



Trip Report: Building Assets for Sustainable Recovery and Food Security

Kenya and Ethiopia: 10-14 June and 23 June-1 July, 2002

By Peter D. Little and Michael Roth

Assets, Cycles, and Livelihoods: Addressing Food Insecurity in the Horn of Africa and Central America

Overview

Peter Little, Principal Investigator of the BASIS project *Assets, Cycles and Livelihoods*, visited Kenya from June 13 to 15 to review data collection in Baringo/Samburu, discuss with Kenyan-based researchers about the up-coming round of data collection in July 2002, and reviewed previous survey results. He also traveled to Samburu, Kenya and attended initial meetings sponsored by the GL-CRSP PARIMA (Pastoral Risk Management in East Africa) project.

Following this trip Peter Little and Michael Roth visited Ethiopia in the last week of June to review progress on the South Wello household Study, and give presentations on the BASIS project and BASIS research findings at workshops and seminars in Dessie and Bar Dahr. In addition, Peter Little worked on developing the program of work under the case study of non-farm activities and employment (USAID mission add-on), and with co-principal investigator Workneh Negatu on project administration.

Main Purposes

1. Review household data collection on-going in Baringo/Samburu, Kenya, check Kenyan data sets, meet with GL-CRSP/PARIMA colleagues regarding BASIS collaboration, and meet with Kenyan researchers to discuss further data collection needs during July;
2. Finalize agreements with Mulat Demeke and Tegegne Gebre-Egziabher regarding their involvement in the case study of non-farm activities and employment in the BASIS study region (South Wello, Ethiopia);
3. Attend meetings and give presentations on the BASIS project at workshops/seminars in Dessie and Bar Dahr, Ethiopia;
4. Discuss with IDR researchers progress made to date on the South Wello household study, and plans for future data analysis; and
5. Meet with Dr. Workneh Negatu, Director of the IDR, regarding administrative issues associated with the BASIS 'Assets, Cycles, and Food Security' Project.

Schedule

The schedule of activities in Ethiopia and Kenya is reported in Box A.

Box A: Schedule of Activities	
Date	Activities
June 10-12	Peter Little departs Lexington and arrives in Nairobi, Kenya
June 13-15	Little works on BASIS related activities in Kenya
June 16-22	Little works on non-BASIS related work in Kenya On June 22, Michael Roth departs Victoria Falls where he attended the International Common Property Association Meetings
June 23	Little arrives in Addis Ababa. Seeks to determine the location of Roth who was expected to arrive near to the time of Little's arrival. Meets with Principal Investigator Workneh Negatu of the Institute of Rural Development (IDR) to discuss plans for upcoming seminars in Dessie and Bar Dahr Roth departs Harare for Lilongwe but misses flight to Addis Ababa due to fog delaying landing. Roth is required to stay the evening in Lilongwe and works on research paper for Dessie/Bar Dar seminars
June 24	Roth arrives in Addis Ababa from Lilongwe. Little and Roth meet with Yigremew Adal and Negatu to revise travel plans to Dessie and Bar Dahr, and to review statistical analysis generated in USA Little meets with Ethiopian Student Dejene Negassa regarding visa problems and with Alemayehu Azeze of OSSREA regarding progress of the BASIS Research on Post-Drought Recovery Strategies among Pastoralists in the Horn of Africa
June 25	All day travel by Little, Negatu, and Roth to Dessie in Amhara Province. Meet in the evening with Mesfin Tedesse of the IDR to finalize details of Dessie policy seminars
June 26	BASIS (Dessie) Policy Seminar attended by researchers Adal, Little, Roth, Negatu, and Tedesse along with 8 officials belonging to the BASIS Policy Liason Committee Little, Roth and Negatu travel from Dessie to Bar Dahr reaching midway point in North Wello by evening
June 27	Little, Negatu and Roth travel from North Wello to Bar Dahr. Discussions held with regional officials about the BASIS project, preliminary findings, and future plans for collaboration with regional level government Depart Bar Dahr for Addis Ababa reaching Debre Markos by evening
June 28	Little, Negatu and Roth arrive back in Addis Ababa. Little meets with Dejene Negassa to discuss plans for a PhD in Anthropology at the University of Kentucky
June 29	Little and Roth meet with Adal and Negatu at Addis Ababa University regarding next steps for cleaning and analyzing household data Little meets with Alula Pankhurst regarding final report on case study research, and with Tegegne Gebre-Egziabher and Mulat Demeke regarding non-farm employment case study
June 30	Little and Roth depart Addis Ababa and arrive in London. In London, they prepare comments for students Mogues and Tewodaj explaining next steps for analyzing South Wello household data
July 1	Little departs London for USA. Roth departs London for Kyrgyzstan where he will work on another BASIS project – Institutional Innovations to Improve the Viability of Equity Sharing (reported on in a separate trip report)

Kenya: Key Activities and Accomplishments

From June 13-15, Peter Little reviewed the March/April 2002 round of data collection in Baringo/Samburu, and discussed with Kenyan-based researchers (Winnie Luseno and John McPeak, GL-CRSP Post-Doc) and research assistants about the up-coming round of data collection in July 2002. He also checked questionnaires from the previous round survey and packed up the 30 questionnaires to take back to the USA for data entry.

Peter Little also traveled to Samburu, Kenya and attended initial meetings sponsored by GL-CRSP PARIMA (Pastoral Risk Management in East Africa) project. Little also is a Co-PI on the PARIMA project. In attendance at the meetings were several US and Kenyan researchers, including Chris Barrett (also a PI of the BASIS project Poverty Traps and Resource Degradation in Kenya), D. Layne Coppock (PI of PARIMA), and Abdillahi Aboud (Professor at Egerton University and PARIMA Co-PI).

Ethiopia: Key Activities and Accomplishments

Peter Little arrived in Addis Ababa from Kenya on June 23. The early part of the afternoon was spent trying to determine the whereabouts of Michael Roth who was scheduled to arrive in Addis Ababa within an hour of Little's flight. Michael Roth on route from Harare to Addis Ababa was delayed by fog in Lilongwe. Peter Little also met with co-Principal Investigator Workneh Negatu to discuss the forthcoming seminars in Dessie and Bar Dahr and the need to postpone each of the meetings by one day due to the late arrival of Roth. Travel to Dessie had previously been arranged for June 24 with the Dessie meetings on June 25th.

Dessie Policy Conference

During the period February to June 2002, students Ragan Petrie and Tewodaj Mogues worked under Roth's supervision on preliminary analysis of the South Wello Household data. Based on this analysis, Roth organized and drafted the following paper, completing the final touches during his holdover in Lilongwe:

Food Self-Sufficiency or Income Security? Managing Labor and Assets to Secure Livelihoods and Food Security in South Wello, Amhara Province, Ethiopia by Michael Roth, Workneh Negatu, Ragan Petrie, Yigremew Adal and Tewodaj Mogues (draft)

Michael Roth arrived in Addis Ababa on the morning of June 24th. Little and Roth visited with Yigremew Adal and Workneh Negatu at the Institute of Rural Development to review the above paper and discuss the significance of the research findings for the meetings in Dessie and Bar Dahr. Researchers also discussed the seminar agendas for the Dessie and Bar Dahr meetings; it was decided that time would need to be limited in Bar Dahr to half a day so researchers Little and Roth could return to Addis Ababa in time for their international flights on June 30th.

On June 25, researchers Little, Negatu and Roth traveled all day by vehicle to Dessie, South Wello. In the evening, BASIS researchers met with BASIS study coordinator, Mesfin Tedesse, to work out final details of the policy seminar to be held the next day and to discuss status of the round 6 data collection currently in progress.

On June 26, BASIS researchers Yigremew Adal, Peter Little, Workneh Negatu, Mesfin Tedesse and Michael Roth participated in the IDR organized Dessie Policy Seminar held at the Lalibela Hotel. In addition to the BASIS researchers, the seminar was attended by approximately 8 officials who comprise the majority of the recently created BASIS Policy Liaison Committee. The committee was established earlier in the year, in order to facilitate BASIS links to policy makers and development practitioners in the study region. A report on the policy committee and its first meeting in March 2002 was prepared by Workneh Negatu and is available on the BASIS Webb page. The committee is comprised of administration officials from both South Wello and Oromiya Zones; a wereda (district) official from Dessie Zurie; members of the food security unit of the newly-created Department of Rural Development; a member of the NGO community (the NGO official is from Concern [an Irish NGO]); and other officials. A senior member of IDR also is a member of the committee.

The meeting started with introductions and then an opening presentation by Workneh Negatu about the history of the BASIS/IDR project in the region. This was followed by Yigremew Adal's discussion of the relevance and importance of the Policy Liaison Committee and what BASIS/IDR hopes to achieve with it. Little then gave an overview of the BASIS program and the 'Assets, Shocks, and Food Security' Project and the significance of the Ethiopian research. Members were provided with a BASIS Brief on the project as well as brochures, and were informed of the importance of links with policy makers. Various means of disseminating research findings to policy makers in Ethiopia were discussed and a summary of the different research activities that the project hopes to undertake over the next two years.

This presentation was followed by a presentation by Michael Roth (above paper) on the preliminary analysis from the ongoing South Wello household study. To keep the presentation brief, he focused only on the most significant findings, including analyses of the poverty status of female-headed households, impacts of food aid on the poor; and food security status of different strata of households. In the open question/discussion period that followed, the government officials generally agreed that the paper of tables was nicely done and realistically captured the major trends. They further felt that the research findings would be useful for the region's development needs. Some participants, however, raised the need for additional research on particularly problematic issues:

- (i) findings which show food aid is not reaching the poorest segments of the population needs further research. While it was agreed that this might be the case in some areas, it was not the situation in other areas according to some participants. The BASIS participants agreed to look more carefully at this issue.
- (ii) at least one of the participants felt that we should look more carefully at the impacts of HIV in the study area, since it will have a major impact on labor markets and land inheritance and access.
- (iii) it was felt that we should hold other meetings where local farmers are invited to discuss the results of the research. Plans were discussed about doing this within the next 12 months.

The seminar was adjourned with closing words from Workneh Negatu, Yigremew Adal, and Peter Little. Possible dates for subsequent meetings during the next 6 to 9 months were discussed. A luncheon was held for the seminar participants. Little, Negatu and Roth then departed for Bar Dahr around 1:30 pm (with plans to stay one night en route). After 7 hours of driving, the researchers arrived at a small hotel in North Wello where they stayed the night. The long drive allowed researchers us to observe a large part of the South Wello study region and much of the western half of the South Wello Zone.

Bar Dahr Policy Conference

On June 27, researchers departed at 5:30 am but because the distance was longer than expected, they did not arrive in Bar Dahr until about 11:00 AM. A 2 hour discussion was held with a group of Regional officials about the BASIS project and plans for holding a seminar in the near future on the policy implications of the BASIS research. In attendance were Meles Tilahun, Regional Director of the Food Security Department, Bureau of Rural Development (who chaired the meeting), Teshome Walle of the Amhara Bureau of Agriculture, and Gebeyehu Belay of the Amhara Region Agricultural Research Institute (ARARI). The regional officials were very receptive of the project and of the preliminary findings that we presented. They indicated that with the on-going government reorganization it was appropriate for the BASIS project to work most closely with the new Bureau of Rural Development and with ARARI.

Following the meeting, researchers Little, Negatu and Roth departed Bar Dahr at 2:30 pm for Addis Ababa and by nightfall reached Debre Markos. Researchers arrived back in Addis Ababa at about 5:00 pm on June 28th.

Next Steps – South Wello Data Analysis

After returning to Addis Ababa, Adal, Little, Negatu, and Roth met to sketch out a roadmap for the next stages of data analysis and writeup:

1. **Data collection.** The team is currently in Dessie completing the Round 6 survey. This work will proceed and should wrap up in the next 1-2 weeks.
2. **Data cleaning.** Once Mesfin Tedesse returns, he will put the data entry on hold and focus on cleaning the R2 and R3 (household, agent, and parcel) databases. Tedesse will work on data cleaning from the time he completes the data collection field work in Dessie until o/a August 10. He would then send revised R2 and R3 databases to students Ragan Petrie and Tewodaj Mogues
3. **Write Up.** Using the revised data, Roth will undertake a second iteration of the paper *Food Self-Sufficiency or Income Security? Managing Labor and Assets to Secure Livelihoods and Food Security in South Wello, Amhara Province, Ethiopia*
4. **Workshops/Conferences.** A second set of workshops and conferences will be held in Dessie with 15-20 participants (Dec 2002 or Jan 2003) and Bar Dahr with 30-40 participants (May-June 2003) to present papers for further policy review.
5. **Research Papers.** In anticipation of the Dec/Jan Dessie workshop, the following papers will be prepared in draft form for review by November 2002 (Lead authors in parentheses):
 - *Agricultural Policy Framework* (Workneh and Yigremew). Descriptive. Already underway.
 - *Land Redistribution and Policy Framework* (Yigremew). First part will contain an in-depth description on the land policy framework. Once completed, Roth will assist with designing data tables and analysis based on the databases, mainly R1.
 - *Food Self-Sufficiency or Income Security?: Managing Labor and Assets to Secure Livelihoods and Food Security in South Wello, Amhara Province, Ethiopia* (Mike with assistance from Ragan and Tewodaj on data analysis). Based on R1 and R2 and R3.
 - *Non-Farm Employment and Wage Rates: An Analysis of Livelihood Strategies, Non-Farm Income and Expenditures* (Peter with assistance from Ragan on data analysis). Based on in-depth analysis of agent data (R2 and R3). Analysis should capture seasonally of non-farm employment.
 - *Food Production, Technology and Marketed Surplus* (Workneh with assistance on data analysis from Mesfin). Based on parcel-level data, R2 and R3.

Other Accomplishments

Before leaving Ethiopia, Little met with Alula Pankhurst of Addis Ababa University who submitted his final/revised report on the case study research he conducted for BASIS during the past 15 months. Little agreed to have it edited quickly and published by IDA within the next month or so. A version of it will also be put on the BASIS Webb page. Little also met with Tegegne Gebre-Egziabher and Mulat Demeke and received an update on the status of the non-farm employment case study. Data collection is to begin in mid-July and the final report to be completed by late September.

Little also met with Dejene Negassa, an Ethiopian student who carried out his MA research in the BASIS study region with BASIS funding support. He is planning to attend the PhD program in anthropology at the University of Kentucky, but has had problems in obtaining a student visa. Little called the US embassy to talk with officials about his visa, and that of another Ethiopian student – Mengistu Dessalyn – who is planning to do his PhD with Peter Castro (BASIS researcher) at Syracuse University.

Arrangements were made for Negassa to be interviewed for a visa at the US Embassy. Mengistu's student visa request had already been turned down once so he had to reschedule another interview at the US embassy.

In the post-September 11th environment and with the increasingly poor return rates of Ethiopians who come to the USA for training, it has become especially difficult to obtain US visas for Ethiopians. The USAID mission indicated that it has become very difficult even for them to obtain study/student visas for Ethiopians to visit the USA. This new constraint is likely to impact any kind of collaborative research activities and meetings that require travel to the USA or neighboring countries (e.g., Honduras) by our Ethiopian colleagues. (During Little's stay Negassa was able to obtain his student visa to come to the USA, but Mengistu's status was still unresolved).

Little also met with Alemayehu Azeze regarding the progress of OSSREA's BASIS research activity on 'post-drought recovery strategies among pastoralists in the Horn of Africa.' OSSREA Executive Director, Professor M. Abdel Ghaffar Ahmed was in Europe so Little was unable to meet with him). However, Azeze shared some of OSSREA's recent publications on pastoralism and drought in the region. The BASIS work is progressing well and Azeze anticipates completing the project by the end of the year.

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