



Issue 15 - February 2009

Welcome to the second eBulletin of 2009 - in this issue we look at the impact rising food prices has had on disparate groups in Kenya, the negative effects the financial crisis has had on China's agricultural growth and explore the benefits a cash grant programme has delivered to older people following the 2004 Tsunami in Indonesia.

We hope you enjoy this edition of the eBulletin and continue to welcome your reports, comments, suggestions and letters on any related topics that you think will be of interest to readers. Please email lrc@htspe.com or jacqueline.wright@htspe.com with submissions.

News

[Pakistan: FAO focuses on "disaster preparedness" by developing livelihoods baseline and contingency plans for 5 hazard-prone districts](#)

The Food and Agriculture Organisation of the UN, in collaboration with the World Food Programme and National Disaster Management Authority, has developed livelihoods baselines and contingency plans for disaster-prone districts in Pakistan. The aim is to strengthen the capacity of national, provincial and district Government, NGO and UN agencies to respond better to natural disasters. A one year pilot project targeted five districts associated with either to floods, droughts, cyclones, earthquakes or landslides. The goal was to develop needs-based contingency plans focussing on immediate livelihoods recovery in case of disaster; and to compile quantitative and qualitative data to support more rapid and accurate post disaster damage assessments and in addressing immediate livelihoods response needs in case of disasters. The baseline reports will be published for wider circulation after their finalisation in two consultative workshops on 9th and 11th February in Islamabad. It is planned that the project will be scaled up to a further 20-30 hazard-prone districts.



[For the livelihoods of farmers](#) The Government of China and the State Council have jointly issued a document entitled "Opinions on Policies for Promoting Steady Agricultural Development and Facilitating Farmer' Incomes". This document highlights measures that will be implemented to promote increased agricultural development and looks at the decreasing resource product prices in the global market. The global financial crisis has adversely affected China's economy, including its agriculture and rural sectors. With the prices of some food produce and related products decreasing, rural economic growth is facing great challenges. To manage these challenges, the government is putting forward various measures including increased input into agricultural infrastructure, science and technology services and reducing farmers' operational costs. The document also urges central and local government departments to adopt measures to create jobs and increase farmers' incomes and also focuses on farmland rights and urban-rural integration, with the aim of promoting steady agricultural development and increased income for farmers' in 2009.

[Root rejuvenates local livelihoods](#) The Ngoc Linh Ginseng, a root famous for its medicinal properties, has provided a much-needed lifeline to many households of the Co Tu ethnic minority in central Quang Nam Province of Vietnam. The root has high economic value and with the soil and climate conditions of the Quang Nam Province ideal for its cultivation, local authorities have encouraged communities to start growing the root. However, immediate returns are low, in the first few years and communities have been supported with rice and money. Once the plants are six years old, they start to be economically viable, with 150 plants being able to provide one kilo of fresh root worth \$8800. It is hoped that through careful

management local communities will experience improved livelihoods.

Papers/Reports

[From forest reserve to national park: change in legal status and impacts on livelihoods and biodiversity resources, Mt. Elgon, Uganda](#)

Mount Elgon forest was gazetted under the Ugandan Forest Department in 1938. In 1993, its status was changed to a National Park, with its management transferred to the wildlife authorities. With this change in legal status came a change in redistribution of rights of access and control over natural resources, which impacted negatively on the livelihoods of local communities. Seventy two per cent of the local households used to collect various resources from the forest reserve, while only 30 per cent collect similar resources from the park now. The number of households that generate cash income from the forest reserve has decreased from fourteen per cent to only two per cent. This report looks at the substantial differences in access to resources, assesses the impact of this change on local livelihoods and recommends models for collaborative management.

[The impact of rising food prices on disparate livelihood groups in Kenya](#)

The sustained increase in food and non-food prices is expected to accentuate food insecurity amongst vulnerable populations, especially amongst urban, pastoral and marginal agricultural households. This study provides a situation analysis and prognosis of markets and prices in Kenya and the wider region and aims to identify the impacts on the security status of these diverse livelihood groups. It discusses characteristics of different livelihoods that predispose them to the impacts of rising food prices on food security and provides recommendations and policy implications to deal with the food crisis.

[Analysis of livelihood cash grant programme implemented for older people after Tsunami](#)

During and following an emergency, older people are often seen as passive recipients of relief and rehabilitation aid. Experience from HelpAge International demonstrates the opposite, that older people are a valuable resource in rebuilding and recovering households and communities. This report provides an account of a livelihood cash grant programme implemented in Banda Aceh, Indonesia in the aftermath of the 2004 Tsunami. The pilot project provided livelihoods-oriented cash grants to 790 older people in 14 villages in Aceh Besar in 2007. The aim was to demonstrate to national and international stakeholders that older people are willing and able to work and support their families and should thus be included in the programmes of other NGOs. The evidence from this project supports the growing body of evidence that older people are a valuable resource in rebuilding communities and should therefore be included in livelihood projects. In addition, the project demonstrates the benefits of organising older people into groups to raise their social and economic status amongst their communities.

[Livelihoods, Power and Choice: the Vulnerability of the Northern Rizaygat, Darfur, Sudan](#)

Livelihoods are intimately linked to conflict in Darfur, none more so than the livelihoods of the camel herding nomads of the Northern Rizaygat. Their notoriety as part of the Janjaweed has obscured from view how the conflict has affected this community and their livelihoods. Based on fieldwork, this report illustrates the processes that have contributed to their vulnerability. With little attention paid to these processes there is limited knowledge of how they affect nomadic communities, resulting in their exclusion from various forms of international action in the area. This report challenges the widely held misconceptions about their vulnerability and presents a detailed series of recommendations. The wider purpose of the research is to promote awareness in Sudan and abroad of the livelihoods challenges facing this and other nomadic communities in Darfur.

Meetings

[Forum investir pour l' Agriculture en Afrique sub-saharienne/High level meeting on Investing for agriculture in Sub-Saharan Africa](#)

The 'High Level Forum on Investing for Agriculture in Sub-Saharan Africa' held by DGCID took place in Paris on December 8th, 2008. The meeting provided an opportunity for policy dialogue involving key professionals in agricultural policy making, investors in Africa and the wider international community along with Ministers from Europe and Africa, international financial institutions and key African Union organisations including the African Union Commission. Working papers along with the slide presentations and speeches presented during this meeting are now available on the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs [website](#).

[The London Summit](#) The London Summit will be held on **April 2nd, 2009**. It will

bring together leaders of the world's advanced and emerging countries, including the [G20](#) and representatives of international financial institutions to work cooperatively to restore stability and stimulate global economic growth. The Summit will follow up on the action plan established at the [Washington Summit](#) held in November 2008 and aims to find solutions to the current global economic crisis and build upon the agreed action plan. One of the key questions that will be discussed at the summit is how the financial crisis will effect development. For more information on the summit please visit the [website](#).

Events and Training

[Managing People in Emergencies](#) This two day competency-based course will take place on the **9 and 10th March 2009** at the [RedR](#) offices in Vauxhall, London. It aims to improve the management of people involved in humanitarian assistance programmes by providing participants with the opportunity to question, develop, share and reflect through a competency-based model of learning and assessment. The course will introduce participants to the fundamentals of effective people management. For more information, please visit the [website](#).

[The 'Making Markets Work' programme: A training programme from the Springfield Centre: 5th – 17th July 2009, Glasgow, UK](#) **How can development agencies and governments improve the performance of market systems?** Increasingly it is recognised that growth and development is dependent on countries' ability to tap into and shape the power of markets for the benefit of all but especially for the poor. Market development is emerging as a central challenge in promoting inclusive and effective private sector development and poverty reduction. The programme will focus on how agencies and governments can address constraints and allow market systems to function better. In particular, it deals with the strategic and practical implications that emerge for organisations as they adopt a market development approach to different kinds of markets - such as services, products, commodities and finance.

This is a programme that was launched successfully last year and revised with new materials and modules for 2009. For more information on this workshop please visit the [website](#)

LRC: The Bigger Picture

The Livelihoods Resource Centre is managed by HTSPE in association with [IDS](#), [ODG](#) and [Coffey](#). The LRC provides services in two areas: **commissioned services** available to DFID Advisers and **core services**, including resources posted on the website and the monthly eBulletin.

The LRC at Palace Street:

From January 2009, the LRC will have a representative at Palace Street twice a week. [Matthew Roberts](#), LRC Manager, will be based in DFID every **Tuesday**. If you would like to meet with Matthew to discuss core or commissioned services, please contact him via email.

We hope that you have found the content of previous eBulletins informative and useful and welcome your comments and suggestions for future editions. Please contact [Matthew Roberts](#) or [Jacqueline Wright](#) with your feedback and ideas for further reading and resources.

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