

CROP newsletter

Comparative Research Programme On Poverty

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POVERTY AND ENERGY

In spite of the international attention on poverty reduction, the energy and poverty linkages remain virtually unattended. The World Bank has shown that approximately 40% of the world population today lack access to modern energy services. It is acknowledged that improving access to productive, consumptive and social energy services in rural areas could be a key factor to enhancing local sustainable development.

During the past decades, much experience has been gained in the field of rural energy. Traditional technologies have been improved and research and development on new energy technologies have resulted in mature products that are commercially available. New institutional and financial mechanisms offer new opportunities to deliver energy services to poor people. Furthermore the policy context is changing: governments are increasingly reducing their involvement in the provision of basic services and leave the field open to the private sector. The "climate change" agenda has created momentum to start the implementation of energy efficiency and renewable energy projects in order to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases. Despite the huge environmental benefits, it is obvious that most projects and investments aimed at cost-effective mitigation of climate change do not address poverty reduction effectively.

Lessons learnt from initiatives aimed at improving energy services for the poor are scarce and have not been used to promote changes of policies and actions by governments and the private sector. It is hard to find

in-depth studies on the impact on poverty reduction by consumptive, productive and social energy services. The traditional division of the energy sector into electricity, fossil fuels, modern renewable energies and traditional use of wood fuel and other bio-mass resources hampers an integrated understanding of energy options for the poor. Much has been done to raise awareness on the primary importance of bio-mass resources for the energy economy of most developing countries. Except for gender studies, human energy and animal power are generally neglected despite the important role they play in the lives of poor people.

Most of the research on poverty and poverty reduction has been conducted in the social and economic sciences. Unfortunately people within the energy sector hardly picked up the results and consequences of this kind of research and experience. To overcome the gap between the energy and poverty field an improved insight into poverty in its relation to the energy needs, priorities and options of the poor is necessary. To contribute to filling-up this gap, a participatory research program on energy and poverty, EASE (Enabling Access to Sustainable Energy) has been developed. The mission of EASE is to improve insight into energy and poverty links and to promote sustainable energy options among local stakeholders that contribute effectively to poverty reduction in rural areas.

In June 2000 the EASE programme, financed by the Dutch Government, has been initiated by a one-year inception phase in 3 developing countries: Bolivia, Tanzania and Vietnam. In each country a local organisation

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takes the lead to form a national EASE team and a national advisory board representing different stakeholders of society such as governments, NGOs, academic and private sector organisations. FAO joined the EASE initiative through a pilot program to be implemented in Honduras.

During the inception phase a methodological framework for research will be developed. This will enable a comparison of the EASE results on a country-by-country basis. As existing information on energy and poverty links is scarce, new information will be gathered. Existing experiences in e.g. the agricultural and forestry sector will be used and each national team will develop a national EASE research toolkit. To finalise the

inception phase, pilot studies will be implemented to test the research methodologies in practice.

After the inception phase, EASE will enter a full-fledged implementation phase. Detailed energy and poverty studies will be undertaken in different developing countries, partly based on the lessons learnt from the inception phase. In each country, an analysis will be made of the poverty oriented activities of organisations within the energy sector and of energy oriented activities within organisations involved in poverty reduction. Field research will complement the "white spots" in the current knowledge of local and (inter-) national stakeholders on energy and poverty linkages. The research will look at poverty

from a process perspective, not as a static segment within society. For example, one focus will be the role of (changing) energy services when people become poorer or when people become better-off. Insight into these linkages will be shared with policy makers. Local actions will be supported to promote sustainable energy options that have a positive impact on poverty reduction.

Readers may take this opportunity to share their experience and capacity with us. More information on EASE is available through Nienke Swagemakers at ETC Energy, P.O. Box 64, 3830 AB Leusden, The Netherlands, email: EASE@etcn.nl

Demography of Poverty in Latin America

A workshop on *Demography of Poverty in Latin America* was held in Buenos Aires 9-11 November 2000, organised in co-operation between CROP and Consejo Latinoamericano de Ciencias Sociales (CLACSO). The main sponsor of the event was the Mellon Foundation, with additional funding from UNESCO, Brazil; CLACSO; Ministerio de Desarrollo Social y Medio Ambiente/SIEMPRO; Gobierno de la Ciudad de Buenos Aires/Secretaría de Promoción Social; CLACSO and CROP.

21 papers were presented and 44 people participated in the workshop which was carried out in Spanish and English.

The workshop was planned by a Programme Committee consisting of: Dr. **Atilio A. Boron**, Secretary General of CLACSO, Argentina; Prof. **Leif Jensen**, The Pennsylvania State University, USA; Prof. **Alfredo Lattes**, Centro de Estudios de Población (CENEP), Argentina; Prof. **Carlos Welti Chanes**, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM), Mexico; and Prof. **Simone Wajman**, Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais, Brazil.

A background paper for the workshop was prepared in March 2000, by **Carlos Welti Chanes**, President of the Mexican Society of Demography.

The following papers were presented and discussed: **Elinor Bisig**, Argentina, "*La salud reproductiva adolescente en la provincia de Córdoba, República Argentina*"; **Dalia Elena Romero Montilla**, Brazil, "*La mortalidad infantil en América Latina desde los años ochenta. Estudio de su relación con el deterioro socio-económico*"; **Elsa Mabel López** and **Andrea Federico**, Argentina, "*Salud de las mujeres y vulnerabilidad: vida reproductiva y prácticas preventivas*"; **R. S. Oropesa**, USA, "*Poverty, prenatal care, and*

infant health in Puerto Rico"; **Francisca Márquez**, Chile, "*Trayectorias ocupacionales y movilidad social en habitantes de extrema pobreza en Santiago de Chile y Montevideo, Uruguay*"; **Esteban Nina Baltazar**, Colombia, "*Movilidad social y transmisión intergeneracional de la pobreza en Colombia*"; **Susana Beatriz Torrado**, Argentina, "*Dinámica demográfica y reproducción de la pobreza (Argentina, 1945-1999)*"; **Jorge Ernesto Martínez Pizarro**, Chile, "*Demografía de la pobreza en un caso de transición demográfica avanzada, Chile*"; **Diego F. Casaravilla**, Argentina, "*Comprendiendo la demografía de la inmigración indocumentada en el Cono Sur*"; **Vladimir Ruvinsky**, Colombia, "*The internal migration and urban poverty in contemporary Colombia*"; **Silvana Vargas** (presented by Prof. Leif Jensen), USA, "*New place, new life: the occupational adaptation of young migrants and non-migrants in Lima, Peru*"; **Camilo Contreras Delgado**, Mexico, "*Movilidad laboral geográfica: recurso social y económico en la cuenca carbonífera de Coahuila, México*"; **Martin Valdivia**, Peru, "*Household structure and poverty over the life cycle: a first look at evidence from Peruvian cohorts*"; **Paula Crabtree**, Norway, "*Divisions of relative poverty between contrasting households in insular south Chile*"; **Carlos Rafael Rodríguez Solera**, Mexico, "*Características económicas, demográficas y sociales de la población que vive en condiciones de pobreza en el estado de Hidalgo*"; **Carmen Ledo**, The Netherlands, "*Pobreza, inequidad y exclusión social en Cochabamba - Bolivia*"; **Camilo Perez-Bustillo**, Mexico D.F., "*Making indigenous people count: the demographics of indigenous poverty in Latin America*"; **Carlos Henrique Aguiar Serra**, Brazil, "*Identidad, violencia y exclusión social en Caxias do Sul: 1985-*

1996"; **Ernesto Chávez Negrín**, Cuba, "*Población y crisis económica en Cuba: la familia y la dinámica demográfica del período especial*"; **Gian Matteo Apuzzo**, Italy, "*Globalization and fight for urban space: poverty and citizenship in a global city*"; **Laura Tavares Ribeiro Soares**, Brazil, "*Ademografia da pobreza e as políticas sociais na América Latina: transicao ou retrocesso?*".

Secretary General of CLACSO, Dr. Atilio A. Boron; The Argentinean Secretary of Social Policy, Dr. Eduardo Bustelo, and Chair of CROP, Prof. Else Øyen, opened the workshop with presentations of the issues to be discussed. The discussions at the workshop provided a broad exchange of ideas and concepts crossing disciplinary and cultural borders. The more experienced researchers provided valuable input to the new generation of researchers working with poverty and demography in Latin America.

Some of the papers from the workshop will be included in a book about Poverty and Demography in Latin America. Prof. Leif Jensen will co-ordinate the work, and members of the Programme Committee for the workshop will function as the board of editors for the book.

CROP/CLACSO CO-OPERATION

The recent workshop in Buenos Aires will be followed up by an increased amount of activity by CROP in Latin America. During the workshop an agreement for future academic and administrative co-operation between CROP and CLACSO was finalised. A meeting of the interim-board of CROP América Latina (CROP-AL) took place on November 11th. Here it was agreed that the first joint CROP-CLACSO activity would be a workshop on *Indigenous Populations and Poverty*. See Call for papers on page 3.

This issue of the CROP newsletter marks a significant shift in the life of the Comparative Research Programme on Poverty as Else Øyen moves from being Chair of the CROP Scientific Committee to becoming instead Scientific Director of CROP. Else Øyen, of course, is the founding spirit whose vision, energy and drive sparked the creation of this remarkable interactive network of poverty researchers which was launched by the International Social Science Council (ISSC) in 1992 in close collaboration with UNESCO's Sector for Social and Human Sciences. And she has led it unerringly since then through its first international conference held in Paris 1994 [which led to the publication *Poverty: A global review - Handbook on International Poverty Research* which she co-edited with S.M. Miller from the United States and Syed Abdus Samad from Bangladesh] to the present day. In the process she has drawn into the network a large number of active and committed researchers who are based all over the world, in Africa, Asia and Latin America as well as in Europe, both East and West, and North America. In addition to those actively involved, attending CROP conferences, reading and commenting on each other's papers, there are another sixteen hundred or more members of the network who like to keep in touch, to receive publications, and generally to be part of the buzz. What is remarkable is that CROP was founded before the Internet was fully launched and yet is inconceivable without it. No less remarkable is the diversity of membership and participation. This is no Washington-based organization with many buildings, large staff, and a consensus view. It is a network owned by its participants and with a minute (and overworked!) secretariat based at the University of Bergen (which has been generously and imaginatively supportive). CROP is the ultimate 'light structure' and a model for genuinely collaborative research around the world. It is somehow typical of CROP that Else Øyen's successor as chairperson should be drawn from a University that is nearly as far south as Bergen is north.

In thanking Else Øyen for all that she has done to make CROP what it is we take heart from the fact that she is not leaving but rather finding a way, typically, of sharing the process of building and of drawing others in. She will remain, as Scientific Director, to inspire and guide. Hopefully she will now also have a little more time for writing.

CALL FOR PAPERS

CROP, CLACSO AND FLACSO CONVENE A WORKSHOP ON INDIGENOUS POPULATIONS AND POVERTY: MULTI-DISCIPLINARY APPROACHES

GUATEMALA, PRIMO NOVEMBER 2001

CROP, Consejo Latinoamericano de Ciencias Sociales (CLACSO) and Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales (FLACSO) will organise a joint workshop on Indigenous Populations and Poverty. The workshop will have a multi-disciplinary character, in order to respond adequately to the manifold problems indigenous populations are confronted with. See CROP and CLACSO's websites for more information.

THE DEADLINE FOR ABSTRACTS IS 1 JUNE 2001

Deadline for submission of papers is September 1, 2001. All enquiries about the workshop should be addressed to the CROP Secretariat, Fosswinckelsgate 7, N- 5007 Bergen, Norway, Tel: +47-5558-9744, Fax: +47-5558-9745, e-mail: crop@uib.no, or to Alberto Cimadamore, CLACSO, Callao 875, piso 3, 1023 Buenos Aires, Argentina, ph: +54-11-4811-6588, fax: +54-11-4812-8459, E-mail: cimadamo@mail.retina.ar

CROP SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE 2001-2002

The CROP Scientific Committee 2001-2002 was appointed by the ISSC General Assembly in December 2000, and now has the following members:

- Prof. Francis Wilson, Chair of CROP, SOUTH AFRICA;
- Prof. Julio Boltvinik, Vice-Chair of CROP, MEXICO;
- Prof. Ellen Bortei-Doku Aryeetey, Vice-Chair of CROP, GHANA;
- Prof. Abdel Ghaffar M. Ahmed, ETHIOPIA;
- Prof. Atilio Boron, ARGENTINA;
- Prof. Jenny Bryant-Tokalu, FIJI;
- Prof. Veena Das, INDIA;
- Prof. Nicolai Genov, BULGARIA;
- Prof. Svetlana Glinkina, RUSSIA;
- Prof. S.M. Miller, USA;
- Prof. Thandika Mkandawire, UNRISD;

- Prof. Maria Petmesidou, GREECE;
- Prof. Rhoda Reddock, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO;
- Prof. Elisa Reis, BRAZIL;
- Prof. Nader Said, THE PALESTINE;
- Prof. Syed Abdus Samad, BANGLADESH;
- Prof. Amartya Sen, USA/BITAIN;
- Prof. Julia Szalai, HUNGARY;
- Prof. Giancarlo Vilella, BELGIUM;
- Prof. Lin Zhu, CHINA

Prof. Else Øyen, Scientific Director of CROP.
Prof. Willem van Genugten, Legal Adviser to CROP.

CROP thanks the outgoing members and welcomes the new committee. We look forward to working with you to further develop the agenda of poverty research worldwide.

POVERTY AND THE ENVIRONMENT: INITIATIVE FROM THE NEW CHAIR

Readers will be aware that Rio +10, the conference to assess where the world has got to since the U.N. conference to discuss sustainable development was held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, is scheduled to take place in Johannesburg, South Africa, in about 18 months from now. This happening which is likely to include an official, U.N. organized, meeting of governments as well as a Business Forum and an NGO Forum provides a special opportunity to members of a network such as CROP. Given the particular focus of the host South African government on issues of poverty within a context of sustain-

able development, it would seem that Rio +10 is likely to provide an opportunity for setting priorities, for revising Agenda 21, and generally rethinking the link between poverty and the environment particularly from the perspective of the south. Since the Rio conference in 1992 the forces of globalisation have become more manifest and the problems of the environment more urgent. Within this context issues of agriculture and food security, of fresh drinking water for all, to mention only two clearly require further strategic thinking. During the months that lie ahead members of CROP need to think through how best to participate in this global debate.

Francis Wilson, Chair of CROP

(E-mail: fwilson@hiddingh.uct.ac.za)

CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL POVERTY RESEARCH

The Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Bergen, Norway, has established a Centre for International Poverty Research (CIP) from February 1, 2001. Professor Else Øyen is head of the new centre, which has been given a special responsibility to administer the CROP programme.

The decision to establish the Centre is a strong signal from the University of Bergen as to the importance of academic poverty research in today's world of globalisation and widespread poverty. A professorship in International Poverty Research will be advertised shortly. This is the first professorship of its kind in the Nordic countries.

HUBERT H. HUMPHREY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

The Institute of International Education is calling for applicants for the 2002-2003 Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program. Sponsored by the U.S. government, the Fellowship brings accomplished professionals from designated countries of Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean, Asia, East/Central Europe and Eurasia to the United States at a midpoint in their careers for a year of study and related professional experience.

Visit <http://www.iie.org/pgms/hhh> on Internet for more information or contact the Public Affairs Section at the United States Embassy in your country.

NEW POVERTY REPORT

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) has published "The Rural Poverty Report 2001"

The report argues that progress in reducing rural poverty has stalled. In the 1990s, it fell to less than one third of the rate needed to meet the United Nations' commitment to halve world poverty by 2015. Although three quarters of the world's 1.2 billion extremely poor people live and work in rural areas, aid to agriculture, their main source of income, has fallen by two thirds. Thus to become successful, poverty reduction policies must focus on rural areas.

Download the report from IFAD's website at <http://www.ifad.org/pub/index.htm>. For ordering information contact IFAD, Via del Serafico, 107 - 00142 Rome, Italy, Tel: 39-0654591, Fax +39-065043463, E-mail ifad@ifad.org.

LIST OF CROP EVENTS 2001

March 2001

15-17: CMI (The Chr. Michelsen Institute) and CROP co-organise a conference in Bergen, Norway, for UNDP on "Poverty Reduction Strategies: What have we learned?"

April 2001

23: "Ethics of Poverty Reduction: International Actors, Donors and Elites" Workshop organised with Norwegian philosophers, University of Bergen, Norway

May 2001

3-4: "Law and Poverty IV". Workshop organised with the International Institute for the Sociology of Law (IISL) in Oñati, Spain.

July 2001

The empirical case studies in the CROP/IDS Elite project will be presented and reviewed at a workshop in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Participation by invitation only.

August 2001

10-12: "Water, Poverty and Social Development". Session at the *International Water History Association* conference "The Role of Water in History and Development," University of Bergen, Norway.

November 2001

"Indigenous Populations and Poverty: Multi-Disciplinary Approaches", a joint CROP/CLACSO/FLACSO workshop, Guatemala.

NEW BOOK ON POVERTY

The recently published book, "Poverty, Environment and Development", analyses countries in the Asian Pacific region to examine the empirical basis for the hypothesized "downward spiral" or "vicious circle" relationship between increasing poverty and environmental degradation. The study was initiated by the Association of Asian Social Science Research Councils and is a follow up of the 1995 World Summit for Social Development.

For ordering information contact UNESCO, Box 967, Prakanong Post Office, Bangkok 10110, Thailand, Tel: +66-2-391-0879, Fax: +66-2-391-0866, E-mail: rushsap@unesco-proap.org

CROP IN BRIEF

CROP is a world-wide network of researchers and experts on poverty. The aim of CROP is to establish an arena for interdisciplinary and comparative research on poverty in developed and developing countries. CROP organises regional workshops, symposia and international conferences, promotes joint research projects and publications, links poverty researchers and disseminates information about poverty research, on a non-profit basis. CROP has developed a database on poverty researchers, and documentation of ongoing research.

If you wish to have your name listed in CROPnet, you are welcome to write to the Secretariat and request a copy of the CROP Database Survey form. For further information please contact the CROP Secretariat

WEBPAGE FOR CROP

Those who have an Internet connection and a WWW browser programme installed on the computer, find the CROP web page at <http://www.crop.org>. The pages hold general information about CROP, news about past and ongoing activities, as well as the latest CROP newsletter.

Please note: We can no longer answer the increased demand for copies of single papers presented at CROP conferences and workshops. However, if you have the patience, most of the papers become available through the publications that follow the conferences and will be duly announced. We still supply the authors addresses, phone & fax numbers.

At the CROP Secretariat you will meet:

Else Øyen, Scientific Director of CROP
Kirsti Thesen Sælen, Co-ordinator
Einar Braathen, Programme Officer
Inge Erling Tesdal, Executive Officer

THE QUOTE

«Poverty is to be without voice and without choice»

Charles Bassett
Canadian International
Development Agency