



International Trip Report: Kenya and South Africa

Rural Markets, Natural Capital, and Dynamic Poverty Traps

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- Dates:** 3 – 20 August 2003
- Itinerary:** 3-4 August: travel from Ithaca to Nairobi, Kenya
5 August: work in Nairobi (supposed to travel to Marsabit, but flight cancelled)
6 August: travel from Nairobi to Marsabit, field site visit and meetings with local stakeholders
7 August: travel from Marsabit to Nairobi, by way of field site.
8-13 August: meetings and work in Nairobi
13 August: travel to Durban, South Africa
14-15 August: USAID BASIS CRSP Technical Committee meetings, Umzumbe, South Africa (an hour or so south of Durban)
16-19 August: 25th Triennial Meetings of the International Association of Agricultural Economists, Durban
19-20 August: Travel back to Ithaca
- Objectives:** The purposes of the trip were, roughly in chronological order, (1) to visit BASIS and GL CRSP field research sites in northern Kenya (Dirib Gombo and Logologo) and to participate in community meetings in those locations, (2) to meet with KARI-Marsabit and to investigate the possibility of hosting the 2004 BASIS CRSP annual team meeting in Marsabit, (3) to participate in the GL CRSP PARIMA project national policymakers workshop on “Kenya Pastoralists and the Policy Environment” and the GL CRSP livestock marketing workshop, (4) to work with coauthor Dan Maxwell of CARE-Nairobi on food aid book, (5) to participate in the BASIS CRSP Technical Committee annual meeting, (6) to meet with SAGA-Kenya collaborators to check on the status of their research projects, (7) to meet with the World Bank’s Resident Representative to Kenya to discuss possible funding for graduate student research projects, (8) to direct a one-day learning workshop on poverty analysis the day prior to the opening of the triennial International Association of Agricultural Economists (IAAE) meetings, and (8) to participate in the 25th triennial IAAE meetings. Formal meetings with USAID staff in Kenya were not planned, but the expectation was that several would be participating in the GL CRSP workshops and those fora would provide sufficient opportunities to brief them on project developments and to listen to their current research needs and policy concerns.

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SUMMARY RESULTS

The trip was generally very successful, in spite of an inauspicious beginning, Heavy fog in Nairobi forced cancellation of my morning MAF flight to Marsabit the first morning (it was to be a 6-seater without instrumentation for clearing the ceiling without adequate visual range). So I returned to the hotel to work on my laptop and to telephone to Dr. John McPeak, who was to meet me in Marsabit. John is the BASIS/PARIMA team member who directed our field work in northern Kenya and had spent the preceding month there meeting with various local stakeholder groups from government, local and international NGOs working in the area and the study communities, corroborating some of the core findings, discussing our results with them, and getting their explanations for the sorts of dynamics we seemed to see in the data.

The MAF flight was able to get out to Marsabit on Wednesday morning, August 6. The morning was somewhat surreal in its contrasts, from a movie star and an ambassador at the beginning to a room full of extremely poor pastoralists a couple of hours later. The small terminal at Wilson airport had only two groups that morning, a UNICEF group of 10-12 people heading for Goma and refugee camps in the eastern DR Congo on a charter flight and 8 of us (including the pilot) heading up to northern Kenya on the MAF flight. The UNICEF group carried a lot of cameras and I thought I recognized one of the women in the group. On asking one of the younger staffers, it turned out that the woman I recognized was the movie star, Jessica Lange, a goodwill ambassador for UNICEF, who was heading out to visit the camps for a few days, cameramen and UNICEF handlers in tow. When I boarded the comfortable MAF 12-seater, I then found myself seated next to the Dutch ambassador to Kenya, Mrs. Tanya van Gool, who was headed up to Lodwar with one of her assistants to visit a project now winding down that had been financed by the Netherlands. The Dutch had cancelled all new aid programs to Kenya several years ago due to corruption problems and this was one of the incumbent projects to wind down. She hopes and expects the Dutch to resume aid programs to Kenya soon, given the change of government in late December and apparent progress in combating corruption in the country.

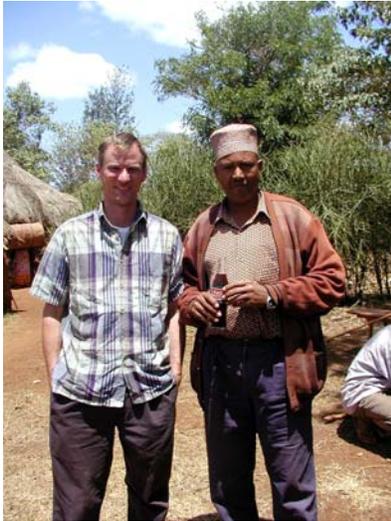
The clouds broke about 2/3 of the way to Marsabit, revealing the vast unoccupied expanses of northern Samburu and southern Marsabit Districts. It is hard to understand widespread claims of and concerns about generalized overgrazing when one observes how few people live or graze their animals in most of these lands and how much yellow pasture there is even now, four months after the long rains ended (see photos at right). Off the east side of the plane I couldn't see a settlement anywhere for an extended distance of perhaps 40-50 kilometers, not even a fora (satellite camp for migratory pastoralists) large enough to be visible from altitude. One reason for the deserted state of some of this land to the east of the Isiolo-Marsabit road is the general insecurity of the region at the frontier between the Somali, Samburu and Boran tribes. Insecurity makes large tracts of this area effectively a no-man's land (part of it is known to some locals as "Bosnia", due to the



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ethnic violence associated with that Balkans nation and this swath of northern Kenya). Driving back down the road the next day, I was struck by the number of herders in this region toting AK-47 semiautomatic rifles along with traditional spears and pangas.

Upon landing at the Marsabit air strip, I was met by one of our market monitoring enumerators, Abdillahi, who drove me out to Dirib Gombo, where I met up with John McPeak who had just



started the community meeting for BASIS/PARIMA. The meeting was led by John and the village chief Biqa Godana, who by the magic of random sampling, is also one of the respondents in the BASIS/PARIMA survey, a charismatic and energetic man probably in his mid-to-late 40s (see photo of chief with John, at left). There were 35-40 people in attendance total – with some coming and going over the course of the three hours – mostly men of all ages (see photo at right), with a number of women around the perimeter, standing outside or poking their heads through the windows of the one-room shack in which we met.

It was a lively and informative discussion. John plainly built up a

good rapport here during his time in the field. The mutual respect was very evident in the nature and tone of the discussions and the chief's clear encouragement of what we are doing. The community is very receptive to our continued presence here. After the community meeting, we adjourned to a nearby outdoor meeting area where I bought sodas and chewing tobacco for the participants.



Over the course of the meeting, John summarized for the group descriptive statistics from our survey work and offered our initial interpretations of what we were finding in the data, asking the group to explain or correct these interpretations. We also posed a variety of open-ended questions to them about what development interventions in their communities had worked best and why, what do they think would happen if livestock markets in the area were improved, etc., etc. Finally, we explained the ongoing research to be done here over the coming year, starting with the qualitative work to be carried out under BASIS by Gatarwa Kariuki (KARI-Marsabit) and Nelson Mango (ICRAF) later this month. They were very concerned that projects employ Boran from the community when doing research or development interventions in their area. They have (quite understandably) been upset by past projects that have brought in outsiders to do

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all the work. They are proud of their abilities and rightly point out that members of their community are in a better position to understand and interpret individual respondents' answers to survey questions and open-ended interviews than are outsiders unfamiliar with Boran pastoralists.

Some of the most important and lively discussions surrounded (i) Boran livelihood strategies, (ii) why this community experienced such a severe collapse in the 2000 drought, one from which it alone among our survey sites has not yet really recovered, (iii) their livestock marketing patterns, and (iv) nonpastoral employment options. Let me summarize a few of the key points here.

The residents are agro-pastoralists and very poor. Of all the BASIS sites, Dirib Gombo is by far the poorest, with no household exceeding \$0.50/day per capita (in 2002 dollars) during our 2000-2002 surveys. They depend primarily on livestock keeping, mainly cattle, although milk yields are low and they sell little of it on the Marsabit market, 11 kilometers to the west along the shoulders of Marsabit mountain. Milk productivity is low primarily because of poor water availability (which surprised me a bit, given the dense forest on the mountain just above them). For this reason, they find that milk yields are much higher, at least double, in *fora* (satellite camps), where water is relatively plentiful, as compared to *olla* (base camps). Because water is the key limiting factor here for livestock health and productivity, for crop production, and for human health, they view water development projects as their highest priority and past water as the most successful interventions undertaken to date among the Boran of Dirib Gombo. The chief says "water and markets are the main problems" his people face. It is important to note, however, that the claim about markets is inconsistent with the individual-level survey responses, which put livestock markets squarely in the middle of the development priority ranking.

Livestock are the cornerstone of the Dirib Gombo economy for both agroecological and cultural reasons. Grazing affords them spatiotemporal flexibility to deal with the water constraints that constantly threaten them. As a couple of respondents put it, "Livestock can move to the water. Fields can't." Social prestige and many cultural rituals in the community (especially bride price for marriage) are built around cattle. This discourages people from switching to camels, goats or sheep. Camels can handle the extended dry period better. Although during the rainy seasons (northern Kenya has bimodal rainfall, with rains typically in March-May and October-December), Dirib Gombo is too cold and wet for camels, they only have to go 10 or so kilometers away, off the mountain and into the desert for the camels to thrive even in the rainy seasons. They are not very familiar with camels, with a few households experimenting with them now. (The neighboring Rendille tribe and the Gabra raise many camels.) They are also experimenting a bit more with goats and sheep now.

Most of the Boran households of Dirib Gombo and the broader region came here only 20-30 years ago, driven out of southern Ethiopia by the Derg government and ethnic Somalis in southern Ethiopia. This fact is politically sensitive however, as Boran leaders seek to exert a

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historical claim to Marsabit mountain (“Saku” is the name of Marsabit in Boran) that excludes other groups. As a result, they have tense relations with their neighbors, especially the Rendille currently, but also at times with the Burgi and the Gabra. They bought up and occupied the old maize cultivating lands of the Burgi, a tribe also displaced from Ethiopia. The Burgi were brought to the area by British a century or so ago to raise maize and vegetables for the colonial service Northern Frontier District staff posted to this area. They imported Burgi farmers from the southern Ethiopian highlands because none of the northern Kenyan pastoralist tribes knew how to cultivate. The Burgi had thereby been turned into commercial cultivators. Over the years, this commercial orientation has advanced rapidly. Most have now graduated out of farming into commerce – livestock trading, trucking, shop owning, etc. – enabling them to sell off their lands to their fellow in-migrants, the Boran. The Burgi traders have a stranglehold on livestock trading in the area, creating serious collusion problems that affect the prices pastoralists receive for their animals and restrict entry by prospective competitors (see Hussein Mahmoud’s 2003 anthropology dissertation at the University of Kentucky).

The Boran also grow maize, although most years the crop is a complete failure, as this year’s appears to be (see photo at right), with endless fields of yellow, withered stalks with few or no even-immature ears visible. I asked several people why they persist in planting maize when the crop fails more often than not and they commonly go hungry and could eat the maize seed rather than planting it. The most convincing answer seemed to be that even a failed maize crop yields stalks and leaves on which their cattle can graze. So they effectively see maize cultivation as a way of growing fodder with the occasional bonus of a harvestable crop of maize for human consumption (they grow nowhere near enough to sell any significant volume). Back in the late 1980s (1988-89 seemed to be the consensus years), the Boran were getting quite a bit of their food from own crop production. Since that time, the rains have become worse and they have depended overwhelmingly on their livestock. They claim, however, that the soils are fertile, that in good years they have gotten 8 90kg bags of maize per acre (e.g., 1.7-2.0 tons/hectare, an above average yield in Kenya).



The Boran explain the collapse of their herds in 2000 as follows. The watering points on their side of Marsabit mountain are relatively few and far between. In 2000, low rainfall caused a mismatch in resource availability; where there was water there wasn’t good pasture, and vice versa. So they had to keep trekking their herds locally between water and grass, which wore the

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animals down. Once they decided that water and forage availability on the shoulders of the mountain would not suffice to last them until the next rains, the animals were already tired. The most direct route to the more distant good watering and grazing areas passed through Rendille territory and they could not negotiate safe access through the area with their neighbors. So they had to take a longer route, with insufficient water along the route. As a consequence of their management decisions, the animals' preexisting fatigue, the longer distance and poorer water on the route they had to take due to ethnic conflict, most of the herds (and, they said, some herders) died before they reached the distant foraging watering points. The herds that remained behind did poorly too because there was little labor available to harvest roots or acacia pod or other supplemental feeds to bring to the animals. Consequently, this was a distributionally progressive collapse, with the ex ante wealthiest members of the community losing far more than the ex ante poorer households. The key seems to be that in times of stress, the limiting factor is labor in bringing food to animals when natural forage becomes insufficient and the traditional strategy of migrating animals to satellite camps in extensive grazing areas fails. Hence the importance of cultivating maize in the rainy season so that there will be additional forage material (at least) for the animals come dry season.

The Boran told us that the local livestock market was fine for restocking herds, so long as one has the money to buy animals. They didn't sell in the 2000 drought – and commonly don't – because the price collapses and it just isn't worth it to take the animals to market to sell. They'd rather take their chances on keeping the livestock alive through the drought most years. Sell only when you need cash for something.

When asked why so few of them have salaried employment, they immediately pointed to very weak labor demand in the area. Even college leavers couldn't find work. Part of the issue is the geography and politics of NGO project placement. The Boran claim, with some justification, that they have been left out. Even the missionaries go to the lowland groups in the deserts and work with them, employing their school leavers (as an interesting tangent, John McPeak tells me that the best secondary school for boys in the District is in Dirib Gumbo: St. Paul's). There's little to nothing done among the Boran along the mountain. They are nonetheless still sending their children to school when they can afford it. Three of our project enumerators saved up their salaries from the project and are now in college! Perhaps more surprisingly, there is relatively little migration out of here by school leavers and thus few remittances back into the community from Nairobi and other cities down country. They say it is hard for them to find support networks in cities. They also seem to have a stronger-than-normal preference for remaining in their ancestral community and maintaining their Boran identity. This all remains rather murky and speculative to me, however ... good fodder for some solid ethnographic work, perhaps.

Because my Tuesday flight was cancelled, there wasn't time for me to visit any of the other study communities here. I had hoped to visit Kargi, a Rendille community in the desert northwest of Marsabit an hour or two, and Logologo, an Ariaal community in the drylands south

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of Marsabit along the road. We drove through Logologo on our way south to Nairobi on Thursday, but didn't have time to stop. John had gone ahead and done all of the community stakeholder meetings in the preceding weeks. He reports that they had gone well and he will be sending along more information on these meetings in the near future.

We stopped in briefly at KARI-Marsabit to call on the Director, Dr. George Keya, who was out, as was Mr. Gatarwa Kariuki, the station social scientist working with the BASIS project. We also made a brief courtesy call on the local director of the Arid Lands Resources Management Program (ALRMP), Mr. Godana Doyo, a Gabra scientist who is currently seconded to Arid Lands from KARI. ALRMP is the Office of the President's primary initiative for working with pastoralists and has been funded by the World Bank for 6-8 years now. They have apparently just gotten a massive renewal from the Bank for ongoing work for several years. Godana and I discussed options as to how to integrate PARIMA and BASIS research into ALRMP interventions effectively in the Kenyan ASAL.

We stopped by the Marsabit Lodge in Marsabit National Park, to check on the possibility of holding the next BASIS team meeting there in March 2004. The lodge is attractive, nestled against a lovely little lake (the far shore of which was being grazed by cape buffalo while we were there) and crawling with baboons. It has 24 rooms and was utterly deserted. The park is covered in dense forest (see photo to right, taken from plane while flying in), we caught some glimpses of elephant through the leaves, but saw little else through the dense foliage. The contrast between the wet, cool, richly forested mountain and the surrounding desert is quite striking (see photo of the forest edge transition to rangeland, to the right).

At day's end, we headed to John McPeak's house in the village of Karare, about 20 kilometers from Marsabit town at the southern base of the mountain. This is a lovely place of long vistas and delightful breezes. John's wife, Margaret, grew up here and we stayed in Margaret's family's compound. It was a delightful evening. The Leala family had slaughtered and roasted a goat for us and we feasted and visited with the family.

Thursday was the long haul back to Nairobi. We left Karare 6:30-6:45 in the morning, John,



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Korea (his brother-in-law and one of our field enumerators ... delightful and bright fellow), and me. We stopped briefly in Laisamis, a small Catholic mission town along the road, where John had arranged to pick up one of our enumerators and his father, who was there at the hospital and needed to be transported south to the far better hospital at Wamba. Unfortunately, the father wasn't yet in condition to travel, so he and his son would need to stay there for another ten days or so. As is common in many of these little roadside towns, women hawking handmade beaded jewelry swarmed the vehicle when we stopped. Apparently, Laisamis used to have a road block under the past government, forcing lorries and tour vehicles to stop, creating a market for these women. The new NARC government that took power in January 2003 has lifted all the road blocks. Now these women have lost much of their market. Ah, the law of unintended consequences ... We safely cleared the poor condition dirt road at Isiolo about 11:45 and reached Nanyuki, where we stopped for lunch an hour and a half later. Then it was on into Nairobi and the ILRI campus, where we met up with PARIMA team members, had dinner and spent the night.

Friday was spent at KARI Headquarters, participating in the PARIMA project workshop "Kenya Pastoralists and the Policy Environment: Linking Research with Decision Making," which was opened by the new Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Development, the Hon. Joseph Munyao. The workshop, organized by Prof. Abdillahi Aboud, a rural sociologist at Egerton University, had 50-60 total attendees, coming from national government (one Minister of Parliament, the Minister, his Permanent Secretary and one of his Directors, a Kenya Livestock Marketing Commission representative, and a few Arid Lands Resources Management Program representatives), local government (clerks and chairmen of Baringo, Marsabit, Moyale and Samburu Country Councils), national research institutes (the KARI Deputy Director and several of his Assistant Directors, Egerton University researchers), regional organizations (AU/IBAR), USAID (both Kenya and REDSO), various NGOs (FARM Africa, CIFA, RECONCILE), and half a dozen or so members of the Kenya press (print, radio and TV). The workshop program (Appendix A) featured talks by policymakers and local researchers in the morning, followed by open discussion about research priorities for the coming three years. There were unanimous and strong calls for a national pastoral development policy in Kenya and for this policy to be founded on solid research findings. Different speakers offered different emphases, but there was a strong consensus that the focus needs to be on pastoralists as people, not on their livestock. That is, researchers and policymakers need to pay attention to basic human needs and broader livelihoods strategies issues, not just to livestock production and marketing and drought emergencies issues most relevant to the middle and upper parts of the wealth distribution in ASAL regions. There was likewise strong support voiced for continuing our long-term monitoring of survey households and for providing analytical backstopping and information to local and national stakeholders. One proposal upon which the group acted immediately was to create a small working group on pastoralism in Kenya of half a dozen individuals from Kenyan organizations concerned with pastoralism (KARI-Keya, ALRMP- Fatouma, Moyale DC, CIFA-Chachu, PARIMA-Aboud, RESPONSE - Ochieng), with strong analytical backstopping from

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PARIMA.

I had to skip out of the PARIMA workshop for the second half of the morning to visit with the World Bank Country Director for Kenya, Eritrea and Somalia, Dr. Makhtar Diop, a former Minister of Finance in Senegal. Diop is a very charismatic and bright fellow who is keen to engage Cornell as a partner in the World Bank's work trying to improve statistical analysis and economics/agricultural economics analytical capacity in Kenya. He is very open to supporting a local field liaison for PARIMA's work in north-central Kenya – which can perhaps be handled best through a contract with ILRI in collaboration with Cornell and Syracuse ... John McPeak and I will chat with Patti Kristjanson about this possibility – and would like to have the Bank cosponsor SAGA, BASIS and PARIMA workshops and publications, including perhaps the Qual-Quant SAGA workshop in March. He is especially concerned about pastoralists and would like to push for the Bank to start a significant Trans-African Pastoralism project involving countries from east, west and southern Africa. As it happened, Diop was profiled in the *Standard* on the weekend for his love of art and music. He is apparently an outstanding electric bass guitar player and an avid collector of African art. No wonder I was impressed with the fellow!

The weekend was spent at the home of an old friend, Dan Maxwell, with whom I am writing a book on food aid. Much to his 12 year old daughter, Clare's, chagrin (Dan's wife and son were off in Zimbabwe for a week), Dan and I spent most of the weekend working on the book. We made good progress and should have Part I, comprising the first 75% or so of the book's pages, done by the end of the month.

We had dinner on Saturday night at the home of Dr. Chip Stem, the AU/IBAR veterinarian who previously directed Tufts University's programs on livestock and who is leading the effort to launch a Red Sea Livestock Trade Commission (LTC). The LTC has developed a plan for certification of animal health so as to open up export markets, especially on the Saudi peninsula. The idea is to unbundled testing and certification, which are presently a one-stop shop that lends itself to bribery and corruption, incorporating proper laboratory testing and auditing of lab results and financial books. They are exploring ideas for implanting micro chips on livestock so as to provide animal-specific guarantees of health status. The effort remains in formative stages, not yet launched, but they expect to become active within six months, starting in Djibouti. Also at Chip's were Yakob Aklilu, an Ethiopian agricultural economist with AU/IBAR who has worked extensively on livestock marketing and was likewise attending the USAID workshop the following week, and Maureen Wang'ati, a monitoring and evaluation specialist with Chemonics' RATES project on promoting agricultural trade expansion in east Africa.

On Sunday evening, we went to dinner with Dr. Dave Acker, chair of the USAID GL CRSP Program Advisory Committee (PAC) and an old college soccer teammate of Dan Maxwell's. Dave is a delightful and interesting fellow who spent several years living and working in

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Tanzania in the 1970s-80s. He is now assistant dean and director of international programs at Iowa State. After dinner I moved over to the Safari Park hotel, up Thika Road north of Nairobi, where the USAID GL CRSP Livestock Marketing workshop took place Monday morning through Wednesday afternoon.

The workshop on livestock marketing in Kenya and Ethiopia involved 30-40 participants, most from Ethiopia and Kenya. The only US-based researchers attending were John McPeak (the workshop organizer), Peter Little (Kentucky), Jerry Stuth (Texas A&M), Tag Demment (UC-Davis, GL CRSP Director) and Dave Acker (Iowa State, GL CRSP PAC Chair). There were a couple of European researchers (John Morton of NRI (UK) and Fred Zaal (Amsterdam)). A wide range of NGOs, local and national government agencies and regional organizations (e.g., AU/IBAR) were represented, as well as USAID-REDSO and Kenya mission. The objective of this workshop was to establish what is and is not known through research about livestock marketing in the region, what works and what doesn't, and to establish research priorities related to livestock marketing in the region. The workshop was opened by Tag Demment and by representatives from the Ethiopian Livestock Marketing Authority and the Kenya Livestock Marketing Commission. Ethiopia LMA emphasized the need to study pastoralist marketing behavior, market structure and performance and associated development options, modalities for formalizing livestock trade and developing highland-ASAL linkages. Kenya LMC emphasized importance of developing infrastructural and institutional capacity to become able to seize higher value-added contracts for market supply. The small group and plenary discussions about what is known about livestock marketing in the region and what are priority topics for further research went reasonably well. There was much energetic and interesting interaction between researchers and development practitioners. Peter Little and I spoke with Tag Demment about the potential for nesting the follow-on project under the PARIMA umbrella and Tag seemed quite open to that possibility, as did Dave Acker when I ran the idea past him. John McPeak, Peter Little and I agreed that John and Peter should co-direct this. Peter will draft a two page concept note to run by Layne and Tag.

Nelson Mango (ICRAF) and Gatarwa Kariuki (KARI-Marsabit) came out to the Safari Park Monday evening to meet John McPeak and me and to discuss the upcoming BASIS qualitative work in Dirib Gombo (Marsabit). Mainly we worked out logistical and timing issues, although we also talked through the basic methods a bit and I encouraged Nelson to think of putting together a proposal and paper for the May 2004 Toronto conference on integrating qualitative and quantitative approaches to poverty analysis. He seems keen on the idea.

James Nyoro of Tegemeo was supposed to meet me for breakfast Tuesday morning (12 August), but he was called to a meeting in Entebbe, Uganda, so we just spoke by phone on Monday afternoon. He will get the last administrative details finished up that Philip Neuwirth needs in order to transfer funds to Tegemeo under the SAGA project. He also volunteered to house Andrew Mude at Tegemeo when Andrew comes in September for his dissertation field work.

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This is a natural pairing since Tegemeo's SAGA research is, like Andrew's dissertation fieldwork, on producer groups. This should be a mutually beneficial linkage. James also expressed a keen interest in getting other Cornell students to come work with Tegemeo, perhaps with some of the World Bank funding Diop is offering. James is a part of Luc Christiansen's four country study on agriculture and poverty based on panel data in Kenya, Ethiopia, Uganda and Madagascar. The Tegemeo panel data would be available to Cornell students wishing to work on such issues in Kenya. This might be a good opportunity for Paswel, Felix and/or Sharon.

Frank Place, Alice Pell, John McPeak and I met for breakfast on the morning of Wednesday, August 13, to discuss the BASIS project, its links with the NSF project and the possibilities for an extension of the BASIS project. We agreed that there remain interesting and important questions that could potentially be explored under an extension of BASIS, but that it would be sensible to concentrate the project more tightly around questions of identifying the locations of the thresholds that define poverty traps and the efficacy of alternative safety net interventions to prevent people falling into poverty traps, leaving the bioeconomic modeling to the NSF project now that it has been funded and is taking a more sophisticated and intensive tack on that problem. The big questions surrounding the possibility of a BASIS extension are (i) whether the BASIS ME will be open to an extension, and (ii) staffing of our project, given that Frank is now a team leader with ICRAF, Festus' responsibilities at KARI keep growing, Jhon is extremely busy getting the vet school started in Antananarivo and I'm taking on the editorship of AJAE. Bart and/or John might be able and willing to step up and play a greater role in a second phase, but that remains to be seen. We will have to continue to explore these issues. In subsequent conversations in Durban with Tom Reardon and Lena Heron, it seemed that there might be excellent potential to propose a new project, perhaps in collaboration with Jo Swinnen at Leuven, doing comparative analysis on how changing food marketing systems are affecting asset poverty thresholds for smallholders: who has the scale and the inputs (quality as well as quantity) to enter high-value marketing channels and who doesn't and how are those thresholds changing with, for example, the rapid rise of supermarkets and fast food outlets even in places like Kenya, Madagascar, Guatemala and Croatia? This might be a good hook for focusing the project more, pulling it a bit more toward output markets (without abandoning factor markets), and introduce an important intercontinental comparative component.

John Omiti and I met by telephone on the 13th to talk about the SAGA program in Kenya. We had been scheduled to meet the evening of August 12 for dinner, but John was unable to make it as he was delayed visiting a friend in the hospital. We discussed the prospective Qual-Quant workshop on poverty dynamics analysis in Kenya, tentatively planned for March, and the possibility of getting some World Bank funding for the event, as Makhtar Diop had offered. The subcontracts under SAGA are all falling into place and the individual projects have begun. We are thus about six months behind due to contracting lags (largely Cornell's fault, regrettably). We may need to delay the intended policy conferences as a result. Of course, the Kenya

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activities were among SAGA's earliest, so the delays aren't a significant problem in the grander SAGA scheme of things. Given the formative stages of the KRDS and PRSP processes, however, the sooner we can get a strong program assembled, the better the likelihood of affecting the course of the policy deliberations about rural development strategy in Kenya under the new NARC government.

Peter Little and I left Nairobi together for Durban mid-afternoon on Wednesday, August 13, via South African Airways (with a spectacular flyover of Mount Kilimanjaro en route from Nairobi to Johannesburg) to attend the USAID BASIS Technical Committee annual meeting. We met up with BASIS Director Michael Carter at the Durban airport and drove through a fierce downpour to the meeting venue in Umzumbe, an hour or so down the coast. The meetings were very stimulating. BASIS has an excellent group of researchers, mainly economists (Alain DeJanvry, Bruce Gardner, John Kerr, and Dan Gilligan from the US, plus Festus Murithi from Kenya, Workneh Negatu from Ethiopia, Eugenia Serova from Russia, Martin Valdivia from Peru, anthropologists Peter Little from the US and Linda Montillo-Burton from the Philippines, plus historian Wapu Mulwafu from Malawi. Michael Carter, USAID-Washington BASIS CTO Lena Heron, and the new BASIS Assistant Director, Eliza Waters, were the others in attendance. The program consisted of presentations from each project team and detailed discussions. The group is intellectually lively and mutually respectful. It's truly a fine group and very interesting discussions. Festus and I got some very helpful feedback and constructive criticism on the paper we presented and on our project more generally.

On Saturday, August 16, Csaba Csaki of the World Bank and I led a Learning Workshop on "Analytical and Empirical Tools for Poverty Research," featuring leading scholars such as Jock Anderson, Michael Carter, Stefan Dercon, Gershon Feder, Peter Hazell, Kei Otsuka, Tom Reardon and Steve Younger (see Appendix B for program). It was by far the most heavily subscribed of the three IAAE learning workshops on offer, with 108 registered delegates in attendance from many different countries, many African policy researchers sponsored by donor organizations. Two of the scheduled speakers – Biju Rao and Berk Ozler of the World Bank – were late cancellations due to travel problems, so Steve Younger and I substituted for Biju and Berk on the program. The informal feedback I heard on the workshop was all very positive, which was encouraging and satisfying. Many people were keen to get copies of the presentations, which I promised to put up on a website back at Cornell (with links through Dercon's web page, the BASIS and SAGA sites).

The main IAAE meetings went very well. I gave the opening plenary address in a session with Simon Maxwell (Director of London's Overseas Development Institute) and Alain DeJanvry (UC-Berkeley). Several people came up to me over the course of the following couple of days offering compliments, which was kind. The rest of the time was spent in various informal meetings. The SAGA-Kenya group met for lunch and agreed to hold the first policy workshop in July-August 2004 on the theme of Empowering the Rural Poor, spotlighting the IPAR and

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Tegemeo work, as well as dissertation research by Andrew Mude and David Amudavi, perhaps also Tom Reardon's student working on supermarkets and producer groups and others working on decentralization and local organizations, maybe even Sharon Osterloh's work on FSAs. I also met with Tom Reardon to discuss possible collaborative work under BASIS, with Patti Kristjanson to discuss possible collaborative work between ILRI and the PARIMA project, with Tom Tomich on progress in NRM research within the CGIAR, with Peter Hazell and Awudu Abdulai on a paper USAID has asked IFPRI to produce on the possibilities for using food aid for market development in Africa – which IFPRI is contracting with Awudu and me to write for them, and with Elsevier and the editorial team of *Agricultural Economics* about the status of the journal and new developments in electronic publishing tools ... information that should be very helpful for the *AJAE*.

In spite of a delay in leaving Johannesburg, I made it back on time, barely making the flight out of Amsterdam.

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Appendix A: Program for GL CRSP PARIMA Policymakers Meeting

KENYA PASTORALISTS AND THE POLICY ENVIRONMENT: LINKING RESEARCH WITH DECISION MAKING

A meeting on research focused on the north-central districts of Marsabit, Moyale, Samburu and Baringo, by the Pastoral Risk Management (PARIMA) Project of the Global Livestock-Collaborative Research Support Program (GL-CRSP), USAID.

The date, venue and programme

The one-day meeting will be held on Friday, the 8th of August, 2003, at Kenya Agricultural Research Institute (KARI) headquarters, Kaptagat Road, Loresho, in Nairobi. The KARI Conference Hall will be used.

The following is the programme, speakers and topics:

- 8.00 - 8.30 AM:** Registration - Tea/coffee/snacks
- 8.30 – 8.45 AM:** Welcoming remarks and introductions - Dr. Romano Kiome and Abdillahi About
- 8.45 – 9.00 AM:** Official opening - Hon. Joseph Munyao, Minister for Livestock Development & Fisheries
- 9.00 - 9.30 AM:** Keynote address - Hon. Kipruto arap Kirwa, Minister for Agriculture
- 9.30 – 9.45 AM:** Pastoral Relief and Development in Kenya's Rangelands: Development of Policies Supportive of Market-oriented Livestock Production in the Pastoral Areas
- Dr. Solomon Munyua, AU/IBAR/REDSO
- 9.45 – 10.00 AM:** Pastoral Relief and Development in Kenya's Rangelands: Crafting Statutes Supportive of the Evolving Policies on Pastoral Livestock Production
- Prof. Arthur Eshiwani, AU/IBAR/REDSO
- 10.00 - 10.30 AM:** PARIMA: Who We Are and Summary of Achievements, 1997-2003
– Layne Coppock
- 10.30 - 10.45 AM:** Tea/coffee break
- 10.45 - 11.15 AM:** Kenya's Arid Lands Legislation: Its Relevance to Pastoral Development
- Mr. Michael Ochieng Odhiambo
- 11.15 - 11.45 AM:** Critical Policy Constraints for Improving Pastoral Welfare in North-Central Kenya
- Mr. S.J. Otieno, District Commissioner, Marsabit
- 11.45 - 12.15 AM:** How the Policy Environment Needs to Change to Better Promote Pastoral Welfare

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- Hon. Dr. Bonaya Godana

12.15 - 12.45 PM: The role of Kenya Pastoral Parliamentary Group (KPPG) in fostering pastoral legislation - Hon. Ali Wario, Chairman, KPPG

12.45 - 2.15 PM: Lunch (& Friday prayers at Westlands)

2.15 - 5.15 PM: Discussion and wrap-up of major issues
– **Facilitators:** Michael Odhiambo and Abdillahi Aboud
Rapporteurs: Gebru Getachew, Solomon Desta and Jack Ouda

Major questions/issues to be brain-stormed and agreed upon, include:

- (1) What are critical policy/investment issues in north/central Kenya, in the eyes of policy/decision makers?
- (2) How do the policy/decision makers act, individually or collectively, to promote pastoral interests?
- (3) Do policy/decision makers see a linkage with Ethiopian policy/decision makers (in cross-border context) as desirable? What would be the constraints for the two groups to act more effectively? Do policy/decision makers see PARIMA having a role in the linkage?
- (4) How could the link between the policy/decision makers, KARI scientists and PARIMA activities be strengthened and sustained?
- (5) How can PARIMA best interact and facilitate research and related activities for the policy/decision makers' utility?

5.15 PM: Tea/coffee and departure

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Appendix B: Program for IAAE Learning Workshop

"Analytical and Empirical Tools for Poverty Research"

Learning Workshop of the 25th International Conference of Agricultural Economists Durban, South Africa, Saturday, August 16, 2003

Organizers: Chris Barrett (Cornell University) and Csaba Csaki (World Bank)

- 8:00-9:00 **Workshop/Conference Registration**
- 9:00-9:05 **Introductory Remarks (Chris Barrett and Csaba Csaki)**
- 9:05-10:05 **Michael Carter (University of Wisconsin-Madison):** Poverty dynamics: An overview of theory and empirical methods using panel data
- 10:05-11:05 **Chris Barrett (Cornell University):** Integrating quantitative and qualitative poverty analysis tools
- 11:05-11:30 Coffee/tea break
- 11:30-12:30 **Steve Younger (Cornell University):** Welfare comparisons across different measures: multidimensional poverty concepts and methods
- 12:30-1:45 Lunch
- 1:45-2:45 **Berk Ozler (World Bank):** Poverty mapping: integrating survey and census data to generate more spatially comprehensive poverty assessments.
- 2:45-3:45 **Stefan Dercon (University of Oxford):** Dynamic vulnerability analysis using panel data
- 3:45-4:15 Coffee/tea break
- 4:15-5:45 Panel on current thinking on poverty reduction policy and rural development: **Jock Anderson (World Bank), Gershon Feder (World Bank), Peter Hazell (IFPRI), Kei Otsuka (Foundation for Advanced Studies on International Development, Japan), Tom Reardon (Michigan State University)**
- 5:45-6:00 **Closing Remarks (Csaba Csaki and Chris Barrett)**

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