

## **Panel U: Global and domestic investment in food and energy production in Sub-Saharan Africa – benefits for whom? (chair: Kjell Havnevik; coordinator: Atakilte Beyene)**

Recent global food, fuel and feed demands and insecurity have put staggering expectations on natural resources, ecological services and the rural people across sub Sahara Africa. Many foreign and African states, and the private sector, including domestic and transnational companies, are emphasizing the need for external investment, modernization of the agricultural sector, and the utilization of ‘abundant’ natural and ‘plenty’ rural labour resources available in Africa. In addition to these, many developing countries are seen as having the potential to meet environmental goals such as climate change, reduction of GHG emission and reduction of the use of fossil fuels (through biofuels production). This mainstream development agenda has put African landscapes at the centre of economic, political, social and environmental objectives across different actors and scales. The priorities and needs of the different actors are different and processes of the definition and delineation of resources, their access and end use are increasing becoming sources of social conflicts and struggles. The objective of this panel will be address the competing global and regional discourses currently shaping rural Africa’s natural and human resources. It also aims to address the nature and scale of investments in agriculture and biofuels that are taking place in Africa in response to the global and regional demands as well as the corresponding investment ‘strategies’ being adopted by sub Saharan African countries.

**1) Kjell Havnevik (Nordic Africa Institute, Sweden)**

**2) Atakilte Beyene (Stockholm Environment Institute, Sweden)**

**3) Babagana Abubakar (Kanuri Development Association, Borno State/Nigeria): Land, Territory and Natural Resource Issues Affecting the Economies of the Indigenous communities of the Sahel and Horn of Africa.**

This Sahelian environment stretches all the way from Senegal to Somalia cutting across over Africa ten countries bordering the " Sahara desert" in the north and the "Sudan savannah" in the south, with an annual rainfall of less than 50cm per annum, is the home for many indigenous communities like the Mbororo (Cameroon and Chad), Tuareg (Niger) and the Kanuris (Nigeria) who depend on pastoralism, fishing, irrigation farming and mineral extraction as their main activities of livelihoods. Desertification is a primary issue faced by Sahelian communities; the indigenous communities are continuously losing their grazing fields, farmlands, and even villages to the encroaching "Sahara desert" from the north. Indigenous communities in the Sahelian region are currently trying their best in control of the desert encroachment through tree-planting campaigns and other programmes on their own; however, the UN does not currently recognize their contributions and does not include their participation in its desertification activities in the region. A second issue is the rapid decline in the volume of the water of the "Lake Chad" because this is main source of water supply, fishing and some other natural resources like the potassium, in addition to irrigation and pastoral farming by the indigenous communities along the shores of the lake. Sahelian indigenous peoples depend on Lake Chad, so the more the Lake dries, poverty and unemployment increases among indigenous communities. There is currently far too little attention paid by governments and UN agencies working in the area to address the impact of the declining Lake Chad upon the futures of Sahelian indigenous communities.

#### **4) Toni Haapanen (University of Turku, Finland): Changing village food systems in rural Tanzania: Case study from Lugoba ward, Bagamoyo district**

The presentation concerns an on-going dissertation study on changing rural food systems in Lugoba ward, eastern Tanzania. The aim is to explore changes that have taken place in spatial dimensions, composition and importance of village food systems, as well as the relation of these changes to food security and deforestation. Food system is a holistic concept that covers the entity of relationships and functions that determine production, distribution and consumption of food. It is possible to identify at least two distinct but interconnected food systems from which the villagers depend on to fulfill their nutritional needs. After the end of the socialist villagisation period in mid-1980's, followed by liberalisation of markets, a remarkable shift from dependency on subsistence food system(s) to market-based food system has occurred. As subsistence production in the study villages decreased, more money was needed to buy food. In addition to the growing service sector in the area, charcoal making became one of the most important sources of income. The changes in the relative importance of food systems are thus connected to changing livelihoods, land use patterns and widespread deforestation in the area. In addition to the food systems approach, political ecology provides a useful theoretical framework, as it combines the examination of the use of local natural resources to wider social processes on different scales, from local to global. Field work methods included thematic interviews, exercises common in Rapid Rural Appraisal, mapping and structured questionnaire interviews. In addition to the background of the study, applied theories and methods, the presentation will also discuss the findings as the analysis of the data is due to be completed by the time Nordic Africa Days 2010 takes place.

#### **5) Paola Minoia (University of Helsinki, Finland): Mega-irrigation and sovereignty in postcolonial countries. The Gharb region (Morocco)**

**Abstract** – This communication presents the development, evolution and impacts of the Gharb irrigation scheme, which is part of the large Sebou project. The Gharb scheme is considered as an example of mega-projects, typical of postcolonial state development policy that deployed in various African countries during the past fifty years. Considered as economic engines and strategic resources for building the national states, the Gharb scheme has occupied customary lands, imposed rigid infrastructures and consumed resources which were in use by local communities. Their destructive effects and multiple impacts have often been disregarded until recent times, when their contradictions have become more evident because of the progressive State disengagement and the application of neoliberal policies, connected to the critical economic environment. In the present, poverty and ecosystem collapse coincides with much greater wealth and technological infrastructures. Policies of water demand management have been imported by donors, with effects of field abandonment and intensified migrations.

#### **6) Marie Widengård (Gothenburg University, Sweden): Multi-sited/transnational research with some examples from agrofuels**

This paper discusses the challenge of conducting 'local' research in today's globalised world, when sites are somehow interconnected and more or less open to transnational or systemic influences. As an answer to this challenge, it especially reviews ethnographic, multi-sited, multi-local, trans-local, transnational research. Common to these strands is the attempt to embrace complex units of study such as cultures in intermix or transit and the local-global interface. Such methodology includes several tracking strategies where associations and

connections are at the centre of investigation. Interconnectedness, interaction, exchange and mobility are other words that flags for the methodology. The paper starts by exploring why many researchers feel the need to go or look beyond a single site. Thereafter, the paper discusses some of the methodological options to deal with the particular crux of the methodology; how to delineate the unit of study in a boundless world. The paper ends with some recommendations from actor-network theory, especially to move away from the dichotomies of local/global, society/technology and nature/culture. The case of agrofuels is used throughout the text as an illustration on how to pragmatically face the challenge of grasping connections in today's globalised world

### **7) Alessandra Lundström (Åbo Akademi University, Finland): A Rights-Based Approach to Food Security in Three Districts in Southern Malawi: Demanding Accountable Services as a Matter of Rights**

Traditionally human rights and development have had little, if any, sustained cooperation. This is, however, changing and since the mid 1990s human rights have been increasingly integrated into development. The aim of this paper, which is part of my PhD, is to identify the *role of human rights* in one particular development programme called the Shire Highlands Sustainable Livelihoods Programme (SHSLP), implemented by Oxfam and local government institutions. What is *characteristic* of this particular human rights-based approach to food security, implemented in three districts in Southern Malawi? What is the *added value* of a human rights-based approach in the context of food security in terms of the potential *transformative* element of the approach? Is the approach contributing to societal, legal, and political *change* that strengthens the position of rights-holders, and helps to increase the protection of their human rights? The paper identifies challenges in applying 'rights-talk', i.e. demanding accountable and transparent services as a matter of rights, not as a favour, in a very resource-constrained environment. The *assumption* I had before going to Malawi to gather data for the analysis was that human rights offer a new way of working within development efforts, thus also adding value to 'good development practices', in three interrelated ways: 1) *human rights language* changes the mindset of the actors in development, underlining the legally binding nature of addressing food insecurity, and contributing to empowerment of rights-holders; 2) *human rights-based situation analysis* implies that a whole range of new and different questions, which have a basis in the normative human rights framework, are raised in a development context; 3) human rights offer a platform to demand *accountability* of duty-bearers. These assumptions were the starting point when going to the field to collect data in late 2006.

### **8) Gutu Olana Wayessa (University of Helsinki, Finland): Procedural Justice and Livelihood Outcomes: Perceptions and Attitudes of Resettles and Hosts towards Resettlement, Western Oromia, Ethiopia**

This paper focuses on resettlement programs that are state-planned and implemented. Resettlement programs of this kind have been undertaken in Ethiopia for about five decades, under three successive governments. However, they were pursued more systematically and on larger scales during the Socialist regime (1974-1991) and the current government (1991-present). During the incumbent regime, official statements recount that the resettlement program was adopted as a strategy to tackle recurrent food insecurity, and was included as part of a five-year strategic plan. Since 2003, resettlement has been considered as one of the main components of the Food Security Program. Accordingly, food-insecure households would be resettled and anticipated to achieve food security and improved livelihoods within few years.

As part of a research project that deals with the causes, processes and livelihood consequences of resettlement undertakings in Ethiopia, and with the use of data collected through household survey and thematic interviews, this paper attempts to analyze the attitudes and perceptions of the host and the resettler communities on resettlement policy and practice, and highlight the issues/factors that surface in influencing people's perceptions and attitudes? Based on the premise that both processes and outcomes are important in shaping people's evaluation of or reaction to certain encounters, the study employs the concepts of procedural justice (process) and distributive justice (outcome). That is, in an attempt to address the question of *benefits for whom*, resettlement, as a domestic investment by the government, will be evaluated from the perspectives of the resettlers as well as the hosts, both in terms of what it rendered as livelihood outcomes and what it entailed as a process.