



RUMINATIONS

NEWSLETTER OF THE GLOBAL LIVESTOCK COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH SUPPORT PROGRAM

Improving Wool & Cashmere Markets in Central Asia

Kazakstan and Kyrgyzstan, in common with the other Central Asian republics, had highly developed livestock industries which produce wool, animal fibers, pelts, and meat. Following the disintegration of the Soviet Union, these industries (and the Soviet market on which they were based) largely collapsed. Ten years later, the wool and fiber industries are experiencing a revival.

Dr. Kathleen Galvin, a senior researcher at the Natural Resource and Ecology Lab and Professor and Chair of the Anthropology Department at Colorado State University, is studying how the region's livestock resources can be better exploited to meet new commercial demand, as well as increase economic returns to producers. Galvin's project, "Feasibility of Market



Project researcher, Dr. Carol Kerven, sitting with a Kazak family. Galvin and Kerven carried out in-depth interviews of herders and their families in villages and homesteads of Kazakstan and Kyrgyzstan.

GL-CRSP Renewal Grant Projects Selected

Eleven projects have been selected to comprise the GL-CRSP portfolio as it renews its 5-year grant from USAID. The portfolio of projects reflects the evolution of dynamic projects, a responsiveness to new opportunities, and a completion of projects with defined or finite objectives. The full project proposals, submitted in November, were subjected to an extensive review process involving independent reviewers, the Program Administrative Council, and USAID including missions and regional offices. Those selected were chosen for their exemplary scientific merit, interdisciplinary

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Development and Support Services for Livestock Products in Kazakstan and Kyrgyzstan," focuses on a few high value products – fine wool and goat cashmere – and investigates the information and technology transfers needed to improve marketability. Galvin works with co-PIs Dr. Nurlan Malmakov from the newly organized Kazak Institute of Livestock and Veterinary Research and Dr. Irik Abdullavevich Almeev, from the Livestock Research Institute in Kyrgyzstan. Together, they want to help producers meet wool quality standards, capture niche markets for high-value products in competition with similar products on the world market, and develop the comparative advantages of unique animal genetic resources.

Recent assessments of the market for livestock products in Kazakstan and Kyrgyzstan have identified the greatest potential in fine sheep wool and goat cashmere. Unfortunately, there are few pure fine wool sheep left, since in the economic

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Global Livestock CRSP Renewal Grant Portfolio Selected

approach, policy relevance, and potential impacts and benefits to the US as well as their appropriateness to the GL-CRSP and USAID goals. Four assessment team grants were awarded through an open competition this winter (see related story page 6). All of the projects will be included in the GL-CRSP portfolio as part of the renewal grant.

Two of the projects selected for the next phase are led by past lead principal investigators. Dr. Jerry Stuth, Texas A&M University, led the Livestock Early Warning System (LEWS) project and will continue as lead principal investigator on the “Livestock Information Network & Knowledge System” (LINKS) project. The LINKS project builds naturally on and extends the LEWS system allowing more targeted efforts to focus on a broader suite of factors affecting the livestock markets of East Africa. The project evolved from the LEWS/PARIMA collaboration. Using a partnership approach with existing livestock marketing institutions in Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Djibouti, Uganda, and Tanzania, LINKS seeks to design and deliver an equitable livestock information and communication system (ICS) that provides monitoring and analysis technology to foster

strategic partnerships between pastoral communities, markets, and policy. The LINKS program will be built around emerging information technology, including 2-way satellite Internet systems, short message service cell phones, WorldSpace radios, and windup radios. Information provided will include spatial models of livestock movement, expected price/volume at secondary and terminal markets, forage supply, disease incidence, conflict, and water supply information.

Dr. Layne Coppock, Utah State University, will continue to lead the PARIMA project, “Improving Pastoral Risk Management on East African Rangelands,” into the next phase of the program. The project plans to continue its annual survey on pastoral household dynamics. This data base is unparalleled in terms of the scope of information on household level livestock management and mobility, food security, economic transactions, risk perceptions, activity profiles and inter-household transfers. Continuation of the surveys allows for documentation of the full crisis-recovery-crisis cycle. Additional PARIMA research priorities include diagnosis and ranking of livestock marketing constraints, analysis of household economic diversification in the context of

pervasive peri-urban sedentarization, and studying local opportunities for improving the provision of public services.

Collaboration with Egerton University through PARIMA has led to the development of a new project, “Multidisciplinary Research for Sustainable Management of Rural Watersheds: The River Njoro, Kenya,” (SUMAWA). The project is led by Dr. Scott Miller, University of Wyoming with African leadership provided by Dr. William Shivoga, Egerton University, Kenya.

Originally presented by Dr. Shivoga to the GL-CRSP Management Entity, as a modest watershed study, the SUMAWA project has evolved and developed into a dynamic project building local capacity in resource management. The SUMAWA project is a multidisciplinary research effort focusing on biophysical and human-related factors governing watershed processes for the purpose of improving long-term sustainability of rural watersheds in Kenya and East Africa. The research area is a critical watershed in southwest Kenya that has undergone recent and rapid land use change and population growth

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Livestock Early Warning Tools Focus of Capacity-Building Workshop in Ethiopia

A capacity-building workshop on *Livestock Early Warning Tools* was organized by the Livestock Early Warning System (LEWS) Project of the Global Livestock Collaborative Research Support Program (GLCRSP) for the Early Warning Department (EWD) of the Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Commission of Ethiopia (DPPC) and Allied Institutions. The Workshop, fully sponsored by the GLCRSP, was administered by LEWS.

The National Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Committee (NDPPC) of Ethiopia is responsible for the overall decision making on all matters related to disaster prevention and management. The committee consists of the Minister of Finance, Health and Economic Development and Coordination under the chairmanship of the Deputy Prime Minister. The DPPC is the secretariat of the NDPPC responsible for coordinating the day-to-day activities regarding disaster prevention and preparedness. The efforts of the DPPC are supported by different committees, such as the National Early Warning Committee and the Crisis Management Group. The EWD, one of the key departments of the DPPC, is charged with regular monitoring of the food security situation of the country. The short-term objective of the

department is to detect the likelihood of emergency as early as possible, while in the long-term it seeks to encourage rehabilitation and development activities that will mitigate or eliminate the root causes of the problem. The EWD takes the lead in the development of improved procedures for regular data collection, analysis and dissemination at the national level. The EWD has put in place four different teams to carry out the above noted activities. These are:

Crop Monitoring Team,
Market and Pastoral Surveillance Team,
Documentation Team, and
Field Surveillance Team

There is a critical need to improve the efficiency of institutions involved in early warning to implement a timely detection and declaration of a

disaster in the pastoral regions of Ethiopia. The poor infrastructure in these regions is a major obstacle to timely monitoring of the livelihood of pastoral communities and dissemination and communication of early warning reports to the decision-makers and users. Hence, the reporting of early warning information has not been effective in the pastoral areas of the country. The reporting systems used by the different organizations involved in early warning are not uniformly deployed. Therefore, there is an urgent need for improvement in communication facilities like telephone, radio, Internet and fax machines in key areas in the pastoral regions.

The workshop brought together 14 participants representing

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Validating Indicators for Dietary Quality and Diversity

It is currently believed that most diets in developing countries can supply adequate amounts of energy and protein, if the food is available in sufficient amounts but that the main nutritional problem in the world is a lack of micronutrients due to poor dietary quality. One of the most important, if not the most important, causes of poor diet quality in developing countries is a lack of animal source foods (ASF). However, there is no consistent definition of dietary quality and diversity, or of ASF intake, in developing countries, and thus no consistent indicators for its assessment, monitoring, or targeting and evaluating foodbased interventions.

The Global Livestock CRSP is funding a project entitled "Validating simple indicators of dietary quality and animal source food intake." Dr. Lindsay Allen of UC Davis leads the research team consisting of Dr. Marie Ruel from the International Food Policy Research Institute, Dr. Suzanne Murphy from the University of Hawaii, and Joanne Graham, Janet Peerson, and Dr. Hugo Melgar-Quinonez from the University of California at Davis. The team will develop, test, and validate simple indicators of dietary quality, including ASF intake, that accurately predict nutrient adequacy of diets in developing countries. Valid

The Embu data set collected in Kenya as part of the GL-CRSP will be used as the first data set to carry out the validation exercise. Photo by Susan Johnson.



indicators will be combined into a simple dietary quality index. Researchers will conduct a review of experience and identification of promising indicators to measure constructs of interest, and conduct a validation of indicators and a dietary quality index using existing data sets, starting with the GL-CRSP data set from Kenya, obtained during the course of the Child Nutrition Project.

Food-level indicators will be the focus (for example, simple counts of foods and food groups) because of their simplicity, but also because of their demonstrated association with nutrient adequacy in developed countries. Once appropriate indicators have been developed, researchers will combine them into a simple dietary quality index, which can be used to evaluate dietary quality in a developing country context. Dr. Allen hopes that

the success and usefulness of this initial research will motivate replications of this analysis with other data sets and field testing the selected indicators in different cultural settings.

Researchers at the GL-CRSP "Animal Source Foods and Nutrition in Developing Countries" Conference identified the need for a consistent definition of dietary quality and diversity for developing countries as a priority research agenda.

"All countries and cultures are different and we need to support the development of appropriate and sustainable programs that adequately address their dietary needs," said Dr. Tag Demment. The availability of this dietary quality index will, for the first time, permit the consistent assessment of dietary quality and broad comparisons between and within populations. 🌱

New Assessment Teams Address Issues of Animal Source Foods in Diets of Young Children in Developing Countries

Four new assessment team grants were awarded recently by GL-CRSP on the subject of animal source foods and nutrition in developing countries. The proposals were solicited after the GL-CRSP conference on the same topic in June, 2002. During the conference, more than 100 researchers from 18 nations gathered to pool their research findings and chart a research agenda for encouraging the use of animal-based foods in the developing world.

"For too long, we in the developed world have been practicing a form of nutritional imperialism," said Montague Demment, director of the Global Livestock Collaborative Research Support Program. "Because we struggle with the health consequences of an overabundance and overconsumption of meat and other animal-based foods, we forget that these same foods are a rich source of iron, zinc and other micronutrients that are vitally important, particularly for children. Micronutrients are needed to ensure that these children not only survive but develop to their full mental and physical capacity."

Through an open competition, the GL-CRSP sought assessment team proposals which address issues of constraints on the incorporation of animal source

foods (ASF) in the diets of children in developing countries. Funded teams will assess, diagnose, and re-define the problem, build a research team, and develop and submit a final proposal. The following assessment team projects were selected.

Dr. Laurie Miller, Tufts University, leads a team that includes participants from the Massachusetts Department of Food and Agriculture, Heifer Project International, Nepal Medical College, and Lotus Holdings. This multidisciplinary team of experts in the fields of child health and nutrition, business development, animal husbandry and health, and project management will work with Nepali institutions involved with the care of children to design site-specific work plans for 8-16 locations in Nepal. The primary purpose of this team will be to create and refine an approach to the creation of small livestock enterprises, and an assessment framework by which to evaluate the success of such enterprises.

The team proposes that economic and logistical barriers to increasing ASFs in the diets of poor Nepali children can be overcome through the creation of small-scale entrepreneurial livestock enterprises operated

with the participation of the children through their parental or institutional caregivers (schools, orphanages, charitable agencies, etc.). Such enterprises can be designed to ensure that a significant portion of the product of the livestock operation is consumed by the children themselves, and where feasible, pregnant and lactating women within their community.

Inadequate nutrition is a significant problem in Nepal, with 19% of the overall population considered chronically undernourished. Food insecurity and chronic malnutrition exist in all eco-regions of the country. Growing children are especially vulnerable to nutritional deficiency, as chronic malnutrition may have long-term deleterious effects on growth and cognitive function. Even a single brief episode of malnutrition in childhood may cause permanent reduction in IQ, and increased likelihood of learning disabilities, attention deficit disorder, and dysfunctional sensory regulation.

The ultimate goal of the project is to ensure that the Nepali model they develop is transferable to other south and central Asian nations where

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Improving Wool & Cashmere Markets in Central Asia

crisis of the early reform period, most remaining Merinos were crossed with the indigenous fat-rumped meat breeds. The Hampshire crossbreed, derived from crossing UK breeds with Kazak breeds developed during the Soviet era, is considered a good match for the market since it is a fast-growing meat/wool breed producing semi-fine wool for which there is a demand. Kazak scientists are keen to develop this breed for sale to private farmers and would like to invigorate the breed with new genetic material from the US or the UK.

Dr. Galvin and her team have collected data on the current producer marketing patterns of live animals, fibers, and skins, collected from a sample survey of 40 livestock-producing households in Kazakstan (collected under the DARCA Macaulay Institute project) and from a new survey of 30 such households in Kyrgyzstan. Fieldwork began early in 2002 when collaborator Dr. Carol Kerven traveled to the region and established working relationships with Kazak scientific collaborators. Galvin and Kerven traveled to Kazakstan in August 2002 to carry out in-depth interviews of herders and their families in villages and homesteads, to access household production strategies for the marketing of wool, cashmere, and camel hair.

Kyrgyz collaborator Dr. Abdugani surveyed livestock owning households, using a questionnaire specially developed for this project. Areas surveyed include one in which fine wool/Merino sheep were raised, and another area in which downy goats were raised. Dr. Abdugani also surveyed the Badken rayon of Badken Oblast, in the extreme southwest of the country. Forty percent of all goats in Kyrgyzstan are raised in this area, and farmers have been

The importance of training producers in sorting wool and cashmere cannot be over-emphasized.

selling goat down for several years to traders from Uzbekistan and China. Households were selected on a stratified sample, according to the level of small-stock ownership within each sampled village. Three ownership categories were sampled: less than 30 head, 30-70 head, and 70 plus head. Malmakov, Kerven, and Mr. Aidos Smailov, a team member, visited Colorado State University in February 2003, during which time data were entered into databases for analyses. These data will be compared to those from the survey in Kazakstan of 40 livestock-owning households.

Based on the research done so far, Galvin and her team believe some of the most important issue for producers is training in sorting wool and fiber. The importance of training producers in sorting wool and cashmere cannot be over-emphasized. The Soviet state farms had skilled personnel who graded all fibers; in the case of fine wool, using up to 30 grades. But nowadays private farmers and most traders do not have these skills. Traders usually offer a single low price for all unsorted wool and fiber that inevitably contains both poor and good quality products. As a result, raw, unsorted product is exported cheaply to other countries. Sorting adds value at the source of production. For future training, Galvin's team wants to target Central Asian women, since they are often more knowledgeable about wool and animal fibers than many of the male household heads interviewed.

Taxation is another important issue identified by Galvin's team. Following the deep slump in the mid-1990s, the last several years have seen a rise in the value of sheep wool and goat fiber. This trade has become profitable again. The Kazak government is now showing a renewed interest in regulating and, in particular, taxing the trade. Local

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Fine wooled white Merino crossbred sheep in Almaty Oblast's mountain pastures. There are few pure fine wool sheep left, since in the economic crisis of the early reform period, most remaining Merinos were crossed with indigenous breeds.



informed opinion is that the state is seeking to share the profits in processing and selling wool and fiber. Examples given are the recent state intervention in a private wool processing company, which has been made into a joint stock company with government share. The government is also enforcing more stringent taxation of the wool/fiber collection agencies. This has meant that many smaller companies do not register with the state, to avoid paying taxes.

The team also believes that the Central Asian wool trades could benefit greatly from infrastructure development. As people are located further away from the principal markets, the price of their products declines. The prices would be higher if transport to markets such as Almaty could be obtained. Also, producers and domestic traders need information on annual world prices for each commodity

according to grade and types. By increasing their awareness of international specifications, traders would be encouraged to set price premiums for better quality product. This would increase farmers' incentives to improve quality and sort their products.

Presently, farmers lack knowledge of the final worth of their products on the world

The prices would be higher if transport to markets could be obtained.

market and are in a very weak bargaining position with traders. At the same time, domestic traders are also unaware of the price differentials set by processors according to grade specifications. Traders therefore buy indiscriminately without

regard for quality, paying only the lowest price for unsorted products. By increasing their awareness of international specifications, traders would be encouraged to set price premiums for better quality product.

The case of Mongolia demonstrates the possible benefits to the host countries of developing a successful wool and fiber market. Selling raw cashmere has become the major source of income for privatized herders in Mongolia and Mongolia's raw cashmere production has rises by 70%, propelled by a strong demand from China, USA, and Europe. The Mongolian government has encouraged direct foreign investment and new technology.

The project is building on the short time it has spent in Kyrgyzstan, conducting more interviews and gathering more

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Wool & Cashmere Markets in C. Asia

data. A new cooperative for farmers raising downy goats for cashmere was recently created under World Bank funding in Talas Oblast in 2001. Professor Almeev visited this farm recently, to help with the farm's aim of raising downy goats for distribution to other farmers. The cashmere industry is very important to Kyrgyzstan. The estimated national production of goat down is between 40-45 tons. Most of last year's production was sold mainly to traders from China and Uzbekistan. The price of goat down in 2002 was considerably lower in 2001, as elsewhere in Central Asia. Domestic collectors are holding onto their stocks from 2002 in the hope that prices will rise in future years.

Kazakstan had few livestock development projects, despite the importance of rangelands as a natural resource, the tradition of extensive livestock rearing, and the contribution of livestock to rural household economies. This project is trying to raise awareness among producers, assisting them to realize greater value from wools and fibers through the market. Dr. Galvin and her research team are working towards a future in which assistance for producers could be implemented through government and donor-assisted projects. ♡

For more information on this project, please contact Dr. Kathleen Galvin, NREL, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO 80523. Email: kathy@NREL.ColoState.edu.

New Publications Available

The following new publications have just been released. For copies of publications, contact the Management Entity of the Global Livestock CRSP, University of California, Davis, Davis CA 95616. Email: gcrsp@ucdavis.edu. These publications are also available for download at the GL-CRSP web site: <http://gcrsp.ucdavis.edu>

2002 Annual Report

The 2002 Annual Report provides a summary of activities and accomplishments for each project during fiscal year 2002.

LEWS Research Briefs 03-01, 03-02, 03-03, 03-04

The first set of the GL-CRSP Livestock Early Warning System Research Briefs is now available:

Research Brief 03-01-LEWS: Integrating Information and Communication Technology for the Livestock Early Warning System (LEWS) in East Africa

Research Brief 03-02-LEWS: A New System to Forecast Near-Term Forage Conditions for Early Warning Systems in Pastoral Regions of East Africa

Research Brief 03-03-LEWS: A Satellite-Based Technology Predicts Forage Dynamics for Pastoralists.

Research Brief 03-04-LEWS: Infusing Nutritional Profiling Technology in Sub-Saharan Africa for Free-Ranging Livestock

PARIMA Research Briefs 03-01, 03-02, 03-03, 03-04

The second set of GL-CRSP Pastoral Risk Management Project Research Briefs is now available:

Research Brief 03-01-PARIMA: Fuelwood Gathering and Use in Northern Kenya: Implications for Food Aid and Local Environments

Research Brief 03-02-PARIMA: Pastoral Sedentarization and Community Resilience in Response to Drought: Perspectives from Northern Kenya

Research Brief 03-03-PARIMA: For Pastoralists the Risk May Be in the Drinking Water: The Case of Kargi, N. Kenya

Research Brief 03-04-PARIMA: Pastoralism Under Pressure: Tracking System Change in Southern Ethiopia

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Assessment Teams Address Issues of ASF in Diets of Young Children

clearly identifiable populations of vulnerable children are at risk for undernutrition, particularly those children associated with migration to cities from rural areas.

Dr. Dan Brown, Cornell University, will lead a team assessing the current use of ASF in children's diets in Mexico, Haiti, and Ethiopia, and identify factors that constrain and enable their access to ASF. Existing quantitative and qualitative data from these countries will be used, along with short field-based assessments. Dr. Brown and his team will consider factors influencing livestock production, market availability of ASF, household availability, and access to ASF and intra-household allocation to the child. After reviewing and synthesizing these factors, locally appropriate interventions for increase in intake of ASF among young children will be developed in collaboration with key in-country collaborators, and a proposal for evaluating the impact and operations of these interventions will be developed.

Dr. Brown feels this project is of critical importance for developing

sustainable food-based approaches to improve the quality of the diets and lives of children in developing countries. It is now recognized that young children fed plant-based diets, which are typical of most developing countries, fall short of meeting many of their



Even though ASF are an essential component to a nutritious diet, they often are not a significant part of children's diets in developing countries. GL-CRSP assessment team projects will look at the constraints to availability, accessibility, preparation, and allocation of ASF for children in developing countries. Photo by Eric Bradford.

micronutrient requirements if they do not consume some ASF. Children's access to ASF, however, can be limited, especially among poor populations in the developing world, by factors at three levels: community, household, and individual.

Dr. Brown's team includes Dr. Edward Frongillo of Cornell University, and Drs. Marie Ruel, John Hoddinott, and Purnima Menon of IFPRI.

Cornell University and IFPRI have had a successful working collaboration over several years, first through a USAID-funded University Partnership Program involving Drs. Menon and Ruel, and then through their continued collaboration in a 4-year USAID-funded (through FANTA) evaluation of a Title II food assistance program in Haiti.

The team selected Mexico, Haiti, and Ethiopia as main case studies because one or both lead institutions either have ongoing research and development activities in these countries, and/or data from previous research, as well as established strong partnerships and contacts with local institutions. Although these countries have been pre-selected, the planning grant period

will be used to explore other potential sites, including the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Zanzibar, and Tanzania, where collaborative efforts with CU or IFPRI are ongoing or have been successful in the past.

Dr. Grace Marquis, Iowa State University will lead a multidisciplinary team of researchers from Iowa State University and University of
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Assessment Teams Address Issues of ASF in Diets of Young Children

Ghana. The assessment team project will use qualitative methodologies to assess different stakeholder perspectives on barriers to the availability, accessibility, and utilization of ASF in rural and urban Ghanaian children. Consultative meetings and mini-workshops will be used to foster collaborative input in defining the causal links to low availability, accessibility, and utilization of ASF. This will guide a participatory process to identify and prioritize potential interventions to diminish constraints on the incorporation of ASF in the diets of vulnerable Ghanaian children.

In the last decade, Ghana has made only marginal progress in reducing malnutrition rates. Poor micronutrient status of some Ghanaian children has been attributed to low nutrient bioavailability due to diets high in inhibitory factors (such as phytates) and low in ASF. Identifying the constraints on the incorporation of ASF in the diets of vulnerable Ghanaian children is a prerequisite for developing appropriate interventions that have the greatest potential for success. Successful interventions will also depend on stakeholder input in conceptualizing and identifying interventions that will be cost-effective, sustainable, and acceptable.

The team anticipates that the interactive processes, particularly the workshops, will foster interdisciplinary exchange of ideas among the participants. This could lead to evaluations of institutional overlaps and unmet needs that ultimately may inform institutional policies for bridging projects and resources in tackling a wide range of issues. The proceedings document produced from the final team meeting will also provide formative research findings that could potentially inform policy directives in agriculture and nutrition related activities in Ghana.

The research team is comprised of Drs. Grace Marquis, Esi Colcraft, Lorna Butler, Manju Reddy, Elisabeth Huff-Lonergan, and Helen Jensen from Iowa State University, and Drs. Owuraku Sakya-Dawson, Anna Lartey, Benjamin Ahunu, and Emmanuel Canacoo from the University of Ghana.

Dr. Barbara Stoecker, Oklahoma State University will lead a team that will assess the constraints to incorporation of ASF in diets of children in both Ethiopia and Kenya. This project builds on the work of Dr. Charlotte Neumann and the GL-CRSP Child Nutrition Project and the work of Dr. Roger Merkel in Ethiopia. The

team will review papers and reports and conduct on-site assessments using multidisciplinary rapid participatory rural appraisal (RPRA) teams. Information from the review and rapid assessments will be disseminated and discussed in meetings with country stakeholders. Multisectoral feasible interventions will be considered based on findings.

The diets of children in rural Ethiopia and Kenya are predominantly cereal-based and low in energy with little or no ASF, particularly meat. Their intakes are thus low in micronutrients, especially heme iron, available zinc, calcium, vitamin A, and riboflavin. Poverty, low livestock production, inaccessibility to livestock and their products for household consumption or income generation, lack of practical nutrition education, and cultural barriers are among the constraints to use of more ASF by children.

The team consists of Dr. Barbara Stoecker, Dr. Charlotte Neumann of UCLA, Dr. Girma Abebe and Yewelsew Abebe of Debu University in Ethiopia, Drs. Nimrod Bwibo and Abuid Omwega of the University of Nairobi, Kenya, and Dr. Roger C. Merkel of Langston University. ♡

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Global Livestock CRSP Renewal Grant Portfolio Selected

with associated negative impacts to water resources, human health, rural livelihoods, and the local economy. The river Njoro flows through forests, grazing pastures, and agricultural lands before serving the towns of Njoro and Nakuru. It eventually empties into Lake Nakuru National Park.

The core research focus is on the upland portion of the watershed where livestock and small-holder agriculture are significant components affecting the economic and ecologic health of the watershed system. Interventions and outreach will be developed through the integration of scientific research findings with stakeholder analyses to support local communities and decision-makers in effectively identifying and implementing local solutions to enhance both the biophysical and human-related components of the watershed.

A new project on “**Livestock Marketing in Kenya and Ethiopia**” is expected to emerge from a workshop in August 2003 (See box this page). At the request of REDSO, the GL-CRSP is planning a workshop which will bring together researchers who have studied livestock marketing in the region. Participants will identify gaps in knowledge and develop a set of research priorities. Under the leadership of Dr. John McPeak, Syracuse University, an edited

volume that presents an overall view of livestock marketing in east Africa with an emphasis on identifying priority interventions at different levels, and describing the connections between interventions taken at different levels will be produced. This conference is expected to result in a new Livestock Trade research team for the GL-CRSP focused on east and central Africa.

Dr. Lisa Graumlich, Montana State University, will lead a new project, “**Managing National Parks in the Context of**

Changing Human Populations and Economies.” The project brings researchers and managers associated with Yellowstone and Serengeti National Parks and their greater ecosystems together to develop a strong collaboration on shared issues of management, training and research. Team members include representatives of Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Yellowstone National Park, ILRI and Colorado State University.

In Central Asia, a new project emerged from the small grant

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Livestock Trade and Marketing Conference Rescheduled for August 11-14, 2003

The GL-CRSP will be holding a workshop on livestock marketing from August 11-14 in Nairobi, Kenya. The workshop was originally scheduled for March 2003 but was rescheduled at the request of the USAID Mission to Kenya. Dr. John McPeak, Syracuse University is organizing the workshop.

The workshop will gather researchers and practitioners who have experience with issues impacting livestock marketing. The objective is to bring together researchers working on different aspects of livestock marketing (micro, meso, macros, and crisis period) to define the state of current research knowledge, and identify the most important priorities for future research. Particular attention will be given to identifying how research and development efforts at different levels will be facilitated or hindered by market conditions at different levels. Will improved trade opportunities lead to improved household welfare? Will improved market organization during normal periods be sufficient to meet the needs to crisis periods and post-crisis periods? For details on the conference, contact John McPeak at jomcpeak@maxwell.syr.edu. ☎

LEWS Focus of Capacity-Building Workshop in Ethiopia

various agencies involved in early warning and food security issues in the pastoral regions of Ethiopia, including DPPC, Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Bureau (DPPB) for the pastoral regions of Ethiopia (Oromia, Somali, Afar and Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples) and Non Governmental Organizations (Save the Children of the United Kingdom and Hope for the Horn) and the Ethiopian Agricultural Research Organization.

The objectives of the workshop were to:

1. Bring together agencies involved in early warning and food security issues in the pastoral regions of Ethiopia in order to compare their approaches, methods, and experiences
2. Present the latest scientific information on the LEWS technology and reporting system with regard to forage monitoring and 90-day projections employed as an early warning tool.
3. Discuss ways of tailoring LEWS analysis and reports to suit the overall early warning information needs in Ethiopia and to identify information and delivery gaps.

The workshop began with a keynote address by the head of

the Pastoral and Market Surveillance team of the EWD/DPPC, Ms. Beletu Tefera. Ms Tefera underscored the needs and the challenges for the development of a comprehensive early warning system for the pastoral regions. She further stated that LEWS technology offers a unique and important component of the



Ms. Beletu Tefera, head of the Pastoral and Market Surveillance team of the Early Warning Department of the Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Commission of Ethiopia. Photo by Abdi Jama.

overall system in Ethiopia, i.e. quantitative analysis of current forage situation and forecasts into the near future. She encouraged the participants to make the maximum use of this opportunity to learn the LEWS technology so they could incorporate it into their

particular programs. This was followed by a brief presentation by Dr. Abdi Jama of LEWS/GLCRSP to introduce the topics, outline the issues of significance and the format and objectives of the workshop.

The workshop consisted of both lectures on basic LEWS concepts and practical hands-on demonstrations of field data collection. The lectures and parts of the initial fieldwork demonstrations were held in Nazareth for a period of two days from 10 - 11 February 2003. A select group of field staff were later taken to Gode, Afder and Liben Zones of the Somali Regional State of Ethiopia for detailed practical fieldwork on data collection from 13 - 21 February, 2003.

The first day of the workshop was devoted to lectures on the concepts, methodologies, tools and technologies used in the LEWS project. Topics covered during the first day of the workshop included:

- Status of LEWS project in the pastoral regions of Ethiopia
- Setting up monitoring sites (selection criteria and geo-referencing with GPS)
- Site characterization and sampling required to construct a PHYGROW model parameter file):
 - Soil series

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Field site visits were an important part of the workshop. Participants were taken to a nearby rangeland site to learn and practice how LEWS field sampling techniques and data collection are conducted. Photo by Abdi Jama.

- Modal plant community characterization
- Stocking density decision rules
- Weather parameter and automated weather sites
- How the PHYGROW model, output analysis, and automation system works
- LEWS analysis portal information and linkages to African Learning Channel
- Reports and communication tools used to disseminate information
- Model output verification protocol
- Use of the WorldSpace Radios, and GPS units
- Interpretation of LEWS reports

The second day focused on field sampling. The participants were taken to a nearby rangeland site to learn and practice how LEWS field sampling techniques and data collection are conducted. Upon return from the field, the

participants were asked to summarize the data collected in the manner needed for input into a parameter file for PHYGROW model, a biophysical model used to simulate available forage for the different types of livestock. The participants were divided into three focus groups that met in separate areas to discuss their assigned topics in greater detail and to make brief presentations of their findings (constraints and recommendations) prior to the adjournment of the workshop. The focus group topics and a summary of their findings were as follows:

Group 1: Existing early warning structure in Ethiopia and how it could be more closely linked with the Livestock Early Warning System.

Group 2: Early warning reports, dissemination and communication infrastructure and

suggested improvements.

Group 3: Establishing LEWS monitoring sites and capacity building.

Constraints to the current early warning system identified by all groups:

- Lack of skilled manpower at all levels
- Inadequate funding, transportation, equipment and communication facilities, like computers, Internet access, GPS, Worldspace radio, faxes etc.
- Poor infrastructure and communications resulting in an irregular field reporting system. In many instances data arrives too late from districts to be of any use for action.
- Inadequate institutional structures for information flow between line ministries.

(continued on next page)

LEWS Focus of Capacity-Building Workshop in Ethiopia

- Weak analytical capacity at regional, zonal, and district levels
- Lack of adequate coordination between line ministries working in EW in pastoral areas.

Recommendations for Improvement

A focus on national ownership of LEWS technology in Ethiopia is deemed critical for the long-term sustainability of the system in the country. The workshop provided a forum for developing closer ties between the DPPC and LEWS and contributed to achieving the common goal of creating an effective early warning system in the pastoral areas that detects changes in forage situation in order to identify and respond to needs in a timely and effective manner to prevent and avoid forage crises. The latest developments in LEWS tools were presented and ways of incorporating these developments into the overall national early warning information systems were explored. The various organizations involved in early warning and food security issues would need to develop an in-house capacity on setting up monitoring sites to be able to implement or expand the system in their areas. Depending on the interest of each organization, training

needs assessment would be required to achieve this goal. Specific recommendations proposed by the groups were:

- Continue cooperation between LEWS/GLCRSP and EWD/DPPC to develop capacity in EWD on the use of and interpretation of LEWS technology, analysis and information
- Advanced training on site selection and sampling should be given to selected staff working in pastoral early warning in the regions.
- The use of a GPS system is critical to Livestock Early Warning Systems. Institutions involved in early warning should adopt the use of GPS and train their field staff in its use.
- Training early warning staff on the use of the basic equipment and tools such as GPS, Worldspace Radio, and Internet.
- The use of motorcycles, horses and other communication systems should be explored for reaching out into the most remote and vulnerable pastoral areas.
- More training on data management, analysis and interpretation of early warning indicators are needed for

EWD/DPPC staff.

- The activities of different organizations working on early warning issues in Ethiopia need to be better coordinated and harmonized
- There is a great need for the improvement of access to communication facilities (Worldspace radios, fax machines, wide area networks, radios with multiple frequencies, Internet etc.) in order to collect data and to convey information in a timely fashion.

Working with the field Staff of Save the Children -UK in the Somali region of Ethiopia, the LEWS team was able to set up and sample 12 monitoring sites in Gode, Liben and Afer zones of the Somali region. Throughout the workshop and sampling field trip, we had fruitful discussions with Save the Children field staff with regard to extending LEWS into all the zones of the Somali region of Ethiopia. ♡♡

For more information on the Livestock Early Warning System (LEWS) project, please contact Dr. Jerry Stuth, Dept. of Rangeland Ecology and Management, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843-2126. Email: jwstuth@cnrit.tamu.edu or Dr. Abdi Jama, aaajama@cnrit.tamu.edu.



Workshop participants, front row sitting from right: Getinet Ameba, EWD/DPPC; Abdi Abdillahi, Hope for the Horn; Kebede Tadesse, EWD/DPPC. Second row from right: Dessalegn Tesema, DPPB, SSNP Region; Beletu Tefera, EWD/DPPC; Abdi Jama, LEWS (Instructor); Abdi Sh. Dahir, SC-UK; Ali Gheddi, SC-UK (sitting). Third row from right: Mohamed Dahir, SC-UK; Zinet Ahimed, EWD/DPPC; Tamirat Mengistu, DPPB, Afar Region; Getachew Haile, Oromia Agricultural Research Institute. Photo by Bayissa Hatew.

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Global Livestock CRSP Renewal Grant Portfolio Selected

projects focused on wool. The project, "Developing Institutions and Capacity for Sheep and Fiber Marketing in Central Asia," will investigate how producers can gain more value from their livestock through improved marketing of their products. Principal Investigator Malcolm Childress from the University of Wisconsin-Madison will head up a team that brings together the Livestock Research Institute in Kyrgyzstan, the Institute of Livestock and Veterinary Research of Kazakhstan, Colorado State University and the Macaulay Institute, to name just a few.

Six research activities will be carried out in six selected sites in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, and Tajikistan. The team will address issues important to local producers, such as: understanding competitiveness for producers and policy makers, organizational development for marketing and quality assessment, fiber quality management and handling at the farm level, outreach for marketing innovation among producers, and advanced training on fine fiber.

The Animal Production component of the "Livestock

Development and Range Conservation Tools" project will continue under the leadership of Dr. Wolfgang Pittroff, University of California, Davis. Dr. Pittroff's project aims to transfer advanced planning tools for rangeland livestock production to policy decision-makers, develop participatory grazing management plans for three representative grazing livestock production units in Uzbekistan, and analyze the effects of changes in management and market access on cooperative grazing livestock production units in Uzbekistan. 🐾

Ruminations

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Grant Renewal Presentation Scheduled

The Global Livestock CRSP presentation to SPARE has been scheduled for June 16 in Washington D.C. The presentation is part of the 5-year grant renewal process. The University of California will host the meeting at their UC Washington Center at Scott's Circle in Washington D.C.

The two and one-half hour presentation of the GL-CRSP renewal plan is open to all interested parties. The presentations are followed by a one hour question and answer session. The afternoon is reserved for closed sessions with the GL-CRSP delegation and private deliberation by SPARE.

At the close of the day, SPARE will give the CRSP team preliminary feedback on the review.

SPARE will present written recommendations to BIFAD within two weeks of the scheduled CRSP review. The SPARE recommendation will include both written commentary relative to the review and a specific recommendations as to whether the grant proposal is approved or disapproved.

SPARE (Strategic Partnership for Agricultural Research and Education) is a subcommittee of BIFAD. 🐾