



Call for Papers

Pastoralism and Poverty Reduction in East Africa: A Policy Research Conference

**27-28 June 2006
Nairobi, Kenya**

Organized by the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI)

Most of East Africa's land mass falls in the arid and semi-arid lands (ASAL) where pastoralism based on extensive livestock production serves as the bedrock of livelihoods and culture. The ASAL regions are among the region's poorest, where weak infrastructure, widespread insecurity, frequent droughts and limited livelihood options keep many residents in conditions of poverty and vulnerability. Recurring shocks and an influx of refugees from conflict zones in various countries have created pockets of protracted relief operations that raise concerns about dependency on external assistance. Nonetheless, because population densities in the ASAL are low, central governments, donors and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) pay relatively little attention to the particular challenges that confront residents of the ASAL regions and thus to policies necessary to sustain and improve their livelihoods.

The challenge of poverty reduction policy in the pastoralist areas is compounded by the complex relationship of pastoralist peoples and the natural resource base on which they depend. The condition of ecologically complex rangelands and the wildlife populations on which much of the region's foreign exchange earnings from tourism depend are inextricable from the livelihood options facing pastoralists. Poverty reduction policy for pastoralists must therefore take on board difficult environmental issues as well.

National, provincial and local governments are confronting major policy questions that impact directly on the well-being of the region's pastoralists: concerning livestock marketing, land use and tenure, conflict mitigation and resolution, early warning systems and drought relief, gazettement of protected areas, decentralization of services provision, community empowerment, evolving social organization in response to increased commercialization, and livelihood diversification. Recent years have brought a resurgence of rigorous research on these issues, and more generally on pastoralists, their livelihoods and cultures, and the natural resources they depend on and affect.

The objective of this conference is to tap into the rich vein of emerging research results from a range of different disciplines, challenging researchers to convey the details of their findings while

also distilling these into practical, actionable points for policymakers. Through a combination of a few invited contributions from distinguished senior scholars and presentations selected competitively from submissions attracted by this call for papers, the organizers intend to pull together an integrated set of studies that, as an ensemble, synthesize the latest policy-relevant knowledge on the livelihood issues facing pastoralists and possible strategies and policies to address those issues so as to achieve sustainable poverty reduction in the ASAL regions of East Africa. The result will be an improvement in the evidence base used for the design and implementation of policies and projects aimed at reducing the poverty and vulnerability of pastoralists, and strengthened linkages between policy makers, researchers, development practitioners, and pastoralist communities.

The organizers invite proposals for original papers that fit the conference theme. The organizers plan to publish selected papers presented at this conference in an edited volume through a leading press.

Paper Proposal Submission Instructions

Send one electronic file (MS Word, Word Perfect, or Adobe Acrobat files only, please) of a four page paper proposal (complete papers are also acceptable) via email to Dr. Patti Kristjanson at ILRI (p.kristjanson@cgiar.org).

Paper proposals should explicitly identify the core hypotheses, methods and data used, preliminary results (if available), and the practical relevance of the research to contemporary policymaking related to poverty reduction in pastoral areas.

All proposals must be received **no later than 5 PM Nairobi time, Friday, 11 November 2005**. Submissions will be taken as confirmation that the paper has neither been published nor submitted for consideration for publication elsewhere.

Those who wish to be considered for partial funding of travel costs must provide evidence that they (i) are currently enrolled as a graduate student, (ii) completed their Ph.D. since January 1, 2000, or (iii) are resident in an East African country. Such evidence should accompany the paper proposal submission.

For further details contact Dr. Patti Kristjanson at p.kristjanson@cgiar.org, tel: 524-20-422-3000

Co-organizers: Prof. Chris Barrett (Cornell University, USA), Prof. Peter Little (University of Kentucky, USA), Prof. John McPeak (Syracuse University, USA), and the Arid Lands Resource Management Project

This conference is made possible thanks to financial support from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Strategies and Analysis for Growth and Access (SAGA) cooperative agreement, directed by Cornell University and co-directed in Kenya by the Institute for Policy Analysis and Research, by the USAID Global Livestock CRSP Pastoral Risk Management (PARIMA) project, led by Utah State University, and by the World Bank.