**PROFORMA FOR SUBMISSION OF M.A. (RD) PROPOSAL FOR APPROVAL**

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Title of the Project : Impact of Pastoral Productive Safety net Program on prevention of asset reduction at household level in Somali Region

Signature of the Student : \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**A PROJECT PROPOSAL**

1. **Title:** Impact of Pastoral Productive Safety net Program on prevention of asset reduction at household level in Somali Region
2. **Introduction:**

Extreme poverty is widespread in Ethiopia. The major causes of poverty and food insecurity in rural areas include land degradation, recurrent drought, population pressure, low input subsistence agricultural practices, limited employment opportunities and limited access to services. As a result more than 38% of rural households fall below the food poverty line and 47% of children under five suffer from stunning. The food security situation in pastoral areas is further aggravated by other factors like sporadic conflicts between tribal communities and cross border.

In Ethiopia, pastoralism provides the main livelihood for close to 15 million people spread across seven regions of the country. Affected by unpredictable climatic conditions, recurrent conflicts and a generally inhospitable environment, the pastoralists are among the poorest of the poor in terms of disposable income, access to social services and general welfare. Human development indicators and poverty rates among pastoralists are uniformly worse than non-pastoralists in Ethiopia. The unpredictable climate, coupled with low levels of human development, mean that the expected effects of climate change are likely to exacerbate the problems of development in pastoral regions. These effects include increasing temperatures, a shift in rainfall patterns and distribution, as well as increased frequency of extreme weather events such as droughts and floods (Anderson et al., 2009; Nassef et al., 2009). The local pastoralists have hitherto been able to cope with recurrent droughts through the resilience of their traditional livelihood system, but presently marked signs of crisis are visible. The pastoral modes of sustenance are under excessive – largely externally created – pressure, and the number of people dropping out of the pastoral system has increased considerably (Pantuliano and Wekesa, 2008; Tache and Oba, 2008).

The Productive safety Net provides transfers to food insecure populations in a way which prevents asset depletion at the household level, creates asset at the community level and stimulates markets. The overall objective of the programme is “Food security for those who are able, and food sufficiency for those unable to achieve food security, for male and female members of chronically food insecure households in chronically food insecure woredas achieved”.

1. **Statement of the problem**

The Productive Safety Net Programme is targeted towards woredas defined by the government as chronically food insecure. Woredas defined as chronically food insecure are those currently targeted by the PSNP and those planned for coverage by the PSNP in Somali region. Their eligibility for the PSNP was defined by the frequency with which they required food assistance in the ten years preceding the design of the PSNP (the ten years up to 2004). The beneficiaries of the PSNP are the food insecure populations living in these chronically food insecure woredas. The vast majority of PSNP beneficiaries are resource poor households who fail to produce enough food even in times of normal rains. Households with these characteristics are considered chronically food insecure. Around 8.3 million people are considered to be chronically food insecure.

In 2005 the Government of Ethiopia and donors introduced the Productive Safety Net Programme to help households that face regular food shortages during difficult times. It is now a key part of the Government’s overall food security programme. The objectives of the Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP) are to provide support to woredas where people regularly face food shortages in a way that:

1. Prevents asset reduction at the household level (e.g. sale of key breeding livestock for pastoral community);
2. Prevents long-term problems caused by short term food shortages;
3. Builds assets at the community level (e.g. improved access to existing water points, construction of markets; improved access to markets).

The Productive Safety Net Program Pastoral Area Pilot is a trial or experiment and will only run in a few woredas namely 9 woredas of Somalie Region, 6 woredas of Afar Region, 3 woredas of Oromiya Region and 3 woredas of Southern Region. The pilot will be large enough to try out different ways of running a safety net programme in pastoral areas, but small enough to be easily managed and monitored. The main aim is to assess the best way of running a safety net programme in pastoral areas.

Pastoralists are people who are highly dependent on livestock for their basic food, income and social needs. Pastoral production systems have normally developed in arid lands, where climatic uncertainty/ unreliability and the nature of soils affects spatial as well as temporal variations in the availability of crucial natural resources, notably pasture and water. Livestock represents the main asset while mobility patterns, is the key strategy to cope with these conditions. Market exchanges related to livestock and livestock products represent the other key source of livelihood. Pastoral groups tend to be classified according to their degree of mobility:

* nomadic (opportunistic and variable migration patterns),
* transhumant (set migratory routes on seasonal basis),
* agro-pastoralists (almost sedentarized and also attached to crop production).
* ex-pastoralists (those people that lost substantial amount of their livestock and are making their lives by engaging in other income generating activities)

Most Somali pastoralists tend to be transhumant through traditionally established indicative routes and can be found close to their origin areas during the *Gu* season. Migration decision-making is normally based on an integrated multiple-choice system, where major determinants are ***rainfall, range resource access, animal*** ***disease, marketing options and sporadic tribal conflict***. All these elements have undergone major variations in the Somali context during the last decade and therefore reshaped to a degree traditional pastoral living.

The proposed research is to be studied in Filtu woreda of Liben zone is among the nine selected woredas in Somali Regional state. The recent research will indicates the extent of livestock loss over time and concomitant livelihood failure since the start of the PSNP-PAP vis-à-vis the objective 1 and possible reasons that are incriminated for change in livelihood.

1. **Objectives**

The study aims at making an in-depth analysis on the impact of Productive Safety Net Program in preventing asset reduction at the household level mainly of key breeding livestock.

The specific objectives are as follows:

1. To what extent are the pastoral livestock asset maintained since from the onset of the PSNP program in 2005.
2. Is the PSNP supports livelihood of pastoralists? How?
3. If not, to study the factors attributing to loss of livestock.
4. **Hypothesis**

The hypothesis framed for this study is that Pastoral Productive Safety Net Program prevents asset reduction at the household level mainly of sale of key breeding livestock.

1. Universe of the study

The study shall be conducted in 3 kebeles of Filtu woreda of liben zone of Somali Regional state. This woreda has been selected for the study from the total of 9 PSNP woredas in Somali Region, as these woredas are among the list of identified PSNP Somali woredas with diverse livelihood zones with varying degree of mobility. From socio cultural point of view, the student will capture the views of pastoral, agro-pastoral and ex-pastoral beneficiaries. In that way the respondents will be at ease to reflect their view in an open manner.

1. Sampling

Stratified random sampling method will be utilized to achieve the objective of the study. The data shall be collected from different groups of the community namely; women, men, elderly, religious groups and customary institutions. In all 90 community members (men and women) shall be interviewed, 10 elders and religious leaders, and woreda and kebele food security task forces.

Total numbers of PSNP beneficiaries in Filtu woreda are 21,590.

1. Tools for data collection

* Participatory methods will be used with groups of participants.
* Seasonal calendars will be use to determine monthly comparative variations of rainfall and hunger periods.
* Time lines and qualitative graphing will be used to determine droughts and ‘shocks’ over the last ten years and impacts and correlations with livestock numbers.
* Wealth ranking will be used to determine the relative numbers of households within a kabele that fall within a high, medium or low wealth category. As well as consider the average ranges of assets held by households in each wealth category.
* Focus group discussions will be arranged with the beneficiaries
* Key informant interviews mainly with elders and religious leaders, and members of woreda and kebele food security task forces will be used to in conjunction with the above methodology to confirm information received and deepen understanding in key aspects of the program or context.
* Matrix scoring will be used to compare reasons for livestock deaths.

1. **Data analysis**

Completed interview schedules for sets of samples to be drawn from elderly, religious and customary institution leaders shall be scrutinized, verified, edited and arranged serially. For women and men groups, separate focus group discussions and matrix scoring will be organized. Then the data will be coded and processed using computer.

1. **Chapter plan**

Capterization of the thesis is proposed to be made, keeping in mind the objectives and hypothesis.

The **first chapter** shall be an introduction to the subject matter of the present study.

The **second chapter** shall deal with conceptual framework and research design of the proposed study. A review of literature will be made.

The **third chapter** shall explain the social and economic profile of the sample taken for the present study.

The **fourth chapter** shall focus on trend analysis of pastoral household asset over time since from 2005. And also discuss on underlying reasons for the loss of livestock. In this chapter the hypothesis will be put to test and later elaborated.

The **fifth chapter** shall in detail discuss as to what extent is the PSNP program supporting livelihoods of pastoralists. In this chapter I shall in detail discuss on factors on common ground of pastoral people will be validated against the hypothesis.

The **six chapter** shall give major findings of the present study and some workable suggestions for further enrichment of the PSNP program guideline.

1. **References**
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