



Trip Report: Building Assets for Sustainable Recovery and Food Security

Ethiopia and Kenya: 5-16 March, 2002

By Peter D. Little

Purposes:

1. Originally a trip was planned for January 2002 to meet with Zonal and Regional government officials in Ethiopia regarding the BASIS research program and to work on the South Wello household study. The trip was postponed until March because of government reorganization in the Amhara Region and South Wello Zone. In early March 2002 we formed a Policy Liaison Committee in South Wello and Oromiya Zones and the first committee meeting was held in Dessie in early March. A short report by Workneh Negatu on the first policy meeting is available on the BASIS Webb page. The March trip was planned to work with IDR on planning for a second set of policy meetings to be held at Dessie and Bahr Dar in June 2002 and to work on other aspects of the Ethiopian research program.
2. To recruit and meet with Ethiopian researchers to participate in a USAID/Ethiopia funded case study of non-farm activities and employment in the BASIS study region. To meet with USAID about this study.
3. To meet with OSSREA researchers in Ethiopia who are carrying out a literature review on pastoral drought recovery strategies in the Horn of Africa for the BASIS research program; and to discuss possible further publication plans for the BASIS/OSSREA Cross-Border Trade Study.
4. To work with IDR researchers on data cleaning and analysis of Rounds 4 and 5 of the Household Study.
5. To work with US/Kenyan researcher, Kevin Smith, on a qualitative community assessment study in Samburu/Baringo, Kenya as part of the new BASIS project in the area. The Kenyan sits are part of the GL-CRSP/Pastoral Risk Management in East Africa (PARIMA) project and Peter Little's long-term research in the area. As part of the new BASIS project Little and Kenya colleagues will update part of the PARIMA household survey as well as carry out additional anthropological research comparable to the on-going work in South Wello, Ethiopia.

Itinerary, Activities, and Accomplishments:

March 5-7: Depart Lexington on March 5 and arrive Nairobi (AM, March 7)

March 7 (arrive without luggage so spend additional time searching for bag and competing forms)

--Meeting (PM) with Kenyan researcher Kevin Smith to go over the community assessments in Samburu/Baringo that were conducted in February/March. Data are in text form and in excel format and Little checked data and questionnaires to insure accuracy (agreed to meet again on Friday 3/8/02 to discuss Little's comments and need for additional work).

March 8: Spent time reviewing Kenyan questionnaires and met again with Kevin Smith to go over Kenyan questionnaires and plans for producing research report on activity.

--met with Brent Swallow, ICRAF—Brent indicated that he/ICRAF recently had been to Ethiopia to work with new Amhara Agricultural Research Institute (AMARI). IFPRI plans to have small policy-based research activity in Amhara Region helping AMARI with policy analysis related to tenure and land use. He is interested in collaborating with the BASIS/South Wello project because we have longitudinal data on one part of Amhara Region and on topics of interest to IFPRI. I gave him some recent BASIS reports and he indicated that he would be at the IFPRI/ILRI/ICRAF Highlands Policy workshop in Addis Ababa as would regional policy makers from Amhara Region and AMARI. The ICRAF link will be important for helping us disseminate our research findings to policy makers in Amhara Region and in the region generally.

--met with John Mugabe (Executive Director), Jeremy Lind, and Raymond Kitenu of ACTS, Nairobi. ACTS was funded to do work under BASIS I related to water tenure and management in East Africa. We discussed possible roles that ACTS might play in the new BASIS project particularly providing research support to the Baringo/Samburu sites in Kenya and helping to forge links with Kenyan policy makers. ACTS provided me with their recent publications on resource-related conflicts in East Africa I learned that Dr. Mugabe will step down as Executive Director of ACTS in June 2002.

--had dinner with David Campbell of Michigan State U and Len Berry of Florida Atlantic U who were in Nairobi for a workshop in Nairobi. In collaboration with ILRI, they are involved with a GEF-funded activity looking at land use changes in three sites in East Africa.

March 9: Continued to work on Kenya community data set and met again with Kevin Smith and generated some preliminary tables and graphs from excel data set. Further cleaned up the Kenyan data.

--met with John McPeak, PARIMA/GL-CRSP Post-Doctoral Researcher about supplementing on-going PARIMA research in Baringo/Samburu with 15 additional households in each site (the Baringo households that we selected to add to the existing PARIMA sample are households that were in my original research sample from 1980-1981; the Samburu households were to be selected from a pastoral sub-location called Lomolok). This would give BASIS access to a sample of 45 households in Baringo and 45 in the Samburu sites; the PARIMA data set started in March 2000 at approximately the same time as our South Wello research and captures the impacts of the drought and post-drought recovery stages. Fifteen households were already randomly selected by field

assistants for the Samburu site and enumerators had already made contact with the 15 households (or relatives/descendants) from my original 1980-1981 study. Plans were made to do an initial baseline survey (household heads and one key economic agent — either a spouse or older child) in March 2002 and then to carry out a repeat round in July 2002. The PARIMA/GL-CRSP survey ends in June-July 2002 but the BASIS “Assets” project would follow up with a round in June-July 2003 to look at asset rebuilding and other recovery strategies. The additional data would be freely shared with the GL-CRSP/PARIMA project (of which Little is a Co-PI). Because the Sudan dropped out as a BASIS research site, the Kenyan sites were added at very little cost because of the availability of existing data and on-going research in area.

--also discussed a joint publication that I am writing with McPeak.
(spent time at airport trying unsuccessfully to find out what happened to my luggage!!)

March 10 (Sunday) met again with McPeak and worked on Kenyan data.

March 11: Talked with Wilson Nguyu, Director, Tegemeo Institute about their BASIS-funded research in Mwea, Kenya. He indicated that after many delays due to conflicts in the area, field research was finally proceeding and he expected that they would complete the project and final report by the deadline of 9/30/02.

--Met with Kevin Smith and received revised data set that he worked on over the weekend. Reviewed the work and made final plans for producing a report from the initial field research.

--Met again with John McPeak regarding household survey in Samburu/Baringo.

--Met with Robin Reid of ILRI regarding her work on pastoral ecology and landuse changes in Southern Kenya. Dr. Reid is a noted ecologist who I have known for more than 15 years and who is engaged in related research on pastoral and agropastoral landuse in Kenya. She shared some of her recent publications and we made plans to continue to share our research findings.

--Met with Diana Putman, Meg Brown, and Dan Evans of USAID to discuss BASIS work in Kenya and Ethiopia and collaboration with the PARIMA/GL-CRSP research program. They indicated that food insecurity in arid and semi-arid regions is a priority in the region, although there is not sufficient USAID funds available for research. We also discussed the policy implications of the recently completed Cross-Border Livestock Trade Study and plans for disseminating the study’s findings.

March 12: Depart from Nairobi to Addis Ababa (still with no luggage!!) (arrive Addis Ababa in PM)

--met with Workneh Negatu and Yigremew Adal, IDR regarding South Wello household study and plans for data cleaning and data analysis; discussed with Yigremew plans for Honduras trip in April (arranged to obtain visa from USA—trip was later postponed) and for his PhD training in the USA.

--met with Dejene Negassa, former MA student who conducted thesis research with grant from BASIS. Negassa will come to the USA to pursue PhD in anthropology at the University of Kentucky.

March 13: meeting with Alemayehu Azeze, OSSREA regarding current project on post-drought recovery strategies among pastoralists. Reviewed the literature guidelines and qualifications of team that was recruited to carry out work.

--met with Jennifer Sebsted about her involvement in BASIS case study of non-farm employment and activities in South Wollo. Jennifer is a gender/microenterprise specialist with vast field experience in Ethiopia. She agreed to participate in the study and we discussed her role in the research project

--met again with Workneh Negatu of IDR to further discuss the questions about data that Mike Roth and US researchers raised. Agreed that all of the data were there but that some restructuring of data base may be necessary. He said the results of round 4 of household study would be available by April 2002. The research team is currently in the field gathering data for Round 5 of household study. We discussed the kinds of analyses that need to be done in the next 3 months.

--met with Getachew Gebru and Solomon Desta, who are two GL-CRSP/PARIMA post-docs based in the region.

--worked on budget revisions for IDR activities in the coming year and on workshop proposal for June meetings in Bar Dahr and Dessie.

March 14: --met with Kurt Rocheman, Tadelle Gebre-Selassie, and Miselal Abraha of USAID. We discussed the additional funds provided by the USAID Mission for the South Wollo work and who had USAID would be backstopping the BASIS project during the next year. Kurt, who has been a helpful supporter of BASIS and good colleague to work with, will be moving to a USAID position in Guatemala in June 2002. Miselal will be the new BASIS contact person at the USAID Mission. The new Agricultural Development Officer is expected to arrive in Ethiopia during the summer 2002.

--met with Alula Pankhurst to go over comments and suggested revisions to his report on Tenure and Natural Resources Management in South Wollo. He expected to complete the final revisions in May/June at the latest. We also discussed a proposal of his for a conference on anthropology and natural resources management in Ethiopia that would solicit papers from the different Ethiopian anthropologists who have received training grants for PhD studies in Europe and USA. He thought that BASIS might want to participate and partially fund the activity because of the policy aspects and that some of the papers would deal with South Wollo. He thought that he might be able to obtain funds to support the conference and the publication of a proceedings from the Norwegian government because it funded the MA training program in anthropology at Addis Ababa University and some of the PhD students. I told him that I would look at the proposal and send comments.

--met with Tegegne Gebre-Egziabher and Mulat Demeke of Addis Ababa University about their interest and their roles in the case study of non-farm employment in South Wollo. We reviewed the original BASIS proposal had been funded. They agreed that they wanted to conduct the study during June-September and agreed to send me a budget and scopes of work within the next month. I met again on the next day (March 15th) with Tegene Gebre-Egziabher to further discuss methodology and research schedule for the case study.

March 15: Most of day was spent at Addis Ababa University campus working at OSSREA and IDR. Mainly worked on revisions to the household study database; the IDR workplan and budget for the remainder of the year; logistics of Yigremew's trip to Honduras; and the planned policy meetings scheduled for June 2002. At OSSREA I met again with Alemayehu Azeze about the pastoral drought-recovery study and with Tegegne Teka about publishing a book on the BASIS Cross-Border Study.
In PM departed to USA (via Nairobi and London)

March 16: late afternoon arrived back in Lexington, KY, USA. (On March 17th I was awoken by a phone call at 6:30 AM from Delta Airlines to let me know that my bag had finally arrived!!)

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Posted 7 October, 2002

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