



Issue 17- May 2009

Introduction

Welcome to the May edition of the [Livelihoods Resource Centre](#) eBulletin. In this edition we look at the latest news and publications relating to livelihoods and highlight various events, meetings and conferences that may be of interest.

We continue to welcome your reports, comments, suggestions and letters on any livelihoods subject you wish to raise within the Livelihoods cadre or think will be of general interest to readers. Please email irc@htspe.com with submissions.



[Socio-Economic Impacts of Climate Change in Afghanistan](#)

Last year, the LRC were commissioned by DFID Afghanistan to undertake a study into the socio-economic impacts of climate change in Afghanistan. The findings from this study will feed into the [National Adaptation Programme of Action \(NAPA\)](#) process managed by the Afghan National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA) and [United Nations Environment Programme \(UNEP\)](#).

Climate change in Afghanistan is expected to have a significant impact on economic growth and the capacity of Afghanistan to manage climate variability is weak - not helped by poor climate observation which makes it difficult to model or even predict extreme weather events. Even current levels of relatively predictable weather shocks keep many people in a cycle of poverty.

Data from climate modelling work, recently undertaken in the UK by the University of Oxford and Tyndall Centre for DFID and UNDP, was used as part of a desk-based review. The report used these data to assess the potential climatic risks and their implications for three policy areas: Agriculture, Social Protection and Energy & Water. The report also reviews the suitability of current government policy frameworks to address such challenges in terms of mitigation and adaptation and provided an approach to incorporate climate risk management and adaptation into development policy formulation.

The final LRC project reports are available on the LRC website: to access, please click [here](#). For more information please click on the links above or see below for related reports:

[NEW DFID Country Plan for Afghanistan](#) (April 09)

[Degree's of Separation: Poverty and Climate Change](#)(DFID 08)

[UNEP in Afghanistan: Laying the foundations for sustainable development](#)(UNEP Jan 09)

[Mobile Phones Effect Livelihoods in Africa](#)

New research conducted by scientists from Manchester and Strathclyde University claims the use of mobile phones in the developing world has sidelined millions of people. Mobile phones have huge benefits to the developing world and are used by many as a primary form of communication making land lines far less popular. However, this report indicates that growth throughout many sectors in Africa is restricted and without a mobile, many are becoming 'cut off' both socially and economically creating what Professor Richard Heeks, director of Manchester University's Centre for Development, calls a 'mobile divide'.

Dr Abi Jagun from Strathclyde University examined the experience of a group of workers in Nigeria's informal cloth-weaving sector and found that the 'mobile divide' was prevalent amongst the workers in this sector. Weavers who owned mobile phones were able to stay in touch with business contacts, taking advantage of business opportunities from traders, thread suppliers and customers whilst weavers without mobiles had to travel to make the same arrangements. These journeys could be dangerous, costly and often unnecessary as, on arrival, weavers could find available orders had already been assigned over the phone to weavers with access to a mobile.

To read the full article please click [here](#). Related reports:

[The Impact of Mobile Phones in Africa](#) (*Commission for Africa, 2004*)

[African Telecommunication/ICT Indicators 2008: At a crossroads](#) (*International Telecommunications Union*)

[Mobile phones for development and profit: a win-win scenario](#) (*ODI Opinion, April 09*)

Please note this article is an opinion article for information and does not reflect the views of the LRC or HTSPE.

[Reduction in emissions and the rights of Indigenous Peoples](#)

[Ensuring equity and participation in World Bank funds](#)

Arguably one of the most contentious issues under discussion in current climate change debates is how to reduce emissions from deforestation and degradation (REDD) by ensuring protection of the world's rainforests. Mrinalini Rai of the International Indigenous Peoples Forum on Climate Change argues that this initiative, backed by the World Bank among others, raises a series of questions about how to ensure fair compensation to those developing countries that undertake a commitment to such reductions.

The inclusion of forests in the climate change discussion has generated substantial interest and concern from Indigenous Peoples organisations, as the climate change debate directly and indirectly relates to them, their livelihoods and their rights. Indigenous Peoples have been calling on all parties to recognise the rights of Indigenous Peoples and forest dependant communities as an essential precondition in the design and implementation of national and international efforts to protect forests and curb emissions.

There are widespread concerns about the impacts of forests policies and practices on the livelihoods and well being of the people who live in and near forest areas. Indigenous Peoples and forest communities are often some of the poorest and most disadvantaged, and the growing focus on developing sustainable climate change mitigation approaches, as well as voluntary market initiatives (such as carbon trading) might result in additional encroachment of their rights and traditional livelihoods.

Agencies such as the World Bank and the UN have established international forest and climate initiatives to design REDD strategies. The World Bank has set up several large climate investment funds, including a Forest Investment Programme (FIP), which is aimed at financing REDD reforms and investments identified through national REDD strategies and is due to start operation this year. The Bank's carbon finance unit has also established the [Forest Carbon Partnership Facility \(FCPF\)](#) that started operations in June 2008. It aims

to provide financing for select countries to develop plans for adopting REDD strategies as well as designing and implementing measurement and monitoring systems to enable countries to report on emissions from deforestation and forest degradation. It is envisaged that these funds would contribute to development of general economic policies and regulations such as taxation, subsidies, rural credit, certification, and law enforcement along with forest policies and regulations, forest management and rural development projects.

To read the full article and to find out more about the role of the World Bank in funding REDD initiatives and related articles please click [here](#).

[Policy Dialogue on High Food Prices: Outlook and donor mid-term responses](#)

This event was organised jointly by the [Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development](#) (OECD) and the [Global Donor Platform for Rural Development](#) at the OECD Conference Centre in Paris on 12 – 13 February 2009. The event brought together donor and developing countries representatives along with other high level experts to focus on how donors should best respond in the medium and long-term to foster pro-poor agriculture production to sustain access to affordable food in developing countries. After a brief review of the causes and consequences, it focused on two key questions concerning donors' approaches: are they doing the right things, and are they doing them right? All contributions and background material along with a discussion summary are now available on the OECD website. To access this, please click [here](#).

[Agriculture and Rural Development \(ARD\) Week 2009 - Agriculture in a Changing World.](#)

Washington DC was host to [Agriculture and Rural Development \(ARD\) Week](#) held last month and brought together over three hundred internal and external development partners to discuss and devise new ways to implement the agriculture for development agenda. During the first two days of sessions, participants welcomed perspectives on the theme of the week, Agriculture in a Changing World, from a variety of speakers including the Honorable Agnes Kalibata, Minister of State for Agriculture, Ambassador Geert Aagaard Andersen of Denmark, David Kaimowitz of the Ford Foundation, and the six regional World Bank agriculture and rural development sector managers.

This was followed by two learning days which included sessions on topics ranging from Economic Analysis of Agriculture Projects, to the latest thinking on the intersection of agricultural issues and emerging challenges, Factoring Governance and Forest-Dependent Poor into Climate Change Activities. The fifth and final day allowed for the regions to focus on pressing issues with the day dedicated to retreats.

Please use the link below to access all the information from the sessions including presentations and conference materials. In addition to these materials the [Agriculture and Rural Development Department of the World Bank](#) has established an ARD Week 2009 e-discussion site to facilitate ongoing conversation and discussions. The site invites participants to pose provocative questions to stimulate further debate on the topic of 'Agriculture in a Changing World', to share your ARD Week observations for colleague reaction and discussion, to upload any relevant documents or presentations that will complement existing materials currently on the ARD Week website. Please click [here](#) to access this link.

Publications

[Livelihoods perspectives and rural development: A review of the core challenges to livelihoods approaches](#)

Livelihoods perspectives have been central to rural development thinking and practice in the past decade. But where do such perspectives come from, what are their conceptual roots, and what influences have shaped the way they have emerged?

This paper offers an historical review of key moments in debates about rural livelihoods, identifying the tensions, ambiguities and challenges of such approaches. A number of core challenges are identified, centred on the need to inject a more thorough-going political analysis into the centre of livelihoods perspectives. This will enhance the capacity of

livelihoods perspectives to address key gaps in recent discussions, including questions of knowledge, politics, scale and dynamics.

To access to the full report please click [here](#).

[Revitalising the sustainable livelihoods approach \(id21 viewpoints\)](#)

The Livelihoods Network's ESRC-funded seminars bring together researchers, policymakers and practitioners to explore the theoretical development and practical application of Sustainable Livelihoods Approaches (SLAs). Following the first seminar in October 2008, Caroline Pinder, Roland Hodson, Jane Clark and Diana Carney, David Sanderson, Zuo Ting and representatives of Khanya-aicdd reflect on lessons learnt and future prospects for livelihoods approaches to development.

Please click [here](#) to access all the articles and viewpoints. To find out more or to join the seminar series online discussions please click [here](#).

Events

[Practical Action Training Course: Climate Change and the implications for People and Poverty.](#)

Thursday 21st May at The Resource Centre, London

[Practical Action](#) will be running an interactive training course that offers participants the opportunity to examine and debate why climate change is a key issue for international development. One of the key objectives of the course is to provide participants with an up to date understanding of climate science and current and predicted impacts on poor countries. Other objectives include:

- Learn about mechanisms for climate change mitigation;
- Develop your knowledge of practical climate change adaptation techniques through working on case studies;
- Hear from Practical Action about their adaptation project work;
- Explore the roles and motivations of different actors in the international climate change negotiation process;
- Examine the links between climate change, poverty and social justice for the poor;
- Work on a range of exercises with other participants to explore these issues and take back lessons to inform your own work.

Please click [here](#) for further information on the course and to find out more about Practical Action. If you would to attend the course or would like any more information please e-mail Ella Sprung ella.sprung@practicalaction.org.uk or call 01926 634 403.

[Future Agricultures Consortium International Conference on Seasonality](#)

Wednesday 8th to Friday 10th July 2009 at IDS, Brighton

[The Future Agricultures Consortium](#), together with the [Centre for Social Protection](#), is convening a three day conference on Seasonality. Funded by the UK Department for International Development (DFID), the Future Agricultures Consortium operates as an international partnership of research institutions, working together to encourage critical debate and policy dialogue on the challenges of establishing and sustaining pro-poor agricultural growth in Africa, through stakeholder-led policy dialogues on future scenarios for agriculture, informed by in-depth field research.

The conference will bring together 50–60 international participants, including academics and practitioners, as well as policymakers from both governmental and international bodies. The conference will be global in scope but with a strong focus on Africa. The event aims to think through lessons from the past, examine current research, review good practice and consider

policy options for the future.

For more details on the conference please click [here](#).

[Small is Beautiful](#)

Monday June 1st to Friday June 5th 2009 at Schumacher College, Devon

This course will celebrate and pay homage to E.F.Schumacher and his ideas, and will consider their relevance to the present day. It aims to encourage a deep appreciation of the ideas expressed in Schumacher's work and look at how these concepts can be applied in the 21st century asking key questions such as How can technology be used appropriately? What kind of "development" is desirable? Which ideals should we encourage within a context of continuing social and economic change? The programme will combine theory, practice and reflection.

For more information on this course please click [here](#).

The LRC

The LRC provides services in two areas: a wide variety of **commissioned services** available exclusively to DFID Advisers and **core services**: facilitating access to the latest Livelihoods and other International Development resources via our website and the monthly [eBulletin](#). For more details on the services we provide or how to commission the LRC, please visit our website www.livelihoodsrc.org or email lrc@htspe.com.

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

Click [here](#) to Sign up to the eBulletin. To unsubscribe or change your details please [click here](#).

The Livelihoods Resource Centre is managed by HTSPE in association with [IDS](#), [ODG](#) and [Coffey](#).

The LRC at Palace Street

The LRC have a representative at Palace Street three times a week. [Matthew Roberts](#), LRC Manager, will be based in DFID every Tuesday, [Jacqueline Wright](#), Project Manager, will be there every Thursday and [Donald Lunan](#), technical advisor will be there every Friday. If you would like to meet with any of the LRC staff to discuss core or commissioned services, please contact them via email.

