Rural market factors as a strategy to poverty reduction

THE Institute of Policy Analysis and Research (IPAR) will host a one-day international conference on February 10, 2005 at the Grand Regency Hotel, Nairobi. This conference, which will run under the theme of Empowering the Rural Poor and Reducing Rural Poverty: Risks and Vulnerability will be officially opened by the Minister for Agriculture, Irrigation and Water resources.

It will undertake a series of research undertaken by local and international experts on the strategies for increased productivity through rural factor markets.

The conference whose sessions are geared towards empowering the rural poor are being held in Kenya.

A pastoralist explaining how thieves stashed his cow in Gilgil, where he had taken cow to look for pasture. Communities can be empowered through group social welfare.

A team of four policy analysts from KIPIPA look at the effects of market price volatility on production patterns of smallholder maize farmers.

Noting that the community-based groups are important vehicles for promoting rural economic welfare, offering buffers against natural and policy shocks, the paper finds that they are vocal, and effective in addressing these challenges. Furthermore, the study of further innovations in institutions within the rural microfinance sector is needed to mobilize resources while other policies to empower the poor to improve their access to rural financial services such as village banks are a necessity.