



ALMA MATER STUDIORUM
UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA

DIPARTIMENTO DI POLITICA, ISTITUZIONI, STORIA

CENTRO DIPARTIMENTALE DI STUDI STORICI E POLITICI SU AFRICA E MEDIO ORIENTE

in collaboration with

DIPARTIMENTO DI FILOSOFIA

and

PhD course in "SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND HUMANITIES"

PhD course in "INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT POLICIES"

Giorgio Mizzau International Workshop

**"RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY REDUCTION IN
ETHIOPIA: STRATEGIES AND POLICIES"**

12th November 2010

"Sala Seminari" – Dipartimento di Scienze Economiche
Facoltà di Scienze Politiche, Università di Bologna
Strada Maggiore, 45 - Bologna, Italy

9.00

Introductory remarks

9.15

Introduction

ANNA MARIA GENTILI

Department of Politics, Institutions, History - University of Bologna

In memory of Giorgio Mizzau: African Studies and Rural Development

9.45

Morning session

Rural Development in Ethiopia

CHAIR – IRMA TADDIA

Department of History – University of Bologna

SHIFERAW BEKELE

Department of History - Addis Ababa University

Rural Development in Historical Perspective

MAMO HEBO WABE

Department of Social Anthropology - Addis Ababa University

Land Reform and Rural Development Policies in Ethiopia

SARAH VAUGHAN

School of Social & Political Science, Politics & International Relations
University of Edinburgh

Ethnic Federalism and Rural Development Policies

DISCUSSANT – GABRIELLA ROSSETTI

University of Ferrara

13.00

Break

14.00

Afternoon session

Case Studies

CHAIR – MARIO ZAMPONI

Department of Politics, Institutions, History - University of Bologna

MITIKU HAILE

President of Mekelle University

Land Registration in Tigray

HARALD ASPEN

Department of Social Anthropology - Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU), Trondheim

Food Security and Peasant Livelihoods in North Wälo

JON ABBINK

African Studies Centre (ASC) - University of Leiden

Wolayta Livelihoods: Agrarian 'Involution' and Prospects of Growth

DISCUSSANT – FEDERICA GUAZZINI

University of Siena

Summary

Rural areas play a key role in Ethiopia. They represent the main development challenge of a country where more than 80% of the people base their subsistence on agriculture. Despite of that, poverty is widespread and food security remains extremely critical even at the top of rains and climatic conditions. Ethiopia is characterised by a low pace of urbanisation, while rural development policies are not sufficient to promote meaningful economic activities other than agriculture, able to absorb rural labour force. Over the last sixty years demographic growth in rural areas, external shocks such as recurrent drought and famine, worsened this picture, heightening the dependence of rural dwellers on donor community and food aids distribution.

The process of social differentiation in Ethiopian rural areas generates complex outcomes on the citizenship rights of the poor and on the ways rural dwellers gain access to basic resources such as land and natural resources in order to meet their subsistence needs. Poverty is deeply rooted on power inequalities which usually reproduce social, economic and political relations, strongly affecting how rural poor design their livelihood strategies.

Therefore, investigating how these social transformations are produced and reproduced by different institutional actors – the State, the community, the market – is a relevant issue determining the patterns of social inclusion and exclusion that over time affected rural poverty and destitution.

The International Conference “Rural Development and Poverty Reduction in Ethiopia: Strategies and Policies” aims to reach deeper understanding of the challenges rural areas in Ethiopia are facing, focusing on less conventional approaches to poverty and bringing into question mainstream theories and practices.

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