



Issue 4 – January 2008

Introduction

Welcome to the first 2008 edition of the Livelihoods Resource Centre (LRC) eBulletin. For the LRC the New Year has already been busy with the launch of our final website and the completion of several on-going pieces of work. In this bulletin we outline the key features of the newly launched website and take a quick look at Agri- Food Supply Chains plus links to new research, training and events.

LRC Website



The first phase of the [website](#) was launched in October and is a resource for DFID Advisers and other practitioners with an interest in agriculture, rural development and related sectors that support livelihood initiatives. It has been designed to compliment rather than compete with existing resources and builds predominantly on work commissioned through the LRC by DFID.

The website is now fully operational and went live earlier in January. Additional resources will be continually added.

For DFID Advisers who want to know more about commissioning the LRC please [email](#) or see our [Frequently Asked Questions](#) factsheet.

A Quick Guide to the website...

- Summaries of current rural development and livelihoods issues with links to associated newsfeeds and other useful resources. These are housed in ten [thematic pages](#) which include reports from related work commissioned by DFID through the LRC.
- Two bespoke [search facilities](#) have been built into the website. These provide access to additional current thinking and resources related to rural development, agriculture and livelihoods.
- If you are looking to connect with other organisations that provide services to agricultural or the rural development sectors and that support livelihoods initiatives you can use the LRC's [Organisations Database](#). It provides a summary of registered organisations outlining what they do and how to contact them directly.
- A list of upcoming rural development and livelihoods training and events that may be of interest. These are updated regularly and housed on the [Training and Events](#) page.

The LRC can disseminate outputs of work commissioned by the LRC and also offer a range of other tailored [knowledge management](#) and shared learning services. These can be selected and added to any piece of work commissioned through the LRC to help

increase learning.

Contacting the LRC is easy. Simply register on the website [enquiries page](#) or e-mail us directly at lrc@htspe.com with your questions, suggestions, or recommendations. We will respond quickly.

Agri- Foods Chains

LRC: Mid Term Review of Small Scale Producers and Standards in Agri-Food Supply Chains

In 2005 DFID commissioned the [Small Scale Producers and Standards in Agri-Foods Supply Chains](#) project “to create opportunities for small-scale producers in developing countries to participate in international horticultural supply chains given increasing concentration in the food retail sector and the rise of private voluntary standards.” The work is implemented by the [International Institute for Environment and Development](#) and the [Natural Resources Institute](#) and focuses on the horticultural export industry in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and Zambia.

A Mid Term Review of this project has recently been commissioned through the LRC. It found that whilst there has not been “any real influence on the promulgation on actual standards, and indeed unrealistic to expect this,” there has been significant influence on improving knowledge and engaging stakeholders on issues of private voluntary standards and Food Miles, including policy statements from standards agencies and UK supermarkets. The initiative has also contributed to DFID policy positions on [Food Miles](#), and has supported GLOBALGAP’s [Africa Observer](#), to facilitate smallholders from developing countries achieve food standards.

What's New

Other News

DFID announced funding for the [Food Industry Challenge Fund](#) (FRICH) in December 2007.

The Dutch [Royal Tropical Institute](#) has launched a portal for [Value Chains for Development](#) with resources addressing the value chains approach, means of improving rural livelihoods through markets and microfinance related elements for developing rural enterprise.

Bio Fuels

SciDev has brought together different aspects of [the debate on biofuels](#). Alongside this DFID has commissioned a new research study on bio energy. The [Policy Innovation Systems for Clean Energy Security](#) programme will develop policy relevant information on the use of bio fuels as an energy source for poor people in Africa and Asia. The Overseas Development Institute has also published a paper questioning [whether biofuels are sustainable](#) for poverty reduction.

Research and Papers

Cutting Edge: [How Community Forest Enterprises lead the way on poverty reduction and avoided deforestation.](#)

A new paper studying the interaction between [subsidised microfinance lending and private, profit oriented lending](#). The authors build a two period model of a credit market with a monopolistic moneylender and a subsidised Micro Finance Institution (MFI) (S. Ghosh and E. Van Tassel, 2007)

[Gem of the Pacific: How New Zealand is helping the Cook Islands rebuild its pearl industry](#)

[Handbook on Women-owned SMEs: Challenges and Opportunities in Policies and Programmes](#)

[Unemployment Assistance and Transition to Employment in Argentina](#)

In 2001-02, Argentina experienced a wrenching economic crisis. Plan Jefes, implemented in May 2002, was Argentina's institutional response to the increases in unemployment and poverty triggered by the crisis. This paper examines the effect of participating in Plan Jefes on the probability of exiting from unemployment. (Iturriza, Bedi and Sparrow, 2007)

Events & Training

18 January 2008

[‘The Condition of Agriculture and the Development of Agricultural Institutions in Ethiopia: From Liberation to Revolution.’](#) The speakers are Dr. Solomon Bekure and Dr. Sime Debela.

30 January- 1 February 2008

[‘Modelling Agriculture and Rural Development Policies’](#) 107th European Association of Agricultural Economists Seminar

1- 2 February 2008

[The Changing Face of Global Development Finance](#)- Impacts and implications for aid, development, the South and the Bretton Woods Institutions.
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. Registrations now open.

7- 8 February 2008

[Fifth International Conference on Bio Fuels](#), India.

The LRC: The Bigger Picture & Contacts

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

Contacts

For comments or suggestions on content, please email: [Jessica Riordan](mailto:Jessica.Riordan)

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For all other enquires relating to the Livelihoods Resource Centre, please email lrc@htspe.com or visit our website www.livelihoodsrc.org.

