



## Issue 8 - May 2008

### Introduction

Climate change, food prices and trade affect opportunities to improve livelihoods and reduce poverty around the World. This issue of the LRC eBulletin includes summaries from a forum on procurement and development and also highlights the IAASTD report on agriculture, food and climate.

We continue to welcome your reports, comments, suggestions and letters on any livelihoods subject you think will be of interest to readers. Please email [irc@htspe.com](mailto:irc@htspe.com) with submissions.

Procurement for Development Forum



The [Pro Poor Procurement Forum](#) was hosted by DFID and Chatham House in March. The purpose of the meeting was to provide a setting for retailers and food manufacturers to discuss pro poor procurement and other practices, particularly for Africa. The objectives of the Forum were to raise awareness of the impact of current buying models on rural poverty reduction

in developing countries and to encourage experimentation in private-sector procurement systems and other practices that contribute to poverty reduction. Discussions included the role of small scale producers, quality and ethics in supply chains and how these complex issues relate to UK consumers. The forum began by looking for common ground between the different parties and agendas and will look, in the future at how to develop a business case for pro poor procurement. The report is available on the [LRC website](#)

Food, Climate and Development

### IAASTD Report

The way the world produces food will have to change radically to better serve the poor and hungry if the World is to cope with a growing population and climate change while avoiding social breakdown and environmental collapse. This is the message from the report of the [International Assessment of Agricultural Science and Technology for Development \(IAASTD\)](#) launched in April 2008.

Professor Robert Watson, Director of the IAASTD Secretariat, said "If we do persist with business as usual, the world's people cannot be fed over the next half-century. It will mean more environmental degradation, and the gap between the haves and have-nots will further widen. We have an opportunity now to marshal our intellectual resources to avoid that sort of future. Otherwise we face a world no one would want to inhabit."

Read the [summary of the report](#) or view the summary and the full IAASTD Synthesis Report [online](#).

### DEFRA & DFID Welcome IAASTD Report

DFID and DEFRA welcomed the report, jointly stating: "The UK welcomes the reports of the IAASTD and congratulates all those involved with the process. Given increasing food prices and their impact on poor people combined with the challenges to agriculture by climate change, they are very timely.

The IAASTD reports are a very valuable and important contribution to the debate and understanding on agricultural knowledge, science and technology and its potential to reduce poverty and hunger around the world.

The UK is pleased to see that many leading British social and agricultural scientists have been involved, and that Professor Bob Watson was the Director of the Assessment.”

DFID South Asia Regional Workshop: Climate Change, Water & Agriculture

A regional workshop was held in Kathmandu in March for regional DFID staff. Participation included environment and livelihoods advisers from China, Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh, India, Afghanistan plus a number of external speakers (ICIMOD, UNICEF, World Bank). The key messages from the workshop underline the urgency and priority required for tackling income poverty and food insecurity among the 625 million people already living in extreme rural poverty in Asia who will bear the brunt of global climate change. DFID advisers can view all the material from the workshop on the [South Asia TeamSite](#) page.

What's New

#### **DFID Research 4 Development- £400million for Agriculture**

Agricultural Research remains a DFID priority as highlighted by the £400 million allocated to it in the new DFID Research Strategy. The CGIAR will receive half of the agricultural research funding, re-affirming DFID's commitment to research on sustainable agriculture, and increases funding and attention to investigating both climate change and agriculture as a driver of economic growth. The Research Strategy will spend £1 billion over the next five years; details of past and current DFID- funded research are available on the DFID Research Portal [www.research4development.info](http://www.research4development.info).

Reports and Papers

#### **KZN Empowerment for Food Security Programme**

A [joint collaboration](#) between KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Department of Agriculture and the Government of Flanders to improve the livelihoods of poor households by creating sustainable access to nutritious food for all household members through a variety of food security projects.

#### **Farmer First Revisited**

The final reports of the [Farmer First Revisited](#) seminar in December 2007 are available to review online; they discuss the role of farmers in agricultural research and development over the last twenty years.

#### **Biofuels and the European Union**

The Overseas Development Institute has published a Briefing Note on [Biofuels and Development- Will the EU help or hinder?](#) discussing what the European Union could do to ensure its Biofuels and renewal energy policies are effective for the climate and development.

#### **Promoting Small and Medium Enterprises for Sustainable Development**

This paper, by the [World Business Council for Sustainable Development](#), looks at how leading corporations are building relationships with SMEs in the developing world to ensure a sustainable economic development of linkages. The paper looks at the gaps between the perception and the reality on the ground.

#### **Nigeria: Imo Trains 350 Youths in Computer Programme**

Imo State Government, Nigeria has [trained 350 youths in various computer programmes](#), in support of the thrust of Nigerian policy against poverty, to enable more and more vulnerable sections of society to achieve sustainable livelihoods. The approach empowers communities, families and individuals through well sustained, coordinated and comprehensive programmes of poverty alleviation through Information, Communication and Technology.

#### **Communication for Development**

The [Case for Communication in Sustainable Development](#) addresses the challenge of using communication more powerfully as an agent of change to establish faster, more sustainable development and ensuring that it's equitable and inclusive. The report uses examples of oral history in Jamaica as an impetus for community action, and community radio as a medium for democratisation of Nepal to demonstrate the importance of communications in sustainable development.

#### **Is Corporate Citizenship Making a Difference?**

[Corporate social responsibility](#) (CSR) is defined in terms of proactive efforts by business decision-makers to contribute to sustainable development (WBCSD 2002). The United Nations Global Compact argues, 'Through responsible business practices, business is making a unique and significant contribution to implementing

the Millennium Development Goals.' After examining a model of business impact on sustainable development, the report recommends an emphasis on participatory appraisal and research partnerships.

Events, Training and Vacancies

#### **Understanding Modern Government**

The spring/ summer courses from [Understanding Modern Government](#) have just begun, offering a variety of seminars on local, national and international government and associated transferable skills.

#### **Ethics and Corporate Social Responsibility in Agriculture online course**

EticAgro and the University of Bologna are launching an online [Ethics and CSR in the agricultural sector](#) from 19<sup>th</sup> May to 25<sup>th</sup> July (in Spanish). The main topics will be: Ethics and Moral, Corporate Social Responsibility and Sustainable Development, Environmental Ethics, protocols and codes CSR, Fair Trade, United Nations Global Compact and Project Formulation of CSR.

#### **National Programme Officer / Head of Sustainable Livelihoods and Economic Development Unit, UN**

Situated in Moscow, the Head of the [Sustainable Livelihoods and Economic Development Unit](#) analyses political, social and economic trends and leads formulation, management and evaluation of programme activities within his or her portfolio and provides policy advice services.

The LRC: The Bigger Picture and Contacts

The [Livelihoods Resource Centre](#) is managed by [HTSPE](#) in association with [IDS](#), [ODG](#) and [Coffey](#). We provide 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)  
[Sign up to the eBulletin](#) or [Forward to a friend](#)  
To unsubscribe or change your details [click here](#)

For all other enquires relating to the Livelihoods Resource Centre, please email [lrc@htspe.com](mailto:lrc@htspe.com) or visit our website [www.livelihoodsrc.org](http://www.livelihoodsrc.org).

