Transforming Pastoralism in the Horn of Africa

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Abstract

This paper explores the traditional knowledge systems of pastoral communities in Ethiopia, justifications for large-scale agricultural investment, its implications, and policy considerations. Pastoralists are by-passed by development, because of their incompatibility to most development proposals. Transforming pastoral communities into large-scale agriculture entrepreneurs comes with a lot of resistance to relentlessly protect original community values engraved in the spiritual, cultural, mental, social, economic, and political aspects. This is done with the right human tools, with a clear understanding of pastoralists’ unique traditions and the knowledge associated to it, such that the identities of endangered societies are protected and conflict associated to de-identification and de-nationalization is prevented; so that while solving challenges of famine, low incomes, and poor standards of living, traditional aspects are integrated in economic reforms. The unique culture soon becomes an economic force and a source of pride, unity, peace, and solidarity. And tourism turns out to be an alternative driver to country’s economic success and beauty, from the attractions arising from strong cultural traditional, arid landscape, featured wild animals, plants, and how all are related. There is need for mindfulness of foreign conspiracies to alienate traditional life-knowledge systems in the name of development. And Investment should be one that concerns itself with advancement of local solutions to solving local, regional, and global problems

Keywords: Pastoralism, Agriculture, Change, Development

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