



## SPIDA CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

**Social protection as a pathway for inclusive development among the  
pastoral and agro-pastoral communities in Africa**

November 25<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> 2017, Adigrat University, Ethiopia

**Editors: Zeremariam Fre, Zaid Negash, Gabriel Temesgen, Bereket Tsegay,  
Araya M. Teka, Bisrat Weldesilassie, Selamawit T. Araya and Nicole Kenton**

# CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

## **Social protection as a pathway for inclusive development among the pastoral and agro-pastoral communities in Africa**

November 25<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> 2017, Adigrat University, Ethiopia

### **SPIDA Consortium Members:**

Adigrat University (ADU), Ethiopia  
Development Planning Unit (DPU), University College London (UCL), UK  
Pastoral & Environmental Network in the Horn of Africa (PENHA), UK

### ***in collaboration with***

Samara University, Afar Regional State, Ethiopia

With the support from the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research  
(NWO)

**Editors: Zeremariam Fre, Zaid Negash, Gabriel Temesgen, Bereket Tsegay, Araya M. Teka, Bisrat Weldesilassie, Selamawit T. Araya and Nicole Kenton**

February 2018  
London, United Kingdom

The Social Protection for Inclusive Development in Afar, Ethiopia (SPIDA) research project is funded by the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO) and implemented by two academic institutions – the Development Planning Unit (DPU), University College London (UCL), UK and Adigrat University (ADU), Ethiopia, and by a London-based international NGO and research institution that works in the IGAD countries including Eritrea, Ethiopia, Somalia, Sudan and Uganda - the Pastoral and Environmental Network in the Horn of Africa (PENHA), UK.

'SPIDA Conference Proceedings: Social protection as a pathway for inclusive development among the pastoral and agro-pastoral communities in Africa', SPIDA Conference Proceedings: SPIDA/PR/02/February 2018.

Editors: Zeremariam Fre, Zaid Negash, Gabriel Temesgen, Bereket Tsegay, Araya M. Teka, Bisrat Weldesilassie, Selamawit T. Araya and Nicole Kenton.



Creative Commons License

This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0 International License. To view a copy of this license, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/>. This publication may be freely quoted and reproduced provided the source is acknowledged. No use of this publication may be made for resale or other commercial purposes.

© 2018 ADU/PENHA/DPU-UCL

ISBN: 978-1-911614-00-5

#### Disclaimer

This report has been prepared as an output of the NWO-funded research project on social protection from the conference held in Adigrat, Ethiopia at the end of November 2017. Any opinions stated herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the policies or opinions of the consortium member institutions or the NWO.

Photo credits: Afar families in their villages (cover page) Bereket Tsegay, PENHA; Speakers' portraits and conference photos by Adigrat University media office

Graphic design: Bereket Tsegay, PENHA

*Citation:* Fre, Z., Negash, Z., Temesgen, G., Tsegay, B., Teka, A. M., Weldesilassie, B., Araya, S.T. and Kenton, N. (2018). *SPIDA Conference Proceedings: Social protection as a pathway for inclusive development among the pastoral and agro-pastoral communities in Africa*, ADU/PENHA/DPU-UCL - SPIDA-PR/02/February 2018, London, UK.

#### Contact information

PENHA

1 Laney Building, Portpool Lane

EC1N 7UL, London

United Kingdom

Tel/Fax: +442072420202

Email: [info@penhanetwork.org](mailto:info@penhanetwork.org)

Web: [www.penhanetwork.org](http://www.penhanetwork.org)

## About the consortium members and the policy dialogue partner

**Adigrat University (ADU)**, established in 2011, is a public university located in Eastern Tigray in the northern Ethiopian highlands, an area adjacent to the study site of the Afar Region which is predominantly inhabited by the Afar pastoralist communities. The university has good links in terms of academic and social relationships with Afar communities as well as with young academic institutions, including Samara University. A number of cooperative endeavours are being initiated between Adigrat University and this newly established university in the neighbouring Afar Region. As part of such cooperation, many students from the study area are enrolled in Adigrat University, while the best achievers from high schools in Afar Region also attend its summer school programmes. The university retains close ties with communities throughout the area, focusing on knowledge development in the region.

**Pastoral and Environmental Network in the Horn of Africa (PENHA)**, the regional partner, is an African-led organisation established in 1989 by a group of research and development workers from the Horn of Africa. PENHA has been involved in action-oriented research related to pastoral and agro-pastoral development throughout the Horn of Africa and has an established track record in the field of pastoral research, project implementation, gender studies and policy advocacy among pastoral peoples throughout the region. Hence, since its creation, PENHA and its associates have carried out a significant amount of research and consultancy work. PENHA values indigenous knowledge and practices; and afro-centric perspectives on African contemporary development issues. It promotes systemic and multi-disciplinary approaches, looking at both national and regional development issues with a view to promoting approaches to policy and programme design and implementation that emphasise outcomes. PENHA has long experience of developing policy and governance approaches to social protection, with a strong emphasis on pastoral communities.

**University College London (UCL)** is ranked amongst a handful of the top research universities in the world, and UCL's Development Planning Unit (DPU) has a 60-year history of consultancy, research and teaching in and about the development sector. In this consortium, UCL's DPU takes primary responsibility for ensuring that the highest standards are maintained in research design and conduct, working in close partnership with other consortium members. In recent years, DPU has established strong partnerships with tertiary institutions in Tigray, Ethiopia, using annual student exchange programme as a foundation for research-focused activities. The consortium includes as a key member a Senior Lecturer at DPU, whose role will be to anchor UCL's role in supporting the two African-led institutions, drawing on UCL's global research experience and DPU's long history in the development sector. UCL provides oversight for the research process, including ensuring that strong ethical standards are incorporated into the project, as well as facilitating training in social science research approaches and methods.

### **Policy dialogue partner**

**Samara University (SU)** is a newly established pioneer academic institution in Ethiopia, located in Samara town, the regional capital of the Afar National Regional State. Officially accredited by the Ministry of Education (MOE), Ethiopia, Samara University is a coeducational higher education institution. It offers courses and programmes leading to officially recognised higher education degrees, such as bachelor's degrees in several areas of study. Since its inception in 2008, Samara University is making great leaps towards producing competent and dynamic graduates who fulfil the needs and aspirations of the people. SU also provides several academic and non-academic facilities and services to students, including a library, as well as administrative services.

## Acknowledgements

On behalf of the SPIDA research consortium members, it is our great pleasure to thank all the organisations and individuals for their great contributions towards the success of the social protection and sustainable development focused conference hosted by Adigrat University. The conference was a collaboration between the three consortium members, namely ADU, PENHA and UCL, as well as Samara University, and was the culmination of extensive preparatory work.

The conference organisers would like to pay credit to those who presented their papers and actively participated during the conference, including representatives from the Standing Committee on Pastoral Development, the Federal House of Representatives, the Ministry of Federal and Pastoralist Development Affairs, pastoralist communities from the sampled Afar targeted communities, the staff members of Mekelle, Samara and Adigrat, Kebri Dehar and Addis Ababa Universities of Ethiopia, and the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI).

The conference organising committee would like to extend its gratitude to Prof. Mitiku Haile, Soil Science and Sustainable Land Management, Mekelle University for his great support, advice, technical guidance from the inception of the conference idea and his longstanding ambition to see a greater regional cooperation among the Horn of Africa and its development partners. We would also like to thank him for delivering a presentation and chairing a session at the conference. Prof. Haile has been key in promoting a genuine partnership between PENHA and Ethiopian academic institutions since the early 1990s, including Mekelle and Adigrat Universities.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank once again all of the participants at the conference – the invited speakers and presenters Dr. Berhanu Gebremedhin, Dr. Zerihun Berhane, Dr. Mulubrhan Balehegn and Abduselem Abdulahi Mohamed, all the participants and Adigrat University and PENHA media and communication staff. Along with these individuals, we wish to thank Adigrat University students who contributed greatly to the organisation and success of the conference in preparing conference materials and gifts and registering guests.

Special thanks goes to Ali Hussen, Bilal and Abdela, the Academic Vice President, Research and Community Service Director, and Abdela Alfnur, Sociology Department Head of Samara University respectively, and also Abdu Hamaddu, Plan and Budget from Samara and District PSNP representatives. The team would also to thank the represented pastoralist target groups from Behrale, Mille, Chifra, Ab'ala, and Koneba of Afar Regional State. Their longstanding experience enriched the discussions and the overall outcome of the conference.

Special thanks are extended to the SPIDA staff members, namely Dr. Zeremariam Fre from UCL and Bereket Tsegay from PENHA, United Kingdom, Dr. Zaid Negash, Araya M. Teka, Gabriel Temesgen, Selamawit Teklu Araya and Bisrat Weldesilassie from Adigrat University, Ethiopia for their leadership, professionalism, commitment and devotion in achieving a very successful conference.

Finally, we also wish to thank the Ethiopian National and Local Media both TV and radio for covering the event as well as attending our policy dialogue conference.

*Conference organising team*

## Executive summary

The conference on ‘*Social Protection as a pathway for inclusive development among the pastoral and agro-pastoralist communities in Africa*’ held in Agamos Hotel, Adigrat, Ethiopia from November 25<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> 2017 has taken the research-policy linkages further by bringing all the key policy makers, researchers, practitioners and the pastoralist target groups onto one platform. In advancing the social protection agenda and safety net policy and practice in Ethiopia and beyond, the conference was instrumental in bringing in critical policy elements and coming up with policy directions.

The conference, organised by Adigrat University (ADU) of Ethiopia, the Development Planning Unit (DPU) of the University College London (UCL) and the Pastoral and Environmental Network in the Horn of Africa (PENHA) in collaboration with Samara University of the Afar Regional State in Ethiopia, was based on the findings and recommendations of the Social Protection for Inclusive Development in Afar (SPIDA) project, but also drew reflections from similar experiences from Ethiopia and elsewhere. SPIDA is supported by the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO) and it focuses on the implementation and impact of the Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP) with specific reference to the Afar Regional State in Ethiopia. It aims to analyse the programme’s contribution to poverty reduction and food security, enhance social services, identify implementation difficulties, and assess the overall socio-economic situation of the Afar Region, so as to complement a smooth execution of the programme among the Afar pastoral communities.

In its four sessions, the conference presented and discussed the findings of ten research works which were grouped into four thematic areas based on SPIDA and other studies conducted by researchers from institutions in Ethiopia, Europe and Brazil. The sessions reflected on the wider implications of social protection in relation to pastoral livelihoods, which is being challenged by the concurrent drought and climatic changes.

As the guest of honour, the speech by H.E Mohamed Yusuf Umer from the Standing Committee on Pastoral Development of the Federal House of Representatives showed that “the pastoral areas are the least developed regions in Ethiopia, with the Afar Region being one among these and characterised by drought, a high degree of poverty and vulnerability to climate change”. The other welcoming and opening speeches also showed a clear need for intervention and for exploring the options for an effective social protection policy that bring inclusive development among the pastoral and agro-pastoral communities in Ethiopia, and which reflect the highland and lowland interdependencies. Pastoral issues are regional in their nature and therefore the need for collaborative regional initiatives and solutions based on learning from each of the countries in the Horn of Africa was called upon.

The first session on ‘*Global Trends of Social Protection and SPIDA Findings*’ covered social protection policy discourses and practices from global and sub-Saharan experiences; the case of school feeding programmes from Brazil; and SPIDA Ethiopia focused research findings. An emphasis was on: policy and practice sharing that reflected indigenous knowledge systems and pastoral communities’ local contexts and avoided generic interventions; a focus on pastoral vulnerability and resilience to shocks; integration of multiple schemes such as school feedings; PSNP policy; and programme

implications on female-headed families; the potential positive and negative results of the welfare policies on poverty reduction; and inclusive and sustainable development.

The second session covered critical development themes, including '*Pastoral and Agro-pastoral Indigenous Knowledge Systems and PSNP interventions: Lessons from Afar and Somali regional states*'. In this session, an elaboration was given on the underlying research findings which showed that the PSNP beneficiary households are still leading their life with a low income and their life standards are still below the non-beneficiaries. Furthermore, it was noted that the challenges the PSNP is facing, such as programme design, community participation, implementation modality, and the transfers, need due attention in shaping future policy actions which are founded on understanding social structures, social and cultural values, and grassroots level participation. In addition, topics covered included the importance of indigenous weather forecasting by pastoral and agro-pastoral communities and its relevance for climate change and the need to fill the gap to work complementarily with modern meteorological predictions, and the positive correlation of PSNP in improving household consumption and food security.

The third session '*Sustainable Agricultural Value Enhancement, Social Protection, Climate Change and Integrated Pastoral Development in Afar Region*' emphasised the importance of water-centred development, animal health services, and integrated natural resource management; current government policies and strategies on pastoral and agro-pastoral development; social protection evidence from rural Ethiopia on linkages between vulnerability and climate shocks; and adaptive capacity. The session also explored how social protection can promote positive adaptation strategies and can serve as an effective means to reduce the vulnerability of smallholders to climate change-induced shocks.

The fourth session on '*Concluding Remarks, Policy Recommendations, and the Way Forward*' looked critically at the key issues that support an alternative social protection policy among pastoral communities. As Mr. Sewnet Chekol, a delegate from the Ministry of Federal and Pastoralist Development Affairs explained, federal state policies and strategies of pastoral and agro-pastoral communities are in the process of design, based on regional strategies and national priorities. He reconfirmed the federal government's committed support to the pastoralist communities in boosting their resilience and improving their livelihoods.

Finally, at the end of the conference, and as an outcome of the policy discussions which were grounded on the evidence-based research findings and participants' experiences, a declaration was endorsed by the participants. The Conference Declaration called upon all concerned parties to continue building on the research outcomes and findings and to work closely with the stakeholders in the Afar Region of Ethiopia, so as to positively contribute to and enhance the PSNP to evolve in a way which is most suited to the realities of the Afar pastoral and agro-pastoral communities.

The final concluding notes show the importance of the SPIDA consortium approach, which was created to initiate and carry out critical research on social protection with pastoral and agro-pastoral niche, and which established and strengthened the partnership between ADU, PENHA and UCL, along with the partners in Afar Regional State. This approach was exemplary and it was called upon to advance such collaborations which can positively contribute towards the inclusive development of the pastoral and agro-pastoral communities who are mainly settled in the lowlands of Ethiopia.

## Table of contents

<b>Executive summary</b> .....	<b>vi</b>
<b>Acronyms</b> .....	<b>x</b>
<b>INTRODUCTION</b> .....	<b>1</b>
Conference objectives.....	2
<b>WELCOMING REMARKS BY CONFERENCE HOSTS (ADU/UCL/PENHA) AND KEYNOTE SPEECH</b> .....	<b>4</b>
Dr. Zaid Negash .....	4
Dr. Haftay Ghebreyesus.....	4
Dr. Zeremariam Fre .....	4
Keynote speech by Hon. Ato Mohamed Yusuf Umer, Chairperson, Standing Committee on Pastoral Development, Federal House of Representatives.....	5
<b>SESSION ONE: GLOBAL TRENDS OF SOCIAL PROTECTION AND SPIDA RESEARCH FINDINGS</b> .....	<b>7</b>
Social Protection: Global Trends and Prospects (with a focus on sub-Saharan Africa and Brazil). By Dr. Zeremariam Fre, Senior Lecturer at University College London (UCL) .....	8
Paper 1: Critical reflections on Safety Net policies and practices of social protection among pastoral peoples in sub-Saharan Africa. By Bereket Tsegay, PENHA Researcher .....	8
Paper 2: Supporting Family Farming through the National School Feeding Programme in Brazil. By Isabela Martins Machado, Consultant at the General Coordination of the National School Feeding Programme in Brazil, National Fund for Educational Development (FNDE). .....	9
SPIDA key findings, lessons, recommendations and policy implications (PRA results). By Dr. Zaid Negash, President of Adigrat University.....	10
SPIDA key findings, lessons, recommendations and policy implications (PSNP and poverty). By Gabriel Temesgen, Assistant Professor of Economics at Adigrat University .....	11
<b>SESSION TWO: IMPLICATIONS OF SOCIAL FABRIC, INDIGENOUS WEATHER FORECASTING AND PSNP INTERVENTIONS AMONG THE PASTORALIST AND AGRO-PASTORALIST COMMUNITIES: LESSONS FROM AFAR AND SOMALI REGIONAL STATES</b> .....	<b>13</b>
The impact of the productive safety net on livelihoods and social services among the Afar pastoralist and agro-pastoralist communities in Ethiopia: lessons and policy directions. By Selamawit Teklu Araya, Lecturer at Adigrat University .....	14
Does social fabric matter? Implications for social protection policies and programmes among pastoralists and agro-pastoralist communities: Evidence from Afar Regional State. By Bisrat Weldesilassie, Lecturer at Adigrat University .....	16
Indigenous weather forecasting among Afar pastoralists in north-eastern Ethiopia: Role in climate change adaptation. By Dr. Mulubrhan Balehegn, Associate Professor of Rangeland	



Ecology and Pastoralist Development, Mekelle University and a post-doctoral researcher at the UNEP-IEMP.....	18
Impact of Ethiopia’s Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP) on the Household Livelihood: The Case of Babile District in Somali Regional State, Ethiopia. By Abdusalam Abdulahi Mohamed, Lecturer at Kebri Dehar University .....	19
Testimonials from the targeted pastoralist communities .....	20
<b>SESSION THREE: SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL VALUE ENHANCEMENT, SOCIAL PROTECTION, CLIMATE CHANGE AND INTEGRATED PASTORAL AND AGRO-PASTORAL DEVELOPMENT IN AFAR REGION .....</b>	<b>21</b>
Informing Sustainable Agricultural Value Enhancement in the Pastoral and Agro-pastoral Systems in Ethiopia: Analysis of Socioeconomic Characteristics and Market Access of Households. By Berhanu Gebremedhin, ILRI. ....	21
Afar Integrated Pastoral and Agro-pastoral Development. Working Paper. By Professor Mitiku Haile .....	23
Social Protection and Vulnerability to Climate Shocks: A panel data evidence from Rural Ethiopia. By Dr. Zerihun Berhane Weldegebriel, Assistant Professor of Development Studies at the Centre for African and Oriental Studies, Addis Ababa University (AAU) .....	24
<b>SESSION FOUR: CONCLUDING REMARKS, POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS, AND THE WAY FORWARD .....</b>	<b>26</b>
Conference key findings and policy recommendations .....	26
<b>ANNEXES .....</b>	<b>27</b>
Annex 1: Conference declaration.....	27
Annex 2: Profile of speakers, contributors and chairs .....	29
Annex 3: List of conference participants .....	32
Annex 4: Conference programme .....	34
Annex 5: List of SPIDA research outputs .....	36

## Acronyms

AAU	Addis Ababa University
ADU	Adigrat University
DID	Differences-in-differences
DPU	Development Planning Unit, UCL
EU	European Union
FGT	Foster, Greer, and Thorbecke Index
FNDE	National Fund for Educational Development
GTP	Growth and Transformation Plan
IEMP	International Ecosystem Management Partnership
IGAD	The Intergovernmental Authority on Development
ILRI	International Livestock Research Institute
IPC-IG	International Policy Centre for Inclusive Growth
Kcal/AE	Kilocalorie
PSNP	Productive Safety Net Programme
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MU	Mekelle University
NGO	Non-governmental Organisation
NWO	The Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research
PENHA	Pastoral & Environmental Network in the Horn of Africa
PRA	Participatory Rural Appraisal
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SNNP	Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples' Region, Ethiopia
SOAS	School of Oriental and African Studies
SPIDA	Social Protection for Inclusive Development in Afar
SSA	Sub-Saharan Africa
TLU	Total Livestock Population
UCL	University College London
UN	United Nations
UNEP	United National Environment Program
UNESCO-LINKS	United Nations Educational, Scientific, Cultural Organisation Local and Indigenous Knowledge Systems
USD	United States Dollar

## INTRODUCTION

Social protection is viewed as a human right as well as an economic and social necessity that has elements of protection against risk and social assistance in supporting poor and marginalised people. The value of social protection as a means to reduce and mitigate the risk of drought and disasters and to ensure long-term development aspirations has come into prominence over the last few decades. As a social protection tool and to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and later the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), of eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, the governments in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) have implemented different policies and strategies. Ethiopia for instance has implemented, among others, the Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP) since 2005 in rural areas of Tigray, Amhara, Oromia and SNNP; and a similar intervention was implemented and extended to the pastoral and agro-pastoral regions such as the Afar and Somali in 2009.

The Social Protection for Inclusive Development in Afar (SPIDA), a two-year research project supported by the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO), operates within the framework of the biggest programme in Ethiopia — the PSNP, focusing on Afar Regional State. It aims to analyse the programme's contribution to poverty reduction and food security, enhance social services, identify implementation difficulties, and assess the overall socio-economic situation of the Afar Region, so as to complement a smooth execution of the programme among the Afar pastoral communities in Ethiopia. Among other factors, effective research is assessed by its ability to communicate its results to stakeholders and create a policy debate, its contribution to fine-tuning the on-going effect of government policy, and its role in developing a better alternative approach. Given SPIDA's focus on pastoralists and agro-pastoralists, in a region characterised by persistent and consecutive droughts, including that of El Nino in the Afar Region, as well as the high government stake in the policy agenda, SPIDA believes that it was the right moment to organise a conference on social protection.

In reflection of the aforementioned issues, Adigrat University (ADU), the Development Planning Unit of the University College London (UCL) and the Pastoral and Environmental Network in the Horn of Africa (PENHA), in collaboration with Samara University in the Afar Regional State, successfully organised a national conference entitled '*Social Protection as a pathway for inclusive development among the pastoral and agro-pastoral communities in Africa*' in Agamos Hotel, Adigrat on 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> November 2017.

## Conference objectives

The primary objectives of the two-day conference were:

- To engage with policy makers, academics and NGOs through knowledge exchange and mutual learning, thus increasing the participation of relevant stakeholders and enhancing the validity of the SPIDA study outcomes;
- To engage policy makers, stakeholders and the community representatives of the Afar Region in a knowledge and practice sharing dialogue process;
- To communicate the interim research findings with the relevant policy makers and stakeholders in the Afar Region and to explore valuable comments and information conducive to strengthening the policy options on social security;
- To advance the means of how the project can contribute to the social protection development agenda in the Afar Region and Ethiopia in general, with a focus on pastoralism;
- To inform participants of the current socio-economic situation of the Afar Region and implementation practices and the wide range of contributions of PSNP;
- To strengthen partnerships with the stakeholders through participatory approaches and engagement in the policy dialogue processes;
- To increase awareness, share best practices and implementation challenges on social protection interventions on pastoral and agro-pastoral communities;
- To draw out some major lessons and map out the next stage of the research project, by laying down a foundation and a necessary web of networks.

The conference was based on the findings and recommendations of the SPIDA project, but also drew reflections from similar experiences from Ethiopia and elsewhere. The conference attracted 100 people from the pastoralist target groups of Berhale, Mille, Chifra, Ab'ala, and Koneba, policy makers, practitioners and academicians from both government and NGOs, and national and international experts from Africa, Europe and South America. Attendees were diverse in their functional mandates and able to bring, their own value addition to the conference, actively participating and engaging in discussions.

Conference participants and contributors included those drawn from the Pastoral Development Standing Committee of the House of People Representatives, Ministry of Federal and Pastoralist Affairs, PSNP participants and local administrators from the study area, ADU, UCL, Mekelle University, Addis Ababa University, Kebri Dehar University, the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) and PENHA.

### Conference thematic focus

- *Social Protection, Drought and Climate Change, and Green Economy*
- *Social Protection for Asset Building and Understanding Poverty Dynamics*
- *Social Protection and its Relevance to the Pastoral and Agro-pastoral Livelihoods*
- *Social Protection and Gender Dimensions*
- *Policy Leakages and Institutional Frameworks: Learning from Empirical Evidence*
- *Role of Entrepreneurship and Innovative Technology in Advancing Social Protection*



Representatives of Afar communities attending the conference

The conference focused on the impact of social protection practices and the measures being taken place in the Afar Region and beyond with the aim of ensuring food security, poverty reduction, and inclusive development among the pastoral and agro-pastoral communities in Ethiopia and beyond. Panellists and participants discussed the role of social protection in advancing inclusive development and engaged policy makers, stakeholders and community representatives from the Afar Region in reducing poverty, enhancing women's and youth role in the development process and improving the overall livelihoods of the pastoral and agro-pastoral communities.

In its four sessions, the conference presented and discussed the findings of ten strands of research which were grouped into six thematic areas based on the SPIDA and other studies conducted by researchers from institutions in Ethiopia, Europe and Brazil. The conference aimed to clearly demonstrate the traditional and formal social protection practices, the gaps in implementation of the formal social protection programme, PSNP, and the way forward to advance the contribution of the social protection development agenda with a focus on pastoralism, by strengthening partnerships with the stakeholders through participatory approaches and the engagement of relevant stakeholders.

## **WELCOMING REMARKS BY CONFERENCE HOSTS (ADU/UCL/PENHA) AND KEYNOTE SPEECH**

The conference was opened with a welcome to participants and introductory speeches by Dr. Zaid Negash, President of ADU, Dr. Haftay Ghebreyesus, Research and Community Service Directorate Director, ADU, and Dr. Zeremariam Fre, UCL - UK lecturer and SPIDA consortium leader.

### **Dr. Zaid Negash**

Dr. Negash welcomed the participants by saying, “It is indeed a very great honour and pleasure for me and my university to welcome you all to Adigrat from all walks of the world”. Continuing his speech, and providing a brief account of the conference and its objectives, he emphasised the efforts being done by the consortium members and its partners in the Afar Region where he expressed his expectation from this gathering to help in communicating the research results with the relevant policy makers and other stakeholders. Furthermore, after acknowledging the government development strategy in creating growth and reducing poverty during the last 25 years, he said that the Productive Safety Net Programme is one of the approaches which aims to protect the poor and marginalised people against risks through providing social assistance. Finally, mentioning there are 45 public universities in the country, he said that, “Beyond teaching and learning, universities have to engage in problem solving oriented researches and the SPIDA project fits into this equation”.

### **Dr. Haftay Ghebreyesus**

In his speech, Dr. Ghebreyesus outlined the university’s ambition to be a research-centred institution, with the organisation of research and community services at directorate level boosting its efforts in achieving its aims and using research to address societal problems. Dr. Ghebreyesus stated that “Among the top research projects, SPIDA is a grand project with international funding carried out for the last two years. It brings institutional collaboration with PENHA and UCL which opens the eyes of the academic staff to participate in international funding. Beyond this, currently, the university is also working in developing structural plan of ten years in Adigrat town and another two towns as well”.

### **Dr. Zeremariam Fre**

In his introductory speech, Dr. Fre stressed the Horn-wide economic, social and cultural significance of pastoralism and the need for academics and policy makers in the countries across the Horn borders to treat pastoralism as a regional issue which requires regional solutions. He also advised young researchers at ADU and elsewhere to appreciate the livelihood interdependence and complementarities between highland peasant and lowland communities.

The welcoming and introductory speeches were followed by an opening speech by H.E. Mohamed Yusuf Umer from the Standing Committee on Pastoral Development of the Federal House of Representatives who noted that the pastoral areas are the least developed regions in Ethiopia, with the Afar Region being one among those characterised by droughts, high degrees of poverty and vulnerability to climate change. Mr. Umer noted that this type of workshop will help all stakeholders to share experiences and come up with technical and policy recommendation on designing ways to better achieve inclusive development through, amongst other things, social protection measures that are able to address the need of pastoral communities (full speech follows).

## Keynote speech by Hon. Ato Mohamed Yusuf Umer, Chairperson, Standing Committee on Pastoral Development, Federal House of Representatives

**Honourable guests and participants, ladies and gentlemen,**

On behalf of the Standing Committee on Pastoral Development, Federal House of Representatives and myself, I extend a warm welcome to you all to Adigrat University. It is indeed my privilege and honour to preside over the opening of this important meeting on *Social Protection as a pathway for inclusive development among the pastoral and agro-pastoralism communities in Africa*, which has been organised by Adigrat University, Development Planning Unit (DPU), University College London (UCL) and Pastoral & Environmental Network in the Horn of Africa (PENHA) in collaboration with Samara University, Ethiopia.



In Ethiopia, the pastoral and semi-pastoral community comprises more than 12% of the total population. The majority of the pastoral communities reside in Somali (53%), Afar (29%), Oromia (10%), Southern Nations Nationalities and Peoples, with Gambela and Benshangul Regions accounting for the balance of 8%. Constituting around 60% of the area coverage of the nation, the pastoralist communities are extensively engaged in livestock production and are dominantly moving from one place to another to search for water and food for their animals and to practice some farming activities.

The pastoral areas are the least developed regions in Ethiopia, and Afar Region is one among these, characterised by high poverty and vulnerability to climate change and drought. To help the poor people, as part of the different social protection practices made by the state and donor organisations, the role of the productive safety net programme (PSNP) from the pastoral community perspective is really imperative.

PSNP is the largest social protection scheme on the continent outside of South Africa. It was initiated in 2005 in the highlands of Ethiopia and in 2009 in the lowlands (pastoral areas) of the country. And this makes Ethiopia the first country in sub-Saharan Africa to extend a social protection instrument – the PSNP – in pastoral areas.

In this regard, I hope and wish that this type of workshop will help all of us to share our experiences and come up with technical and policy recommendation on designing ways to better achieve inclusive development through, among other things, social protection measures that address the need of pastoral communities.

**Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,**

This conference for pastoral and agro-pastoral communities in Ethiopia is timely as Ethiopia is implementing Phase IV of its productive safety net programme. I believe that, by the end of this engaging discussion, we will be able to get information on policies and practices already in place, such as the PSNP, and come up with alternative policy options to speed up the process of livelihood improvement among the pastoral communities in the Afar Region, Ethiopia.

The *Standing Committee on Pastoral Development* looks forward to receiving your recommendations, thoughts, valuable comments and ideas that will constitute and contribute to

regional priorities to address the challenges of the social protection programme, PSNP, in the pastoral and agro-pastoralist communities of Africa in general and Ethiopia in particular.

In conclusion, let me once again reiterate my appreciation to the organisers of the conference and hereby declare that the conference is officially opened.

I wish you good and fruitful discussions.

Thank you.

---



## SESSION ONE: GLOBAL TRENDS OF SOCIAL PROTECTION AND SPIDA RESEARCH FINDINGS

**Chair: Professor Mitiku Haile**, Professor of Soil Science and Sustainable Land Management, Mekelle University (MU)



Photo (from left to right): Prof. Mitiku Hailu, Mekelle University; Dr. Zeremariam Fre, UCL and Dr. Zaid Negash, Adigrat University

## **Social Protection: Global Trends and Prospects (with a focus on sub-Saharan Africa and Brazil). By Dr. Zeremariam Fre, Senior Lecturer at University College London (UCL)<sup>1</sup>**

### **Paper 1: Critical reflections on Safety Net policies and practices of social protection among pastoral peoples in sub-Saharan Africa. By Bereket Tsegay, PENHA Researcher**

There is a growing trend of social protection policy dialogues and programme-oriented approaches in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), however, there is relatively little systematic analysis and research review work with a focus on pastoral livelihood systems. Hence, departing from the usual review, this paper re-examines the current debates and practices of the emerging social protection agenda in SSA, emphasising the trends and reflections on pastoral communities and their livelihood systems. In discussing inclusive growth-centred sustainable development and rights-based approach to societal crises, complemented by a literature review, this work argues that the safety net as a social protection policy needs to consider the livelihoods of a particular socio-economic group rather than applying generic instruments that ignore indigenous systems of the target population and their level of vulnerability and resilience to shocks. That is, in addressing the basic acute needs of the vulnerable groups during an emergency situation and its systemic problems, and strengthening their resilience through robust social protection policies and governance mechanisms, the countries of the region need to ensure the inter-state social policy transfers where mutual learning is developed. Therefore, in systematising the safety net policies, the state and non-state actors need to work closely together in developing social welfare systems that consider gaps between the generations.



---

<sup>1</sup> A presentation made based on Dr. Fre's own studies and reflections by Bereket Tsegay (MA), SPIDA research associate and grant administrator, UK and Isabela Martins Machado, consultant from Brazil.

## **Paper 2: Supporting Family Farming through the National School Feeding Programme in Brazil. By Isabela Martins Machado, Consultant at the General Coordination of the National School Feeding Programme in Brazil, National Fund for Educational Development (FNDE).**



The Brazilian National School Feeding Programme is the largest social protection programme in the country and the oldest one on food and nutrition security. Having started as a supplementary feeding programme for vulnerable children and covering only a few schools in the 1950s, the initiative has gained national relevance and has largely broadened its scope over the years, currently providing daily school meals to over 41 million students counting, with over USD 1.2 billion (in 2017) and directly benefiting an estimated total of 250,000 family farmers. The connection between the programme and family farming was legally formalised in 2009, when Law No. 11.947 established that a minimum of 30% of federal funds allocated to school feeding should be used in purchases from family farmers, i.e. farmers and rural entrepreneurs that have access to a limited amount of land and use a family

workforce. This Law also prioritises purchases from traditional native communities, maroons and settlers of agrarian reform. Since then, major positive impacts on family farming have been achieved, including: crop diversification and agroecology expansion; new market opportunities and income stability; better management processes and production organisation; redesigning of gender relations; social justice in rural development, among others. In 2016, over USD 260 million was allocated to family farming. Nonetheless, not only have funds been in place, management mechanisms for direct purchase from farmers were also created, thus exempting them from bidding procedures. In sum, the National School Feeding Programme has increasingly contributed to family farming in Brazil by decentralising institutional purchases, generating stable markets, and boosting local economies in rural areas. Challenges to farmers still persist, and the programme recognises this is a continuous improvement process, which counts on efforts from all governmental levels, along with civil society, for ensuring family farming sustainability in the country.

## **SPIDA key findings, lessons, recommendations and policy implications (PRA results). By Dr. Zaid Negash, President of Adigrat University**

Dr. Zaid presented the SPIDA key findings from the first cycle of the project, i.e. the qualitative study. He first gave a briefing on the project and the granting institution, the NWO. After outlining the two phases of the project, he presented the context of the Afar Region which, as is common across the Greater Horn Region of Africa, is experiencing a period of extreme drought, triggered by the El Niño phenomenon. He added that the effects of this are undermining the livelihood system of this predominantly pastoral society by limiting agricultural production; depleting assets; and exacerbating food insecurity. He also highlighted the various social programmes that have been implemented across Ethiopia in order to mitigate against this, although he acknowledged regional inconsistency in their effectiveness. He gave an introduction to the social protection programme, PSNP, mentioning that the programme provides multi-annual predictable transfers, as food, cash or a combination of both, to help chronically food insecure people survive food deficit periods and so avoid depleting their productive assets while attempting to meet their basic food requirements. He noted that the programme is managed by the government of Ethiopia and the World Food Programme with the key aims of supporting the rural transformation process; preventing the long-term consequences of short-term food inaccessibility; encouraging households to engage in production and investment; and promoting market development by increasing household purchasing power. Dr. Zaid also introduced the two components of the PSNP and gave a briefing on the participatory rural appraisal (PRA) method and the six villages where PRA has been undertaken. He mentioned the rationale for selecting the villages. From his findings, he emphasised the productive capabilities of the PSNP as a response to food insecurity; increased social cohesiveness; and elongated asset protection. He also spoke of the challenges of the social protection programme in the region by listing the main problems. Challenges to the successful implementation of the programme included a mismatch of demand and supply regarding the provisions of the PSNP; lack of access to credit and cooperatives; lack of suitable infrastructure; increase in market prices; a better resourced access to education and healthcare (he noted a generational increase in accessibility to these two services); and lack of tailoring of the programme to the production and livelihood system of the pastoral and agro-pastoral communities. He also noted that the problems raised by the people were centred on safe drinking water for human and their animals, with priorities differing from village to village. Dr Zaid gave the example of Urkudi village where they prioritise the problem of flooding, with spate irrigation as a solution. In his concluding remarks, Dr. Zaid highlighted the importance of expanding the PSNP transfer to include newly-born children, youth and women; understanding regional differences and public work schedules and activities, with the PSNP transfer period customised for the pastoral and agro-pastoral communities; considering the significance of informal social protection practices; supplying provisions to sustain livestock, such as mobile livestock clinics; facilitating formal credit providing institutions customised to pastoral and Muslim communities; and last but not least, an emphasis on alternative income generation approaches.

## SPIDA key findings, lessons, recommendations and policy implications (PSNP and poverty).<sup>2</sup> By Gabriel Temesgen, Assistant Professor of Economics at Adigrat University

Mr. Temesgen noted that the rationale for the study was justified since there are conflicting results from empirical works on the impact of social protection programmes in Ethiopia and other countries. In addition, the existing studies in the country were studied at the infant stage of the programme and most of them were also studied in the highlands. The facts raised above motivated the researchers to evaluate and test the existing social protection intervention, the PSNP, in the Afar Region of Ethiopia towards its aim of ensuring social security, enhancing livelihoods and reducing economic problems, using a large-scale household survey and a systematic method of analysis.

Having an objective of analysing the incidence of poverty, determinants of poverty and income inequality in pastoral and agro-pastoral communities, data from 2,295 households living in Zone 1 and Zone 2 of Afar Regional State were collected and analysed using the Foster, Greer, and Thorbecke (FGT index), Gini coefficient and logistic regression model.



Using a poverty line of Birr 389.2, the basic needs poverty is 47.6% with an income shortfall of 17.8% and poverty severity index of 0.092. 33.7% of the households are food insecure and need Birr 33 per month per adult equivalent to get the required calories with a squared poverty gap of 5.4%. There is higher incidence of food poverty in the pastoral (35.6%) than the agro-pastoral communities (29.8%); and 35.6% of the productive safety net non-programme participants and 32% of the participant households are living below the food poverty line. There is a difference in the magnitude of food poverty across districts; Koneba has the highest incidence (0.584) and Mile district is featured with its lowest level of poverty (0.24). Sex of the head of the household (-0.001), family size (0.077), access to credit (-0.088) and mobility

(0.077) are the factors influencing poverty in the households at 1% level of significance. Participating in safety net package programmes (0.04), distance to market are at (0.011) and remittance (0.056) were found statistically significant at 0.05% to determine food poverty. The household's head level of education (-0.039) was also among the statistically significant variables (10%) influencing poverty. More than 80% of the households' income is generated from agriculture (33.82%), sale of livestock (29.67%), non-pastoral/farm income (9.57%) and sale of animal products (7.07%).

There is an alarming high income inequality (0.592), measured by the Gini coefficient, in the five study districts; the lowest Gini index (0.433) is found in Koneba district and the highest index is observed in the widowed (0.616) heads of households. These all demand not only strengthening the policies designed to address poverty, but also policies targeted to ensure that a fair distribution of income be introduced and implemented.

As a way forward to curb poverty and income inequality in the region, policies and programmes should: give more emphasis to the expansion and intensification of family planning programmes at grassroots level; give attention to female-headed households; ensure that poverty reduction be

---

<sup>2</sup> The research paper authors are SPIDA research members – Zeremariam Fre, Araya M. Teka and Gabriel Temesgen.

more effective through community targeting and geographic targeting; develop alternative income sources with awareness raising of savings; integrate rural community roads to marketplaces in pastoral areas in development interventions; tailor microfinance products to pastoral communities and Muslim people – all will help in overcoming poverty and should be introduced and strengthened, together with a strengthening of the local institutional arrangements, and support with training and working manuals as priorities.

## **Discussion: Q&A**

Following the three presentations, time was given for discussion, where various questions and comments were forwarded to the presenters. Some of the questions raised included the links between institutional inefficiency and regional poverty among the Afar districts; targeting problems of beneficiaries in the region; the need for assessment to increase the number of months of the PSNP transfer and its possible hindrance to other economic opportunities; the positive contribution of PSNP in poverty reduction; methodologically how it can be claimed and taking into account other factors; and finally whether the payment transfers should be in lump sum or as regular payments to have the most effective contribution in reducing poverty among the Afars.

## SESSION TWO: IMPLICATIONS OF SOCIAL FABRIC, INDIGENOUS WEATHER FORECASTING AND PSNP INTERVENTIONS AMONG THE PASTORALIST AND AGRO-PASTORALIST COMMUNITIES: LESSONS FROM AFAR AND SOMALI REGIONAL STATES

**Chair:** Dr. Gebremeskel Gebretsadik, Administrative Vice President, Adigrat University

This session discussed the implications of social structure on social protection strategies, the impact of Ethiopia's Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP) on household livelihoods; and the Afar's indigenous weather forecasting and its role in climate change adaptation. To this end, the following questions shaped the presentation and discussion: does social structure play a role in formulating social protection policies and strategies? What impact does the PSNP intervention have on household livelihoods? To what extent is indigenous weather forecasting important to climate change adaptation among Afar communities?



### **Presenters:**

- Ms. Selamawit Teklu Araya, Director, Planning and Institutional Change Directorate, Adigrat University
- Mr. Bisrat Weldesilassie, a staff member of Adigrat University and PhD student at Addis Ababa University
- Dr. Mulubrhan Balehegn, staff member of Mekelle University, Post-doctoral Fellowship at UNEP-IEMP, China
- Abduselam Abdulahi Mohamed, Kebri Dehar University

## The impact of the productive safety net on livelihoods and social services among the Afar pastoralist and agro-pastoralist communities in Ethiopia: lessons and policy directions.<sup>3</sup> By **Selamawit Teklu Araya, Lecturer at Adigrat University**

Social protection policies have been strongly believed to be instruments for reducing the risks associated with disasters and emergency situations and also for long-term poverty reduction and development interventions. Despite this, the impacts have been showing mixed results. The Afar Region has the highest prevalence of poverty. Indeed, the Afar Region which is dominated with pastoralists has not registered as rapid a change as the remaining regions of Ethiopia. The Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP), a national social protection initiative assessment, showed that the region did not manifest a huge impact on livelihoods improvements.

With the aim of analysing the impact of PSNP on the livelihoods of Afar pastoralist and agro-pastoralist communities, a total of 2,295 households (1,179 PSNP beneficiary and 1,116 non-beneficiary households) were studied. The respondents were drawn using multi-stage random sampling techniques from 5 pastoral and agro-pastoral districts; namely, Ab'ala, Barahle, Koneba, Chifra and Mile. The survey aimed to evaluate the impact of social protection programmes (notably PSNP) on programme participants' livelihoods in terms of income, fixed asset formation, livestock holdings, consumption and saving levels. Its role in women's empowerment, youth employment, and kinship networks were also analysed closely.



According to the findings of the study, the general household's features were seen to be: mean age = 36.7 years (18 - 65); mean household size = 5.7 (1 - 16); 1,584 (69%) male headed households and 711 (31%) female headed; 56.4% of the female and 49.12% of the male headed households are participating in PSNP; and 71.29% of the respondents were married followed by divorced (11.37%), single (11.15%) and widowed (6.10%).

To capture the livelihood contribution of PSNP for the beneficiary households, a method called Propensity score matching (PSM) was used in two (first and second) phases. In the first stage of the matching, a logistic regression model was used to model the probability of PSNP participation.

Accordingly, female-headed households, households with older and illiterate household heads, households with large household size, and households engaged in agro-pastoral activities were found to have a better likelihood of PSNP participation than their counterparts. In the second stage of the PSM, four matching algorithms (Nearest-Neighbour, Kernel, Radius and Stratification) were used to estimate the livelihood difference between the PSNP beneficiary and non-beneficiary households. Income, consumption expenditure, savings, livestock ownership and fixed asset formation of the households were used as performance indicators for the comparison.

The estimation results show a negative and significant difference in income and saving implying the PSNP non-beneficiary households' monthly income and saving to be higher than the beneficiary households; but the results of the remaining livelihood indicators was insignificant.

---

<sup>3</sup> The research paper was produced by SPIDA team members – Zaid Negash, Selamawit Teklu Araya, Bereket Tsegay and Bisrat Weldesilassie.



Generally, livelihood was observed to be lower among the PSNP beneficiary households than the PSNP non-beneficiary households. Furthermore, as per the study findings, Afar pastoralists and agro-pastoralist communities have been affected by a number of shocks and vulnerabilities, mainly, drought, food shortage, loss of livestock and flooding in their order of severity and to some extent, death of family member(s), bankruptcy and social crisis.

The PSNP programme, which aimed to ensure resilient communities and a resilient environment however, has not induced the expected improvements for the pastoralists and agro-pastoralist communities in Afar Regional State. The results reveal that the intervention significantly benefited recipients of direct support and women to a certain extent, through improving provision of food items, health status and property ownership. Yet, its role in terms of remedying water and food scarcity driven seasonal mobility, empowering youth and thereby reducing irregular migration – as well as responding to shocks and vulnerabilities – was minimal.

To this end, a number of problems related to the programme design itself and implementation challenges were mentioned, specifically: minimal community participation; implementation modality and the transfers, which were copied from that of the highlands; short duration of public work per year (six months); partial targeting and malfunctioning of institutional arrangements at all levels; delay of transfers; and lack of commitment and synergy among relevant stakeholders – these were the main impediments.

## Does social fabric matter? Implications for social protection policies and programmes among pastoralists and agro-pastoralist communities: Evidence from Afar Regional State. By Bisrat Weldesilassie, Lecturer at Adigrat University

The importance of social fabric in formulating social protection policies is so critical yet looked at less seriously. Shedding a light on the issue is thus important in order to incorporate lessons and outline potential mechanisms of improving the programmes in the future.

Social fabric refers to the social patterns through which a society (in this case, the Afar community) is organised. Such social structure shapes daily interactions and the overall behaviour of communities and thus, it is critically important in formulating policies and programmes, and, specifically, social protection policies. Social networks, being the totality of relationships that link us to other people and groups, and through them to other people and groups, are building blocks of any social life which may have favourable consequences for many aspects of one's life. They help people get jobs, good medical care, access to/share resources, minimise risks, enhance opportunities, and other advantages.

Along with the prevailing political and environmental conditions, social networks, institutions and community organisation greatly influence, if not determine, the social and economic activities and the responses to shocks and vulnerabilities

The basis of pastoral organisation is often a clan and ethnic affiliation. In the Afar case, pastoralist and agro-pastoralist communities have strong relationships, mainly through a kinship system and it is part of their culture to share all the resources they have and bear problems together, not only among members of the same clan, but also among the rich and the poor; this is unique to them.



The Ethiopian Social Protection Policy (2012) envisions “*seeing all Ethiopians enjoy social and economic wellbeing, security and social justice*”. The PSNP, which aimed to create resilient communities and environment, has, however, not induced the expected improvements for the pastoralists and agro-pastoralist communities in Afar Regional State. From the view point of policy vision and the unique socio-cultural, economic and environmental contexts of the region, it is important to look at social and cultural settings when formulating policies and programmes.

When we look at the case at hand – implementation of the PSNP in Afar vs. the social, economic and cultural settings of Afar communities:

- Their economy is agro-pastoral and pastoral, some with mobile sections;
- Their socio-cultural make-up: closely linked ethnic arrangements characterised by extended families, polygamous marriages, clans and most importantly, a culture of sharing;
- Environment (physical and infrastructural): harsh environment with recurrent drought, and limited infrastructure and social service facilities;
- The Afar Region has been affected by a number of shocks and vulnerabilities, mainly, drought, food shortages, loss of livestock and flooding in order of severity, and to some

extent, death of family member(s), bankruptcy and social crisis (based on the study findings).

Under these conditions, the social protection/PSNP implemented in Afar is similar to that of the highlands in terms of; implementation modality, type of public work, type of transfers and programme period (6 months a year).

The results reveal that the intervention benefited recipients of direct support and then to some extent women, through improving provision of food items, health status and property ownership. Yet, its role in terms of remedying water and food scarcity driven seasonal mobility, empowering youth and thereby reducing irregular migration, as well responding to shocks and vulnerabilities, was very minimal.

Mr. Weldesilassie recommended the following points:

- Regional social structure – social and cultural institutions, organisations, networks, values –have to be considered in policy and programme design;
- As incorporating local needs and solutions is crucial, grassroots level participation is critical;
- Public works have to be based on the cultural food system, economic activities and environmental rehabilitation mechanisms suitable to the Afar's setting
- These may include, looking into ways in which the mobile sections also benefit from PSNP public work; transfers like rice, full targeting as they share with others; 10-12 months mainly for drought-affected areas; and direct support for students;
- Linking PSNP public work with other programmes such as the Household Asset Building Programme (HABP).

Overall however, the effect of these social relations, institutions, networks and organisations needs to be properly studied and incorporated into social protection interventions of the region so as to create resilient communities and environment.

## **Indigenous weather forecasting among Afar pastoralists in north-eastern Ethiopia: Role in climate change adaptation. By Dr. Mulubrhan Balehegn, Associate Professor of Rangeland Ecology and Pastoralist Development, Mekelle University and a post-doctoral researcher at the UNEP-IEMP**

Traditional weather forecasting is used by many indigenous communities worldwide to forecast weather and guide daily livelihood decisions and climate change adaptation measures. In many indigenous communities worldwide, such traditional weather forecasting still remains the only accessible and comprehensible source of weather and climate information. Therefore, it is important to document such indigenous knowledge so as to enhance its use in local climate change adaptation.

In this study, I aimed to investigate and document traditional weather forecasting practices among Afar pastoralists of north-eastern Ethiopia. The methods used included focused group discussions with clan leaders, community elders and experienced herders; and individual interviews with experienced rangeland scouts, traditional seers and prominent clan leaders.

The Afar traditionally predict weather and climate through the observation of diverse biophysical entities including livestock, insects, birds, trees and other wildlife. Besides direct observation of bio-physical or environmental entities, the Afar pastoralists also consult traditional seers or rain makers who make a probabilistic prediction of future weather. The Afar pastoralists recognise the potentials and limitations of their traditional weather forecasting techniques. Therefore, no single prediction is taken at face value; weather forecasting is a dynamic process where weather information is collected by triangulating different sources mentioned above and others, including the formal weather forecasting system, to make the safest livelihood decisions.

Before any forecasting information is used, it passes through three important traditional information collection, sharing and analysis institutions. These institutions make sure that not only the most probable forecasting is used for decision making, but also that forecasting techniques that lose their reliability with time, are excluded through a circular feedback system. These institutions include: 1) The '*Edo*', or range scouting, where traditional rangeland scouts are sent on a mission to assess other spatially and temporally variable attributes on rangelands such as rangeland condition, security etc.; 2) The '*Dagu*', a traditional information sharing network, where weather information is shared through a secured and reputable network; and 3) The '*Adda*', or a group of village elders in the traditional Afar governance system, who evaluate or weigh the pros and cons of forecasting information before making decisions to be followed by communities.

Because of their reliability and trust by the local community, indigenous weather forecasting can be used for effective adaptation to climate change at local level, while synergies are created for integration with formal weather forecasting systems. The next steps are:

- Digitising Afar indigenous knowledge on weather forecasting for forecast co-production with modern meteorological science:
  - Developing a 'third space' of knowledge and practice;
  - Using cyber tracker technology for collecting local indicators of weather and climate change to help in maintaining a pastoral legacy.
- Engaging stakeholders and creating awareness about the role of indigenous and traditional knowledge.

## **Impact of Ethiopia's Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP) on the Household Livelihood: The Case of Babile District in Somali Regional State, Ethiopia. By Abduselam Abdulahi Mohamed, Lecturer at Kebri Dehar University**



This paper aims to evaluate the impact of Ethiopia's productive safety net programme on households' livelihood in Babile district by using primary data collected during January and February 2017 from PSNP treatment and controls group sampled households. Descriptive statistics and Propensity Score Matching were used to evaluate the impact of the programme in the study area.

The paper revealed that among eleven model variables, five of them influence the programme participation decisions. Thus, the programme had positive and highly significant effect on consumption in which the average calorie intake for treatment and control group farmers was 3,573.08 and 2,303.97 Kcal/AE, respectively; the difference of 1,269.11 Kcal/AE being found due to the programme intervention in the study area. Even though

the result of the study shows that there is no significant difference among treatment and control groups in terms of annual income, household participation in PSNP has a positive and statistically significant effect on food consumption, than that on households' livelihood.

Yet population in this study area – Babile District – has not the same access to assets which influences their livelihood status and livelihood strategies that they undertake.

Moreover, different categories of people have different priorities, and they may respond differently to different interventions. Therefore, PSNP and other government development interventions need to understand and consider these rural households' conditions.

### **Discussion: Q&A**

The session moderated by Dr. Gebmeskel Gebretsadik, Administration Vice President of ADU was opened for question and answer time on multiple issues and suggestions made by the participants. The issues raised included: "Is the targeting problem an error of inclusion or exclusion? Why was there only a focus on error of inclusion?". The results showed there is no significant difference in expenditure, rather there is significant difference in income. Other questions included: "Does the sharing culture of the Afars have an effect on expenditure?" and "If there is modern weather forecasting method why do we rely on traditional forecasting methods?".

## Testimonials from the targeted pastoralist communities



Testimonial from the Afar communities (from left to right: second testimonial, first testimonial and a representative)

### First testimonial:

*“First of all how do you do? I am pleased to be here. The safety net programme in our woreda started in 2000 because our woreda Berhale was taken as a pilot area at that time. The programme was launched due to the inconvenience/difficulty of the geographical condition of our land. Earlier the beginning of the programme, there was no any kind of infrastructure in our area. But since the start-up of the programme, different infrastructures have been constructed, such as schools and health centres in our community. For example, three schools and roads have been constructed in my kebele. As it is indicated in the studies presented earlier, our main problem regarding the programme is the quota. The number of beneficiaries is small. But the programme is effective and is in a good condition so let it be strengthened and continue. The programme should sustain. Thanks!”*

### Second testimonial (A woman from Esa Welie)

*“Good afternoon!*

*I am one of the programme participants, and I am benefiting from the programme. Before the launching of the programme there was no any infrastructure in our area but after safety net it is getting introduced. It is women more participating in the programme. Thanks!”*

## SESSION THREE: SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL VALUE ENHANCEMENT, SOCIAL PROTECTION, CLIMATE CHANGE AND INTEGRATED PASTORAL AND AGRO-PASTORAL DEVELOPMENT IN AFAR REGION

Chair: Dr. Haftay Ghebreyesus, Research and community service directorate director, Adigrat University,

### **Informing Sustainable Agricultural Value Enhancement in the Pastoral and Agro-pastoral Systems in Ethiopia: Analysis of Socioeconomic Characteristics and Market Access of Households.<sup>4</sup> By Berhanu Gebremedhin, ILRI.**

This study was conducted in four regions: Afar, Somali, Borena and Oromia regions, with a sample size of 1,300 pastoral communities. The study aimed to support monitoring and evaluation components such as baseline surveys, end line surveys and impact evaluations. All the activities were supposed to come up with positive impacts that could change the livelihood of the beneficiaries.

Qualitative household surveys were conducted using computer assisted personal interviews (CAPI), community level focus group discussions (FGDs), district and region level key informant interviews (KIIs). Data was also collected on the performance indicators, plus many additional variables that could be used in M&E and impact evaluation.



The sampling was stratified by livelihood zone and regional state cluster approach with two stage of sampling. There have been ten experimental and ten control groups.

Despite many challenges, pastoral and agro-pastoral production systems in Ethiopia remain of high importance with huge potential to enhance livelihoods and increase household income. These systems also remain important sources of export revenue to the country. However, the contributions to national and household income of the average livestock holding of 22 to 43 TLU per household remain far below the potential.

The study shows that the average household cash income in these systems was about Birr 23,000 to 26,000, of which about two-thirds was contributed through livestock sales. Most sales are distress sales due to drought and other risk factors, which obviously reduces sales revenue to the sellers. Livestock

productivity also remains low. For example, milk yield was estimated to be 0.15 to 1 litre per milking cow per day.

Livestock deaths, caused mainly by diseases and starvation, are constant menaces to the sustainable livelihoods of the pastoral and agro-pastoral households. The study indicates that households are greatly dissatisfied with the animal health services.

---

<sup>4</sup> The paper was produced by Berhanu Gebremedhin, Mengistu Woldehanna, Fiona Flintan, Barbara Wieland and Jane Poole.

Availability of drinking water for livestock also remains a major concern in livestock production. Market infrastructures and market services remain severely underdeveloped. The study shows that market users travelled for up to more than 2 days to reach marketplaces. The sources of livestock price information remain primarily informal, including family members, clan members, and neighbours. Interestingly the role of mobile phones in accessing price information has been reported by a significant proportion of survey households.

The importance of market information was confirmed by the fact that more than a third of livestock sellers reported that price information influenced their decision to sell livestock. As a way forward, the communities identified water-centred development, strengthening animal health services, integrated natural resource management, diversification of livelihood options, and infrastructural development (particularly roads and markets), as their top priority development needs.



# Afar Integrated Pastoral and Agro-pastoral Development. Working Paper. By Professor Mitiku Haile

The research was conducted in collaboration with the Afar Regional State government and Mekelle University. The study helps development strategies for pastoral and agro-pastoral communities to foster fast and sustainable development. The major objective of the study was to review the present government's policies and strategies with the specific objectives of formulating, developing and recommending appropriate policies and strategies to enforce the contribution of pastoral livestock to the national economy.

## Study focus areas, preliminary findings and identified intervention areas

<p><b>The study had seventeen areas of focus:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. livestock feed, water resource development and bio diversity conservation</li> <li>2. infrastructure development</li> <li>3. research and extension advisory service development</li> <li>4. land degradation and developing coping strategy and resilience</li> <li>5. forestry, rangeland, wildlife and scientific tourism development</li> <li>6. mining development</li> <li>7. sustainable of appropriate pastoral and agro-pastoral production system and livelihoods</li> <li>8. conflicts and harmonisation</li> <li>9. investment promotion</li> <li>10. pastoral and agro-pastoral code development and monitoring</li> <li>11. agricultural mechanisation</li> <li>12. voluntary settlement strategies</li> <li>13. access to energy and energy development</li> <li>14. institutional framework for policy implementation</li> <li>15. legal framework for policy implementation</li> <li>16. saving, credit and access to cash</li> <li>17. cohesiveness and bondage of the pastoral and agro-pastoral communities</li> </ol>	<p><b>Preliminary findings (challenges)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• chronic shortage of water</li> <li>• no access to energy</li> <li>• reduction of livestock production from time to time</li> <li>• drought</li> <li>• flooding</li> <li>• inadequate information and communication facilities</li> <li>• poor access to market value changes</li> <li>• poor human capacity</li> <li>• poor social and economic infrastructure</li> </ul>
<p><b>Preliminary findings (opportunities)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the region is with full of flora and fauna, minerals, water, land and resources</li> <li>• readiness for economic transformation</li> <li>• positive cultural norms</li> <li>• access to education and health services</li> </ul>	<p><b>Possible intervention areas (ways forward)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• water-based interventions</li> <li>• development of climate resilient model villages</li> <li>• alternative energy sources</li> </ul>

## **Social Protection and Vulnerability to Climate Shocks: A panel data evidence from Rural Ethiopia. By Dr. Zerihun Berhane Weldegebriel, Assistant Professor of Development Studies at the Centre for African and Oriental Studies, Addis Ababa University (AAU)**

It is widely predicted that climate change will have an adverse impact on Ethiopian agriculture and exacerbate the problem of food insecurity. In this context, social protection schemes can potentially contribute to households' autonomous adaptation by reducing vulnerability to climatic shocks.



Though the main aim of social protection is poverty reduction, it also has to address climate change.

This scholarly research paper is on the role of the Productive Safety Net Programme in reducing vulnerability to climate related shocks and its impacts on autonomous adaptation strategies by taking the case of household income diversification into non-farm activities.

The paper assesses vulnerability using an index-based approach and the impact of the programme using two non-experimental approaches namely; Differences-in-differences (DID) combined with Propensity Score Matching for a panel of 1,306 rural households from the two recent rounds of the Ethiopian Rural Household survey for the years 2004 and 2009.

Taking advantage of the extensive data available on climate-induced shocks and a range of activities and incomes, the paper makes a conceptual distinction between non-farm and off-farm income, and uses the recent Adaptive Social Protection framework to examine the impact of the programme.

The results from the vulnerability assessment indicate that exposure and lack of adaptive capacity to climate-induced shocks explain the vulnerability of rural households and that PSNP helps to decrease the vulnerability of households to climate-induced shocks. The results from the non-experimental estimations also indicate that receiving transfers from the PSNP, on average increases income from non-farm activities.

To conclude, these results partly confirm the hypothesis that social protection can promote positive adaptation strategies and may serve as an effective means of reducing the vulnerability of smallholders to climate change-induced shocks:

- The PSNP contributes positively to autonomous climate change adaptation.
- Since long-term and sustainable adaptive capacity requires strengthening the links between the farm and the non-farm sectors, the programme's impact on climate change adaptation can be further enhanced by a focus on raising the productivity and farm income of smallholders.

## Discussion: Q&A

During the question and answer session, multiple issues and suggestions were made by the participants.

### Q & A for Dr. Berhanu Gebremedhin (ILRI)

- ✓ Average household size in your study was 4.0? What is the implication of this? What does it infer for the education participation of peoples?
- ✓ Is the dependency ratio you presented calculated consistently with the central statistics agency dependency ratio calculation formula?
- ✓ Can non-diversification be counted as a problem in a farm and for non-farm activities?
- ✓ It would be possible to reduce the walking distance of people by developing different infrastructural facilities. Why didn't the study concern this as a solution?
- ✓ When you say market access, for which market is it? Major or small market?
- ✓ The general school enrolment of men is better than women, but it would be better if it is classified based on the educational levels.
- ✓ Female-headed households number is high (1/3) in Tigray, but less in your study area. Could this be due to the high rate of divorce in Tigray which is low in other areas?
- ✓ Average household head age is 40 in your study but is in fact around 48 and above. Could this indicate the life expectancy in lowland to be lower than the highlands?

### Q & A for Prof. Mitiku Hailu (MU)

- ✓ Your study with 17 points assesses almost everything and all policy issues regarding Afars has been included. Is there sufficient finance and personnel to conduct the research/ to do the project. How feasible is it?
- ✓ Why does the project focuses on only a single zone? Wasn't it possible to include others too?

### Q & A for Dr. Zerihun Berhane Weldegebriel (AAU)

- ✓ Why did your analysis focus on a short-term period - why not focused on the long term?
- ✓ Why was vulnerability taken as one of the determinant factors?
- ✓ Why is migration from rural to urban areas taken as an advantage? Is it not caused by unemployment?
- ✓ It has been mentioned that, men's involvement is better than that of women. But wouldn't it be possible to enable the women to participate too?
- ✓ In the ways forward section, why didn't the market structure given a due concern if the people are still traveling for days to access a market?
- ✓ Why was only non-farm income taken as an income indicator? Why not a total income from different sources – or was off farm taken as a mutual exclusive for farm income?

## SESSION FOUR: CONCLUDING REMARKS, POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS, AND THE WAY FORWARD

Chair: Tsigab Aregawi, Dean, College of Business and Economics, Adigrat University

The last session, moderated by Tsigab Aregawi, created an opportunity for participants to reflect on their suggestions for ways forward. As a final note, Mr. Sewnet Chekol, a delegate from the Ministry of Federal and Pastoralist Development Affairs explained that the federal state policies and strategies of pastoral and agro-pastoral communities are on the way to being designed based on regional strategies and national priorities, and reconfirmed the federal government's commitment to support the pastoralist communities in boosting their resilience and improving their livelihoods.

### Conference key findings and policy recommendations

At the end of the second day and as an outcome of the policy discussions grounded on the evidence-based research findings and the participants' experiences, a declaration was drafted by the conference organising committee, presented to the participants and finally endorsed. The conference declaration called upon all concerned parties to continue building up on the research outcomes and findings and working closely with the stakeholders in the Afar Region of Ethiopia to positively contribute to and enhance the PSNP to evolve in a way which is most suited to the realities of the Afar pastoral and agro-pastoral communities.

As concluding policy remarks, the conference participants agreed and declared the following points:

- Highly recommend that social protection policies and programmes be evidence based and consider the social, economic and cultural settings of the pastoral and agro-pastoral communities in the Afar Region and beyond.
- Promote evidence-based projects and livelihood-centred development programmes in the pastoral and agro-pastoral communities of the Afar Region and beyond.
- Promote regional understanding of best practice in delivering social protection programmes, by establishing appropriate and coordinated regional learning mechanisms among the relevant partners, and to disseminate these practices to those who need them at the appropriate level, and in the appropriate format at regional, national and local levels.
- Recommend water-centred development interventions in pastoral and agro-pastoral areas in the Afar Region, Ethiopia.
- Urge the national government and donor-partners to support the outcomes of this study and promote/ expand the effective delivery of PSNP among the Afar communities in Ethiopia.

The conference concluding remark was made by the guest of honour, Mr. Amanuel Gebru, Senior official of Eastern Zone, Tigray. In his speech, Mr. Gebru acknowledged the contribution of UCL and PENHA in establishing partnership with ADU and sharing their expertise, which should be strengthened in the future. Moreover, he noted also that ADU has started its role in regional collaboration and engagement of the lowlands with research and community service and that this activity should be strengthen and scaled up.

## ANNEXES

### Annex 1: Conference declaration

**Adigrat Declaration**  
**on**  
**Social Protection as a pathway for inclusive development among pastoral**  
**and agro-pastoral communities in Ethiopia.**  
**Adigrat, Ethiopia**  
**November 26<sup>th</sup> 2017.**

**Preamble:** Social protection is viewed as a human right as well as an economic and social necessity that has elements of protection against risk and social assistance in supporting the poor and the marginalised people. The value of social protection as a means to reduce and mitigate the risk of drought and disasters and to ensure long-term development aspirations has come into prominence over the last few decades. As a social protection tool and to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and later the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) more specifically eradicating the extreme poverty and hunger, the sub-Saharan African governments have implemented different policies and strategies. It is well known in development and academic circles that Ethiopia has executed the Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP) in 2005 in many rural areas of the country. The same programme was extended to the pastoral and agro-pastoral regions like the Afar and Somali regions in 2009. The PSNP is regarded as the biggest social protection scheme in sub-Saharan Africa. Recently and as part of the second Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP), the productive safety net programme is being extended to urban areas. Many studies conducted previously and findings of the current research project show that the PSNP has brought a positive and discernible impact on the livelihood of programme participants.

The Social Protection for Inclusive Development in Afar (SPIDA) is a research project supported by the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO). The main focus of the research is on the traditional and formal social protection schemes practiced in the Afar Region of Ethiopia. While the former centres around the clan system and religious practices prevalent in the study area, the latter is viewed within the framework of the ongoing safety net programme (i.e. PSNP) in Afar Regional State. The achievements and limitations of the programme are studied in depth using qualitative and quantitative methods of analysis and policy recommendations emanating from the study are accordingly outlined. The outcomes of the research project as well as research outputs produced within the context of pastoralist and agro-pastoralist communities in Ethiopia and elsewhere are presented in this international conference. SPIDA as a research project aims to analyse the contributions and limitations of the PSNP as a formal programme, as well as the traditional social protection schemes widely practiced in the study areas.

**We the organisers and the participants** of the now-funded convened conference “*On Social Protection as a pathway for inclusive development among pastoral and agro-pastoral communities in Ethiopia*” met in Adigrat, Ethiopia, on 25-26 November 2017. We represent

the three consortium members, namely Adigrat University, Development Planning Unit of University College London, the Pastoral and Environmental Network in the Horn of Africa (PENHA), as well as Samara University, senior government officials, Afar local community representatives, and academic and research institutions. More specifically, participants and scholarly paper presenters in the international conference included people drawn from the Pastoral Development Standing Committee of the House of People Representatives, Ministry of Federal and Pastoralist Affairs, PSNP participants and local administrators from the study area, Adigrat University, University College London (UCL), Mekelle University, Addis Ababa University, Kebri Dehar University, the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) and the Pastoral and Environmental Network in the Horn of Africa (PENHA).

We call upon all concerned parties to continue building up on the outcomes of our research and indeed works by other stakeholders actively involved in the Afar Region of Ethiopia, so as to enhance the PSNP to evolve in ways which are most suited to the realities of the Afar pastoral and agro-pastoral communities.

We urge the various stakeholders to act in their different capacities to:

- Highly recommend that social protection policies and programmes be evidence based and consider the social, economic and cultural settings of the pastoralists and agro-pastoralist communities in the Afar Region and beyond.
- Promote evidence-based projects and livelihood-centred development programmes in the pastoralists and agro-pastoralist communities in the Afar Region and beyond.
- Promote regional understanding of best practice in delivering social protection, by establishing appropriate and co-ordinated regional learning mechanisms among the relevant partners, and to disseminate these practices to those who need them at the appropriate level, and in the appropriate form, at regional, national and local level.
- Recommend water-centred development interventions in pastoral and agro-pastoral areas in the Afar Region of Ethiopia.
- Urge the national government and donor partners to support this declaration and promote/expand the effective delivery of PSNP among the Afar communities in Ethiopia.

We the undersigned commit in our personal and professional capacities to further the spirit of this declaration and to work in ways that harness cooperation among partners.

## Annex 2: Profile of speakers, contributors and chairs

**Abdusalam Abdulahi Mohamed** works as Director of Student Services Directorate at the Kebri Dehar University of Ethiopia. He also used to teach at the Department of Agricultural Economics, College of Agriculture and Veterinary Science, Ambo University, Ethiopia. He obtained his BSc in Agricultural Economics in 2015 from Jimma University and his MSc in Agricultural Economics in 2017 from Ambo University. He has taught courses such as macro-economics, micro-economics, farming systems and livelihood and project planning. His research interests include among others poverty and food security, social protection and safety nets, livelihood analysis, policy issues and pastoralism and livelihood analysis.

**Araya Mebrahtu Teka** is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Economics, Adigrat University and PhD student at Korea Development Institute School of Public Policy and Management and Exchange student at Department of Economics, Andong National University, South Korea. Mr. Teka's research interest areas include poverty analysis, income distribution, development policy, welfare economics, institutional and social change economics, labour studies, agriculture & environment policy studies, and regional economic policy analysis.

**Bereket Tsegay** is an Interim Director and researcher at the London based non-for-profit research institute the Pastoral and Environmental Network in the Horn of Africa (PENHA). He is also a Graduate Teaching Assistant and PhD candidate in Development Studies at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London working on the issue of the Green Economy in sub-Saharan Africa. His research has focused on policy analysis, natural resource governance, food security, pastoralism, dynamics of institutions in development, climate change resilience and green economy, risk management, as well as social protection. Bereket has rich experience in both consultancy and programme management of the EU and UN supported activities in the Horn of Africa region countries, including Eritrea, Ethiopia, Somaliland, South Sudan and Sudan and Uganda.

**Dr. Berhanu Gebremedhin** is an agricultural economist with the operating project on smallholder competitiveness in changing livestock markets. He holds a BSc in Agricultural Economics (Addis Ababa University), MSc in Agricultural Economics (University of Warsaw), and MA in Economics and PhD in Agricultural Economics (both from Michigan State University). He has over 10 years of teaching experience in several universities in Ethiopia at both undergraduate and graduate levels. Courses taught include: microeconomics, mathematical economics, econometrics, agricultural production economics, and environmental and natural resource economics. He also has over 10 years of research experience in the sustainable economic development of agriculture. He joined ILRI in 1998 as a postdoctoral scientist and took up his current position of agricultural economist in 2002. Prior to ILRI, Berhanu worked at Michigan State University as a graduate research assistant (1995-98) and visiting scholar (January to October 1998).

**Bisrat Weldesilassie** has a significant work experience both in NGO and academic institutions. Having a sociology and development studies background, he is now a PhD student of African Studies at Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia. During his career, he has worked as a Planning and M&E Officer with Catholic NGOs; as a lecturer and as Head of the Sociology Department at Adigrat University, and as a researcher with different development institutions. Having a keen interest in migration, development, social ills, youth, gender and culture, Bisrat has been, for the last three years, an active player in consultancy, research and conferences both at national and regional — the Greater Horn of Africa — levels.

**Gabriel Temesgen** has about seven years of work experience in teaching, research, community services and administrative experience in Ethiopia. For the last three years, he has worked as Assistant Professor at Adigrat University, Ethiopia. During those times, he has participated and engaged in research related to agricultural household packages, the productive safety net programme, zero grazing, food security, irrigation, energy, climate change and others. He has taught courses and supervised students writing their senior essay at undergraduate level and thesis at graduate level. He has also extensive experience in academic, research administration, research and professional activities. He enjoys the work he does and has been evaluated positively by students and colleagues. He is extremely excited about the opportunity to grow and develop his career as a researcher, lecturer and administrator where skills and experiences can be put to good use.

**Isabela Martins Machado** is a consultant at the General Coordination of the National School Feeding Programme in Brazil, in the National Fund for Educational Development (FNDE). She holds a MSc in Environmental Sciences, Policy and Management (the University of Manchester) and a BA in International Relations (University of Brasília). Previously, she was a social protection research assistant in the International Policy Centre for Inclusive Growth (IPC-IG). She has also worked at the United Nations Development Programme in Brazil on sustainable development initiatives. Her research interests include smallholder agriculture and rural development, social protection and safety nets, sustainable livelihood programmes, poverty and food security, and climate change adaptation among smallholder farmers in sub-Saharan Africa.

**Dr. Mulubrhan Balehegn** is an Associate Professor of Rangeland Ecology and Pastoralist Development at the Department of Animal, Rangeland and Wildlife Sciences. He has an MSc degree in Livestock Production and Pastoral Development from Mekelle University (2008) and PhD degree in Range Animal Nutrition, from Norwegian University of Life Sciences (2014). He is also currently a post-doctoral researcher at the UNEP-IEMP (United National Environment Programme- International Ecosystem Management Partnership), Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing, China. His research interests involve ecosystem based climate change adaptation among small scale pastoral and agrarian communities in eastern Africa. He is currently undertaking research in indigenous climate change knowledge and weather forecasting among the Afar pastoralists in north-eastern Ethiopia. His current project is sponsored by the UNESCO-LINKS (Local and Indigenous Knowledge Systems) Programme.

**Selamawit Teklu Araya** is a Lecturer of Economics and Director for the Office of Planning and Institutional Transformation at Adigrat University of Ethiopia. He earned an MSc in Economics with a specialisation in development policy analysis from Mekelle University and has assumed roles that include teaching and advising, conducting research and providing community services, preparing long-term and short-term plans and reports of the university, and implementing reform activities such as KAIZEN and BSC within the university.

**Dr. Zaid Negash** is President of Adigrat University and Assistant Professor in the Department of Economics in Tigray, northern Ethiopia since 2011. Prior to these positions he used to teach economics at Mekelle University and was able to advise postgraduate degree students. Dr. Negash earned his PhD in Economics from Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (K.U.Leuven), Belgium in 2008. His research interests include development policy, micro-finance, micro-economics, poverty analysis and impact evaluation.



**Dr. Zeremariam Fre** was the Founding Director and Head of a regional NGO (the Pastoral and Environmental Network in the Horn of Africa (PENHA)) from January 1990 to March 2017 and is now serving as a Senior Advisor to PENHA. PENHA works and partners with development agencies in several countries in the Greater Horn of Africa (IGAD Region). He has also worked in the Far East, western Europe and South America, 13 countries in all. Dr. Fre has been working as a lecturer and course tutor at University College London in the Bartlett Development Planning Unit (DPU) since 2002, and his research and teaching stems from his work experience in development planning, dryland agriculture, land use policy, food security, urban-peri-urban agriculture, indigenous knowledge systems, role of women in food production and management, NGOs and social movements, project monitoring and evaluation, fund raising/resource mobilisation and approaching funders. Currently he is teaching the MSc modules, Land, Food and Agriculture and Urban and Peri-Urban Agriculture: Knowledge Systems in the Global South. Dr. Fre has supervised more than 80 Masters dissertations and co-supervises several PhDs.

**Dr. Zerihun Berhane Weldegebriel** is has a PhD in local development and global dynamics from the University of Trento, Italy. He has two MA degrees – one in globalisation and development from the University of Antwerp, Belgium and the other in development studies with a specialisation in rural livelihoods and development from Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia. Zerihun has worked in various positions with organisations providing research, training, and capacity building services and undertaking qualitative and quantitative analyses and impact evaluation of programmes. He has worked as a consultant in capacity assessment projects, conducted baseline and end line surveys and served as a trainer and educator. His research areas include climate change adaptation, social protection, and livelihoods systems. So far, he has published six referred journal articles, a working paper, two blogs, several book reviews and technical reports and presented papers at many national and international conferences. Currently, Zerihun is working as an Assistant Professor in the Centre for African and Oriental Studies, Addis Ababa University.

### Annex 3: List of conference participants

S. No	Name	S. No	Name
1	H. E. Mohamed Yusuf	34	Hagos W/gebriel
2	Ato Sewnet Chekol	35	Samson Abau
3	Prof. Mitiku Haile	36	Naser Yenus
4	Dr. Zaid Negash	37	Dawud Derso
5	Dr. Zeremariam Fre	38	Mathias Seleshi
6	Dr. Berhanu Gebremedhin	39	Dr. G/meskel G/tsadik
7	Ato Ali Hussen	40	Yared Nuguse
8	Dr. Zerihun Berhane	41	Abrha Kindeya
9	Gabriel Temesgen	42	Zinabu Hailu
10	Selamawit Teklu Araya	43	G/hiwot Syum
11	Bisrat W/silasse	44	Tesfay W/Gebriel
12	Osman Kedir	45	Abdlah Alifnur
13	Zahra Ahmed	46	Endalew Adamu
14	Mohamed Adem	47	Ina Neubergelwilkie
15	Ali Ise	48	Dr. Mulubrhan Balehegh
16	Dr. Haftay Ghebreyesus	49	Abdelwassie Hussien
17	Dr. Bihon Kasa	50	Said Mohammed
18	Mesfin Dehibe	51	Zebib Abisa
19	Lemlem G/mariam	52	Muuz Abraha
20	Michaele Tewodros	53	Asefa Tesfay
21	Alem Teka	54	Gezahaegn H/Slassie
22	Haile Araya	55	Teweldebrhan Abera
23	Abraha G/rufael	56	Kibrom Fisshaye
24	Tassew Alemayehu	57	Mikaiale Amare
25	Abdu Nore	58	Henok Haftu
26	Hayat Mohammed	59	Yared Abera
27	Abdu Admasu	60	Kaleab Mersha
28	Abdlah Alifnur	61	Hagos Kidu
29	Abduselam Abdulahi	62	Solemun Kiflay
30	Endris Siraj	63	Fitsum Girmay
31	Dr.Mulualem G/gergs	64	Kedir Ali Ahmed
32	Mezgebe Goitom	65	Mesfien Edries
33	Habtu Embaye	66	Ibrahim Adem

<b>S. No</b>	<b>Name</b>
67	Awol Husen
68	Dr. Addis Beyene
69	Haylay Mehari
70	Mezgob G/tasdik
71	Tsigab Hagos
72	Tsigab Aregawi
73	Michaele Beyene
74	Tadesse G/Mariam
75	Muruts Zewde
76	Rekik Sale
77	Abrha Teklu
78	Amanuel Berhe
79	Zaid G/medhin
80	Selemawit G/rufaeil
81	Abeba Tesfay
82	Hagos G/her
83	Ahferom Teklay

<b>S. No</b>	<b>Name</b>
84	Zainaba Mohamed
85	Solemon Abera
86	Yonatan Gezachew
87	Mohamed Yusuf
88	G/her G/Meskel
89	Zerhun Teshome
90	Biruk Kassa
91	Fana Petros
92	Luwam G/her
93	Mebrat G/Mariam
94	Yohannes Kebede
95	Roman Taddese
96	Tewlde Gebre
97	Senait Brhane
98	Hailemical Tesfay
99	Abdella Yassin
100	Abrhaley G/Mariam

## Annex 4: Conference programme

Day One	Activity	Responsible Person
<b>8:30am to 12:30pm</b>		
8:30am – 9:00am	Registration and welcome	SPIDA Team
9:00am – 9:30am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Welcome speech</li> <li>Opening speech by Guest of Honour</li> <li>Keynote speech</li> </ul>	<p>Dr. Zaid Negash, President of Adigrat University</p> <p>H.E. Ato Mohamed Yusuf Umer, Chairperson, Standing Committee on Pastoral Development, Federal House of Representatives</p> <p>Dr. Haftay Ghebreyesus, research and community service directorate director, Adigrat University</p> <p>Dr. Zeremariam Fre, Senior Lecturer at University College London (UCL)</p>
9:45am-10:30am	<p>Social Protection: Global Trends and Prospects (with a focus on sub-Saharan Africa and Brazil)</p> <p>Social Protection in the context of sub-Saharan Africa: Trends and challenges</p> <p>Supporting Family Farming through the National School Feeding Programme in Brazil (Video presentation)</p>	<p>Dr. Zeremariam Fre, Senior Lecturer at University College London, SPIDA Consortium leader</p> <p>Isabela Martins Machado is a consultant at the National School Feeding Programme's Coordination, National Fund for Educational Development – FNDE, Brazil</p>
10:15am-10:45am	SPIDA key findings, lessons, recommendations and policy implications (PRA results)	Dr. Zaid Negash, President of Adigrat University
10:45am-11:00am	Coffee break	
11:00am-11:30am	SPIDA key findings, lessons, recommendations and policy implications (PSNP and poverty)	Gabriel Temesgen, Assistant Professor in Department of Economics, Adigrat University,
11:30am-12:30pm	Discussions and reflections	Moderated by Prof. Mitiku Haile, Professor of Soil Science and Sustainable Land Management, Mekelle University
12:30pm -2:30pm	Lunch break	
<b>Day One</b>		
<b>2:30pm-6:00pm</b>		
2:30pm-3:00pm	SPIDA key findings, lessons, recommendations and policy implications (PSNP and impact)	Selamawit Teklu Araya,
3:00pm-3:30pm	Does Social fabric matter? Implications for social protection policies and programmes among Pastoralists and Agro-pastoralist communities: Evidence from Afar Regional State	Bisrat Weldesilassie, Lecturer of Sociology, Adigrat University and PhD candidate, AAU
3:30am-3:45pm	Testimonials from the targeted pastoralist communities	Afar pastoralist from the invited woreda people
3:45pm-4:00pm	Coffee break	
4:00pm-4:30pm	Indigenous weather forecasting among Afar pastoralists in north-eastern Ethiopia: Role in Climate change adaptation	Dr. Mulubrhan Balehegn, Mekelle University and Post-doctoral Fellowship at UNEP-IEMP, China
4:30pm-5:00pm	Impact of Ethiopia's Productive Safety Net	Abduselam Abdulahi Mohamed,

	Programme(PSNP) on Household Livelihoods: The case of Babile District in Somali Regional State, Ethiopia	Lecturer at Kebri Dehar University
5:00pm-6:00pm	Moderated Discussion: Q and A: Concluding remarks	Moderated by: Dr. Gebremeskel Gebresadik
<b>Day Two</b>		
<b>8:30am to 12:30pm</b>		
8:30am-9:00am	Recap on day one	
9:00am-9:30am	Informing Sustainable Agricultural Value Enhancement in the Pastoral and Agro-pastoral Systems in Ethiopia: Analysis of socioeconomic characteristics and market access of households	Dr. Berhanu Gebremedhin - Principal Scientist-Agricultural Economist and Research Coordinator, International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI)
9:30am-10:00am	Afar integrated pastoral and agro-pastoral development. Working paper.	Prof. Mitiku Haile, Professor of Soil Science and Sustainable Land Management, Mekelle University
10:00am-10:15am	Coffee break	
10:15am-10:45am	Social Protection and Vulnerability to Climate shocks: A panel data evidence from rural Ethiopia	Dr. Zerihun Berhane Weldegebriel, Assistant Professor of Development Studies at the Centre for African and Oriental Studies, College of Social Sciences, Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia.
11:15am-1:00pm	Moderated Discussion: Q and A: Concluding Remark	Moderated by: Dr. Hafaty G/yesus
1:00pm -2:30pm	Lunch break	
<b>Day Two</b>		
<b>2:30pm-5:30pm</b>		
2:30pm-4:00pm	Group discussion presentations on the way forward on policy and practice	Dr. Zaid Negash, Prof. Mitku and SU representative
4:00pm-4:15pm	Coffee break	
4:15pm-5:00pm	SPIDA resolution on PSNP to be drafted and signed	Dr. Zaid Negash, Prof. Mitku, Dr. ZeremariamFreand Samara University representative
5:00pm-5:30pm	Closing remarks by Guest of Honour	Senior official of eastern zone of Tigray, Ato Amanuel Gebru
6:00pm-8:00pm	Official reception and end of conference	Venue Agamos Hotel

## Annex 5: List of SPIDA research outputs

SPIDA research outputs include:

1. *Social protection for inclusive development in the Afar Region in Ethiopia: Participatory Rural Appraisal Report* (based on six FGDs conducted in six districts of Afar Region)
2. *Exploring the implications of informal and formal social protection practices among the Afar communities in Ethiopia.*
3. *Critical reflections on safety net policies and practices with respect to social protection among pastoral peoples in Sub-Saharan Africa.*
4. *Status & Determinants of Poverty and Income Inequality in Pastoral and Agro-pastoral Communities: Household based Evidences from Afar Regional State, Ethiopia*
5. *The impact of productive safety net on livelihoods among the Afar pastoralist and agro-pastoralist communities in Ethiopia: lessons and policy directions.*
6. *Social Protection among the Afar Pastoral and Agro-Pastoral Communities in Ethiopia: Critical Reflections on the Multi-Partner Efforts, Achievements, Challenges and Some Lessons Learnt.*
7. *SPIDA Policy Brief: Social protection among the Afar pastoralist communities in Ethiopia: Beyond survival towards transformation.*
8. *Social Protection as a pathway for inclusive development among the pastoral and agro-pastoral communities in Africa, Conference proceedings, November 25<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> 2017, Adigrat University, Ethiopia.*
9. *Report on: The Consultative workshop of SPIDA Research consortium and regional Stakeholders on PSNP in Afar Regional State, Ethiopia, June 1<sup>st</sup> 2017*

*For further readings on social protection and safety nets on Africa and other global initiatives please visit the Social Protection Digital Resource section of PENHA Website.*  
[www.penhanetwork.org](http://www.penhanetwork.org)

*This Digital Resource section is created as part of the SPIDA research project conducted in Afar region of Ethiopia and with the support of the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO).*

© 2018 ADU/PENHA/DPU-UCL

**Contact information**

**PENHA**

**1 Laney Building, Portpool Lane**

**EC1N 7UL, London**

**United Kingdom**

**Tel/Fax: +442072420202**

**Email: [info@penhanetwork.org](mailto:info@penhanetwork.org)**

**Web: [www.penhanetwork.org](http://www.penhanetwork.org)**