



Brussels Policy Briefing no. 26:
New challenges and opportunities for pastoralism in ACP countries
22th February 2012

Biodata of Speakers

Gabriel Abebe Haile – African Union Commission, Ethiopia

Dr. Abebe Haile Gabriel, an Ethiopian national, is currently the Director of Rural Economy and Agriculture at the African Union Commission whose Headquarters is in Addis Ababa Ethiopia. He is responsible for managing the department's portfolios which cover agriculture, food security, rural development, environment and natural resources. Prior to his appointment as Director of Rural Economy and Agriculture, Dr. Abebe had been serving the Commission of the African Union in various progressive capacities including as Director of the AU Specialized program on Semi-Arid Food Grains Research in Africa (SAFGRAD) based in Burkina Faso, and as Head of Rural Economy Division, which was the focal unit for formulation and adoption of the AU Policy Framework on Pastoralism in Africa, as well as the AU Framework and Guidelines for Land Policy in Africa, among others.

Maryam Abeiderrahmane – Tivinsky Dairy, Mauritania

Maryam Abeiderrahmane has taken over Tiviski with her husband Nagi Ichidou (General Manager), when Nancy Abeiderrahmane retired from managing the company in 2008. She trained in Management and has been working in the company in different aspects during her training. She works in the administration of Tiviski supervising all the organizational aspects of Collecting Milk (creating database to pay the herders), processing it (database), Selling it (database) and of course the Maintenance (check list), Personnel and Accounting of it all. Making sure there is just the sufficient amount of Resources allotted to each part of the company.

Boureima Dodo – Billital Maroobe Network, Niger

Dodo Boureima is an agropastoralist Peulh of Niger nationality. He is the Permanent Technical Secretary of the Agropastoralists Network "Billital Maroobe". Since the 90s, he devoted his efforts to defend the interests of breeders and pastoralists in Niger through the Association for the Revitalisation of the Breeders in Niger (AREN) which is a founding member and the Executive Secretary. He has contributed to the thinking and development of the legislation on Pastoralism in Niger as well as an active participation to the design and implementation of the strategy and structures of the Rural Legislation in Niger.

Michael Hailu – CTA, The Netherlands

Michael Hailu, an Ethiopian national, is the Director of the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA). Mr. Hailu has over 25 years of professional experience working in Africa and Asia in communications and knowledge management in agriculture and related areas. Prior to joining CTA at the end of May 2010, Mr. Hailu was Director of Communications and a member of the Senior Leadership Team of the World Agroforestry Centre based in Nairobi, Kenya. From 1999-2007, Mr. Hailu lived and worked in Indonesia as Director of Information at the Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR). Mr. Hailu has degrees in Information Sciences and Economics from the University of Pittsburgh in the United States and Addis Ababa University in Ethiopia. He has also been trained in strategic leadership at the Stanford University Graduate School of Business.

Francesca Mosca – European Commission/ DG DEVCO, Belgium

Mrs. Francesca Mosca career began at DG-Development in Brussels, where she was responsible for a number of thematic issues, such as food aid and security, human rights, democracy and good

governance, as well as geographic co-operation with Eastern and Central Africa. She then served abroad as Head of the European Commission Delegation, first in Zimbabwe and then Nicaragua, where she had responsibility for the whole region of Central America. These two posts enabled her to develop a deep understanding of the culture of these countries, their difficulties and challenges, and also the opportunities to develop EU co-operation. She returned to Brussels to take up the post as Director for the Quality of operations at the Europe Aid Cooperation Office. After the reorganization which created DG DEVCO (merger of DGs Dev and Aidco in June 2011), she became the Director for Sub-Saharan Africa and horizontal ACP matters.

Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim – AFPAT, Tchad

Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim is an M'Bororo pastoralist from Chad. She is the coordinator of Chadian Association of Indigenous Mbororo women and peoples (AFPAT), a community based organization of nomadic herding women. Hindou is representing the Sahel region in Indigenous Peoples of African Coordinating Committee (IPACC). She is currently the indigenous peoples representative to the UN Environmental Programme's Major Group for Indigenous Peoples and Pan African representative to the Climate Justice Alliance, working with pastoralism on adaptation and mitigation on climate change. She is working on Rio+20 preparation and green economy, biodiversity and climate change. She is very active on human rights for the UN declaration on the Right of Indigenous Peoples.

Jeremy Swift – IDS/ University of Sussex, United Kingdom

Professor Jeremy Swift specializes in the development of nomadic pastoral societies in Africa, the Middle East and Central Asia. His focus has been of poverty, food insecurity and famine, conflict and risk, land tenure and common property resource management. Recently he has worked extensively on education for nomadic groups who cannot attend school because of the distances involved, experimenting with the design of a distance learning system using radio transmission which will become operational in Kenya this year. Professor Swift has been particularly interested in the management of famine and the design of drought contingency planning systems. He designed the original Kenya drought management scheme, and has done similar work on how government and herders could jointly manage risk in Iran, Mongolia and China. Most of his professional career was spent at the Institute for Development Studies at the University of Sussex in UK.

Shirley Tarawali – ILRI, Ethiopia

Shirley Tarawali is Director of Institutional Planning at the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), based in Nairobi, Kenya and until recently was Director of ILRI's People, Livestock and the Environment theme, where ILRI's pastoral research is housed. Shirley holds a PhD in Plant Science from the University of London, UK. Previously Shirley held a joint appointment with ILRI and the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) based in Ibadan, Nigeria. She has authored or co-authored 50 articles in scientific journal or peer-reviewed publications and contributed in an authorship or editorial capacity to 38 books and proceedings articles. Her fields of specialization include crop livestock and pastoral systems in sub Saharan Africa and Asia. She has over 25 years experience in research for development in Africa and Asia and serves on a number of international scientific committees.

Joep Van Mierlo – VSF Belgium

Joep van Mierlo holds a MSc Degree in Tropical Animal Husbandry from the Agricultural University of Wageningen (WUR), The Netherlands. He has gathered 20 years of community development experience mostly in Africa and all centered around the idea that livestock is an important asset in the livelihoods and plays an important role in the nutrition and self-development of the people living in poverty.

Joep Van Mierlo is currently Executive Director of Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium (VSF-B), based in Brussels and operational mostly in the Arid and Semi arid areas of East, West and Central Africa. In South Sudan VSF-B and its partners have been operational since 1994 in eradicating Rinderpest through participative epidemiology. VSF is now facilitating the GoSS with organizing a decentralized Veterinary Health Service, while assisting the local population to build their resilience.