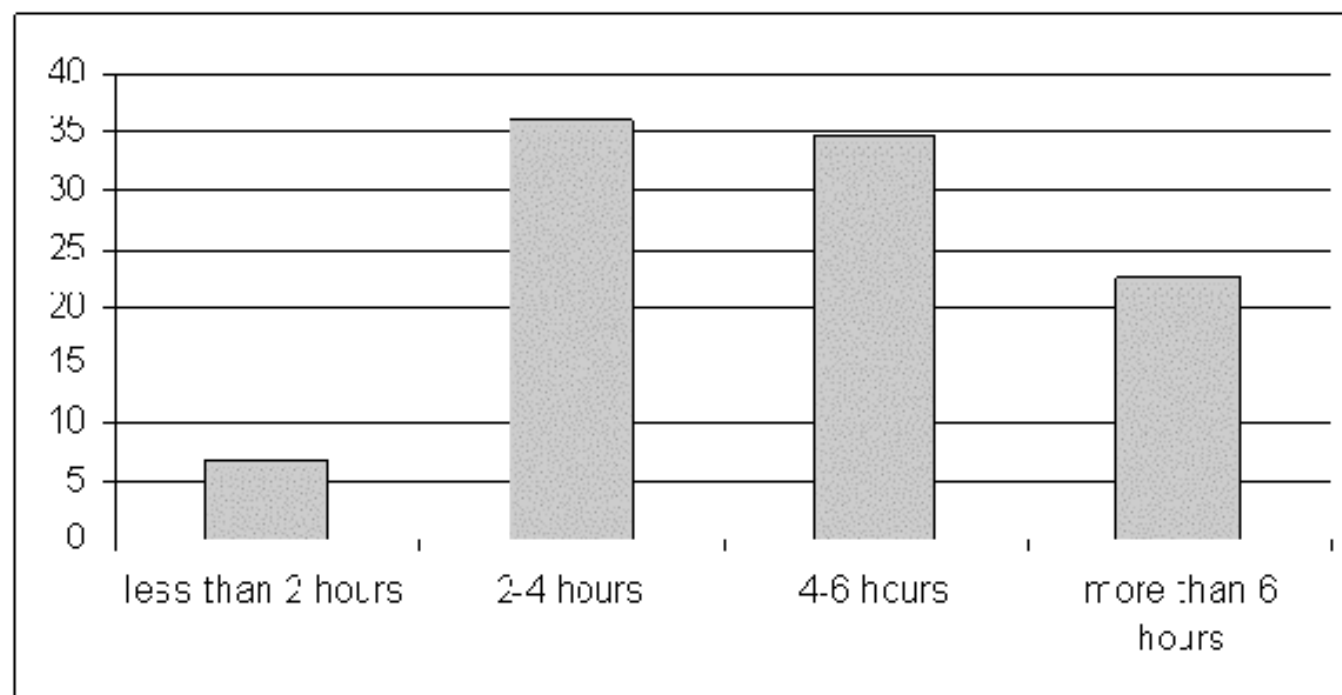


Chewing Frequency of Yemeni Females

(in %, n=1,774)



Time Yemenis spend chewing Qat during the Day (in % of total Chewers)





Age when starting to chew (n=2,225)

Governorate	Average Age	Maximum Age	Minimum Age
Sana'a Gov.	17.2	65	5
Sana'a Capital	17.6	42	7
Al-Hodayda	18.9	50	8
Ta'izz	16.0	41	8
Marib	17.8	40	8
Aden	20.9	59	7
Hadhramawt (Wadi)	21.5	45	9
Hadhramawt (Coast)	23.6	42	10



Reasons for Starting Chewing for Males and Females (n=2,148)

Reason / Gender	Males	Females
All my friends and family chew	65.6	72.4
There is nothing else to do	19.0	10.0
To be able to work	8.6	2.3
In order to study	3.4	2.6
Because my husband wants me to	0	9.0
To alter my mood	0.9	0.7
To attend weddings or funerals	0.8	0.2
In order to forget	0.5	0.9
Others	1.3	1.9
Total	100%	100%



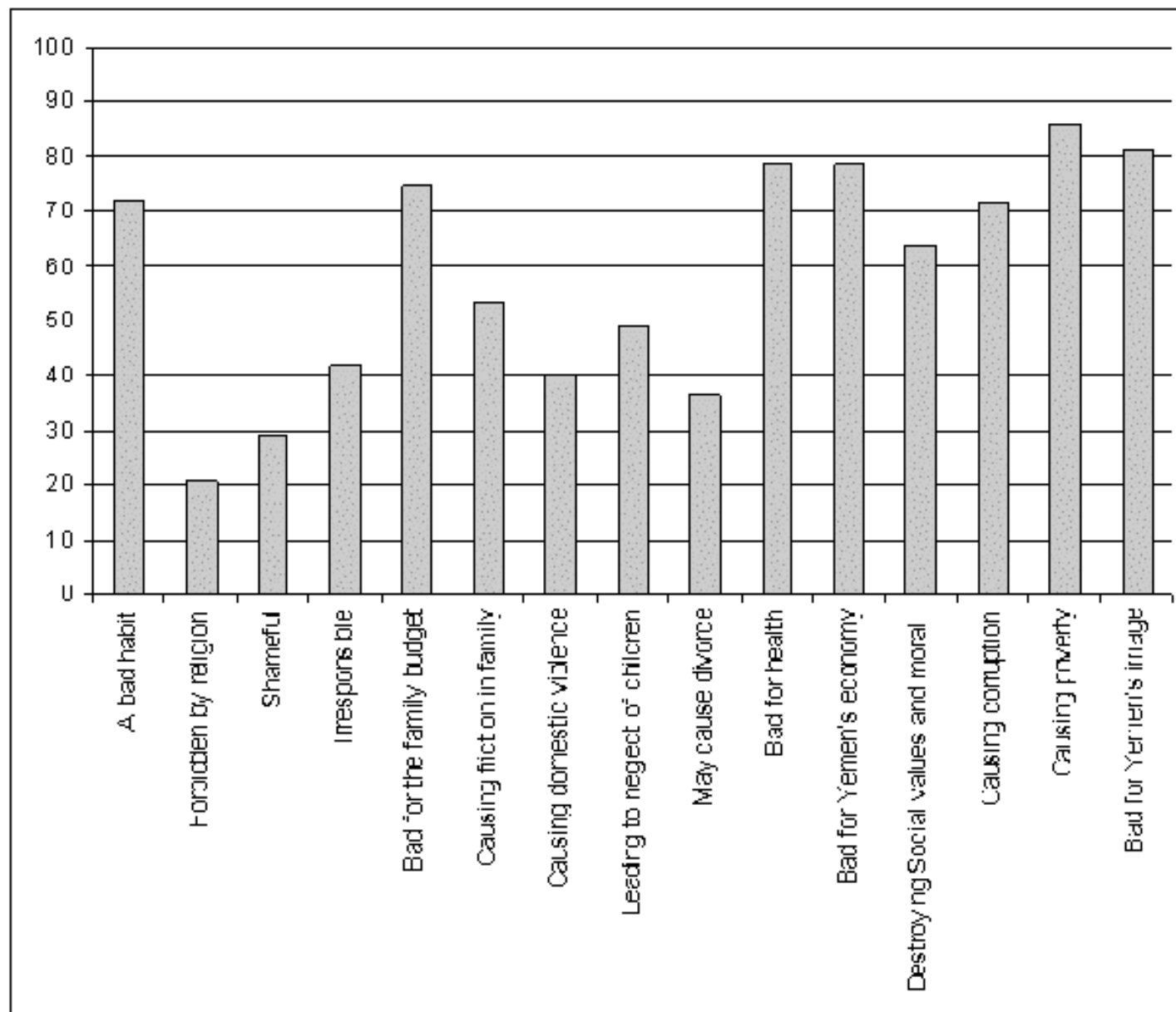
Persons who feel that they do not have enough Money for Qat *and* their Family (n=3,523)

Governorate	Male	Female
Sana'a Gov.	34.5 %	47.6 %
Sana'a Capital Secretariat	44.3 %	48.5 %
al-Hodayda	32.5 %	58.9 %
Tafizz	32,5 %	58,9 %
Marib	48.1 %	55.8 %
Aden	39.6 %	54.3 %
Hadhramawt (Wadi)	76.7 %	80.2 %
Hadhramawt (Coast)	51.4 %	86.5 %
TOTAL	48.4 %	62.0 %

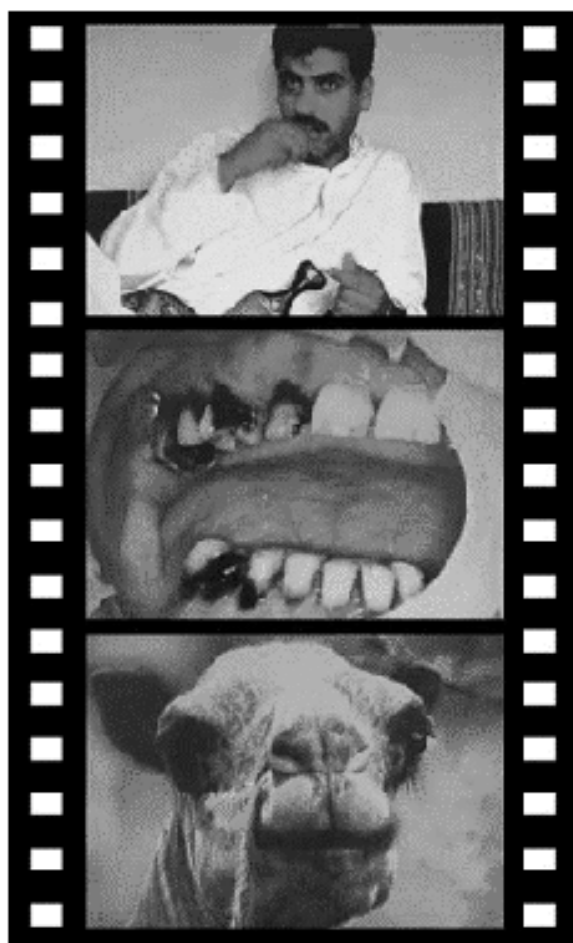




Perceptions of Chewing Qat among male Yemeni Qat Users (in Percent)



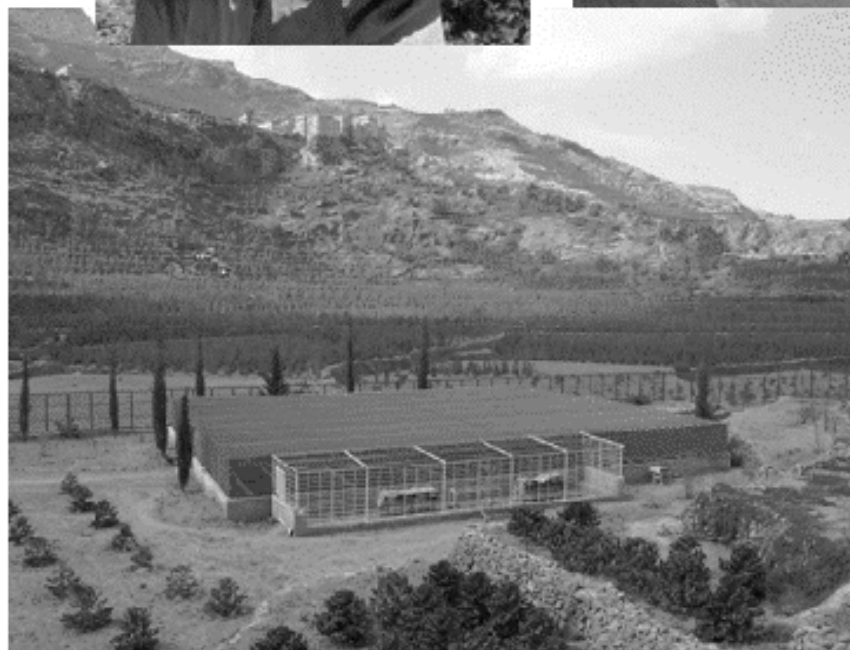
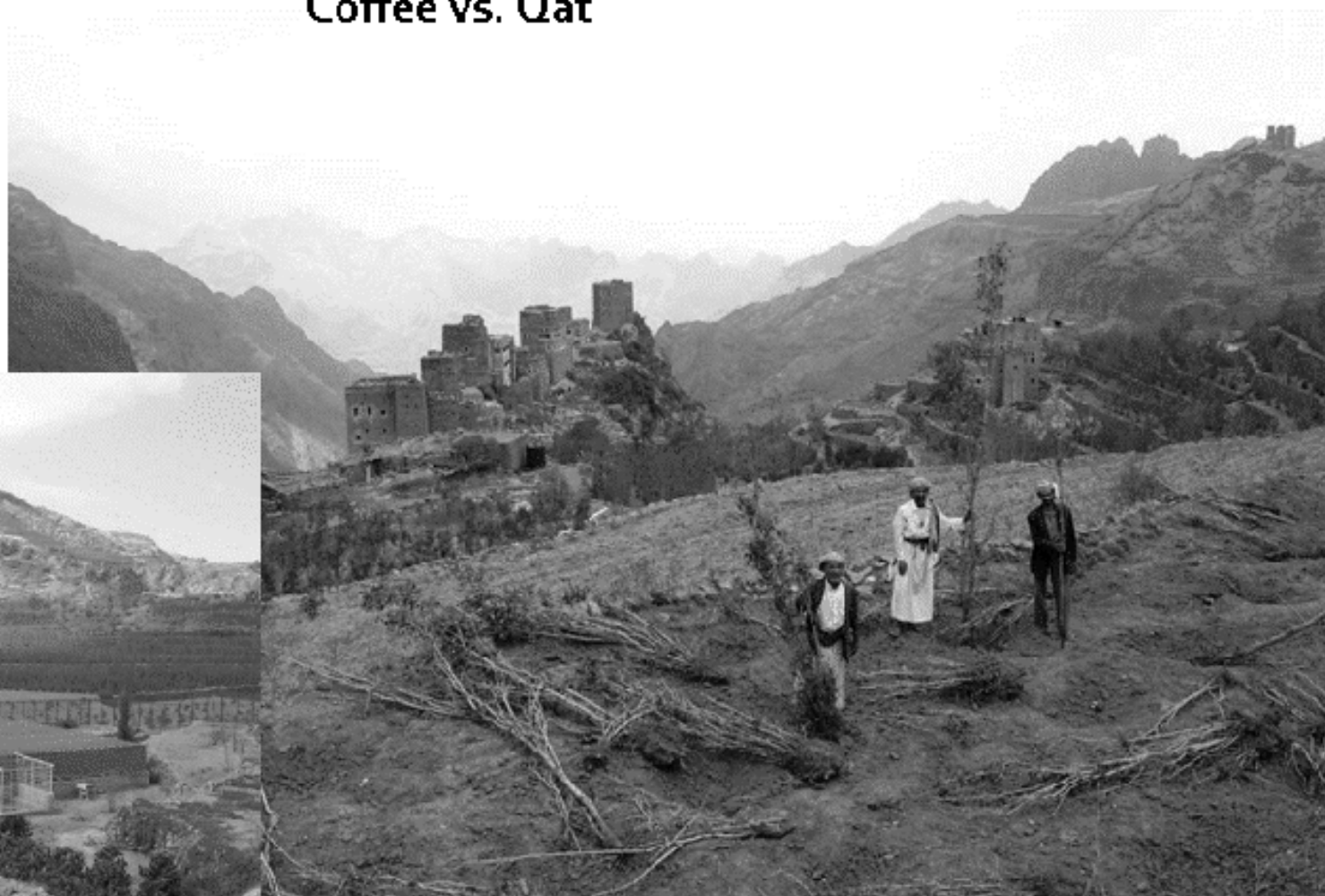
Awareness Campaigns of the Social Fund
(Ministry of Planning)

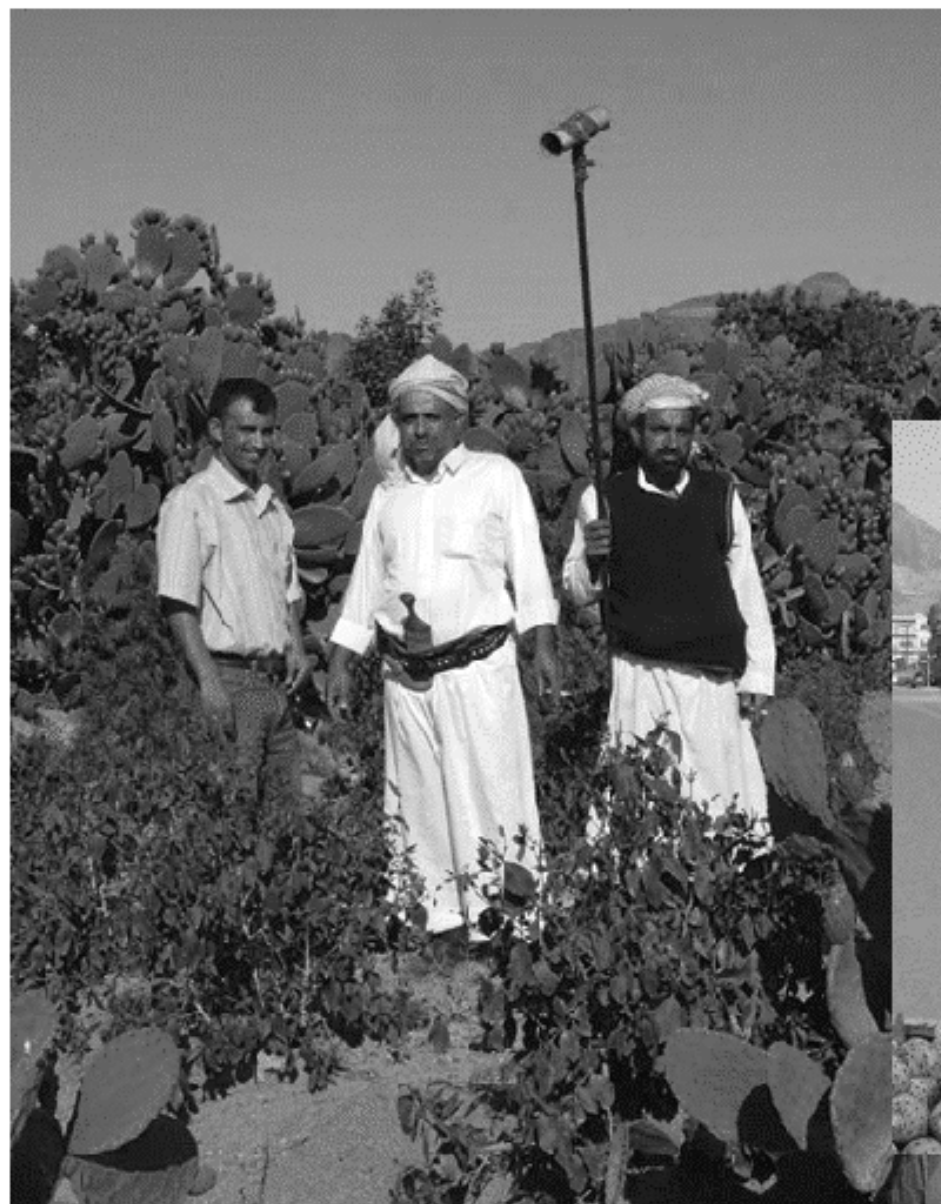




The Isma'ili Bohra community of Haraz

Coffee vs. Qat

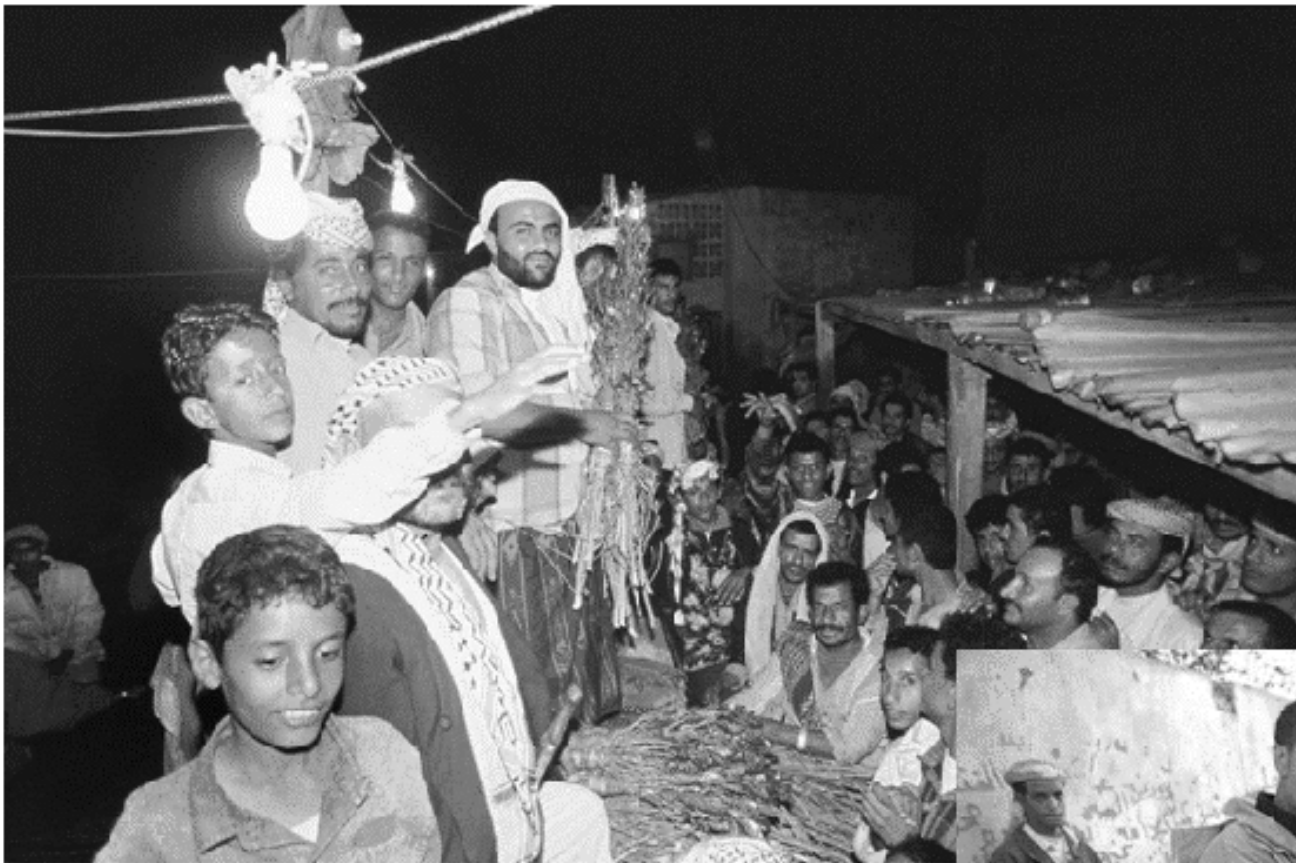




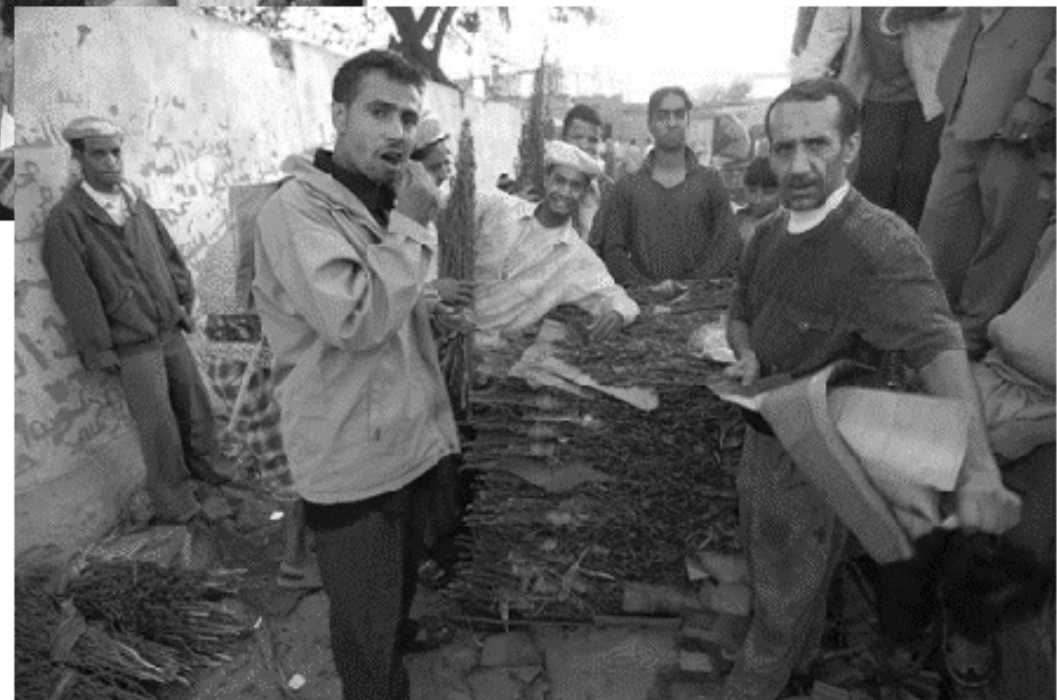
Sana'a farmers multiply their profits with prickly pears

Lower water requirements
Less losses due to frost
But no processing... yet



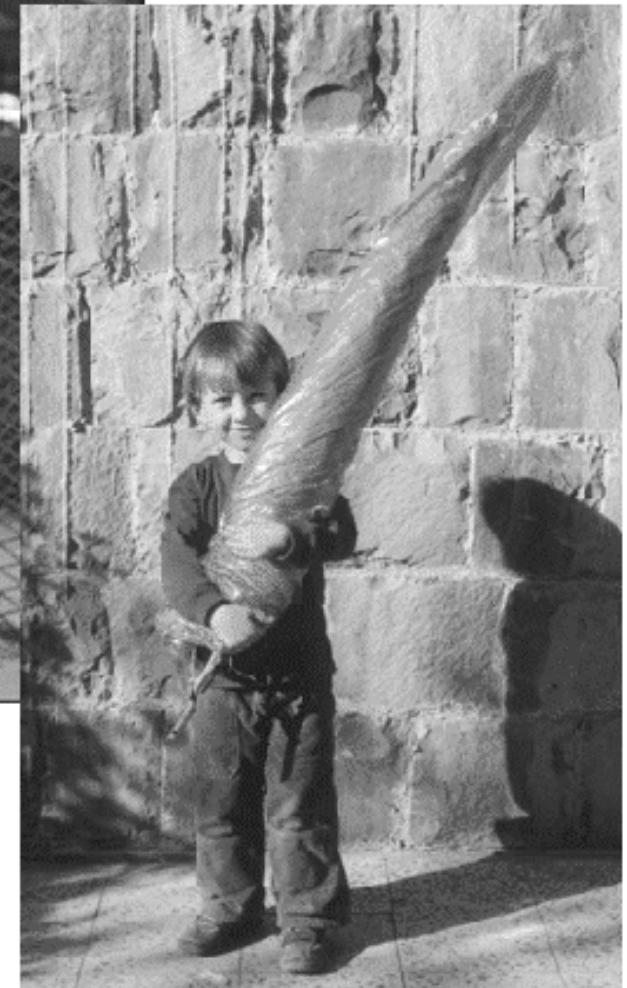


Qat auction markets





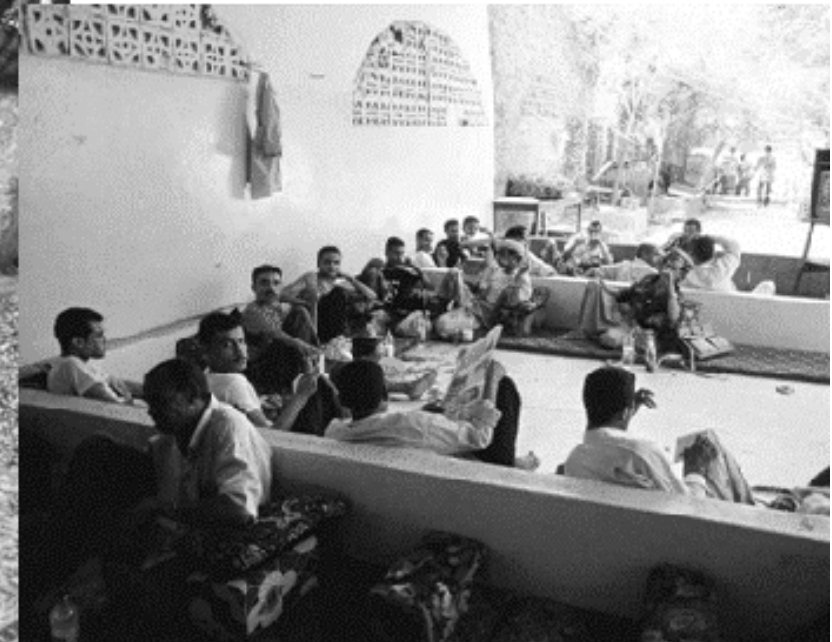
Arrival of the Qat truck in al-Mukalla



Qat for the poor & Qat for beginners



Qat rapidly changes Hadhrami culture



Public Qat chewing places are built everywhere



... but what will it take to reduce chewing in Yemen?
A country where even a sand storm does not keep
chewers from hitting the markets

Should the Government
limit Qat chewing?
(n=3,889)

	Men	Women
Yes	53.2%	61.2%
No	36.5%	24.1%
I don't know	10.3%	14.7%



Recommendations:

- Long term government strategy instead of day to day approaches (that are – as some say – thought up during qat chews)
- Introduction of Qat awareness in school curricula with annual review topics
- Creation of a National Qat Coordination/research center
- Introducing a sound water policy and water pricing system
- Lifting of the diesel subsidy that favors overuse of scarce water resources
- Rationalize Qat water use, intensify cropping
- Lift trade barriers and allow Qat imports
- Reform of the taxation of Qat to promote local development
- Developing alternative means of entertainment
- Comprehensive and countrywide awareness on pesticides
- Develop an integrated pesticide policy (enforce existing laws)

- Donor coordination – establish a Qat donor coordination unit
- Selected pilot interventions supported by the donor community (alternative crops, alternative income generation outside of agriculture)
- Sensitize development projects to qat (include Qat components)