



Trip Report: Building Assets for Sustainable Recovery and Food Security

Ethiopia: 21-28 April, 2002

By Peter D. Little

Main Purposes:

--to participate in a Regional Policy Conference on 'Policies for Sustainable Land Management in the East African Highlands', co-sponsored by ILRI, IFPRI, ICRAF, and UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), and held at the UNECA Conference Centre, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Little and Negatu were invited to this conference, which was a follow up to an earlier workshop that was attended by Mike Roth of BASIS in January 2001.

--to meet with policy makers from the Amhara Regional State

--to work with IDR, Addis Ababa University on South Wello study. Workneh, co-PI of the BASIS/Ethiopia project, and Mulat Demeke of the BASIS Case Study in South Wello, also attended the conference.

21-22 April: Depart Lexington and arrive Addis Ababa on April 22nd (evening)

23 April: Visited IDR and met with BASIS researchers, Yigremew Adal and Workneh Negatu; arranged to take back to the USA the round 4 data and outputs from the S. Wello household study; worked on agenda for upcoming June seminar on food security policy in Dessie, Ethiopia; made budget amendments and revisions to the IDR/BASIS budget.

--met with Yigremew Adal regarding PhD training fellowship to attend US university and status of planned collaboration between Ethiopian and Honduran research teams.

24-26 April 2002: Participated in Regional Policy Conference at UNECA—the goals of the conference were: to review, discuss and synthesize the findings and policy implications of research related to sustainable land management in the East African highlands region; to increase policy makers and other stakeholders' awareness of the impacts of policies, programs and other factors on land management, agricultural productivity, poverty and food security; and to discuss promising strategies to promote more sustainable land management, increased agricultural productivity, and reduced poverty and food insecurity, and consider priorities for policy action.

Implications for BASIS project: (1) Both Negatu and Little heard several IFPRI/ILRI and other papers related to food security and land management in the Amhara region and discussed modes of collaboration with programs of IFPRI, ICRAF, Agricultural University of Norway (which has an on-going research on land use in the highlands parts of Amhara Region), and Amhara Regional Agricultural Research Institute (ARARI); (2)

held discussions with several key researchers and officials in the region: Tedele Gebre-Selassie, USAID, John Lynam, Rockefeller Foundation, Frank Place and Brent Swallow of ICRAF, John Pender and Pamela Jagger of IFPRI, Isaac Minde of ECAPAPA (East and Central Africa), Simeon Ehui, BerhanuGebremedhin, Sam Benin, and Mohammed Jabbar of ILRI, and Stein Holden of the Agricultural University of Norway; (3) presented and discussed our BASIS project with several federal and Amhara Region officials; and (4) heard and discussed the most recent land management and agricultural policies for highland Ethiopia.

26 April (PM): met with Abdel Ghaffar and Alameyehu of OSSREA regarding their BASIS activity on 'post-drought recovery strategies among pastoralists in the Horn of Africa.'

--held meetings with Workneh Negatu and Mesfin Tedesse of IDR regarding upcoming June seminar and need for review of development policies and programs in the Amhara Region. We agreed to hire a local research assistant in South Wello to collect all available policy statements and policy-based reports related to food security, post-famine recovery, and factor markets in the area. Workneh Negatu and Yigremew Adal agreed to oversee this activity and to prepare a paper on development policies in the region, highlighting critical policy actions related to the BASIS research program. A preliminary summary of this work would be presented in Dessie at the June meeting, along with other reports from the BASIS program.

27 April: met with Stein Holden of the Agricultural University of Norway regarding their research program in the Amhara region and possible collaboration with our BASIS project;

--spent part of day reviewing the most recent data outputs and tables from the South Wello household study;

--departed to USA via Frankfurt, Germany.

28 April (late PM): arrived back in Lexington, KY, USA (late evening arrival in USA due to missing onward flight connection in Frankfurt).

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Posted 7 October, 2002

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