

# Linking research and policy processes related to pastoral development: the case of the “Focus on Ethiopia” project

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# The project « Focus on Ethiopia »

## Background and rationale :

1. marginalisation of pastoral communities in development policies, scientific research and Ethiopian public discourse
2. the gap between applied and scientific research and the importance of critical thinking on pastoral development policy and practices
3. the need for a common setting of analysis to value scientific research among development organizations and policy makers

# Feedback from meeting at Mekelle University, Ethiopia (October 2018)

Four main thematic areas:

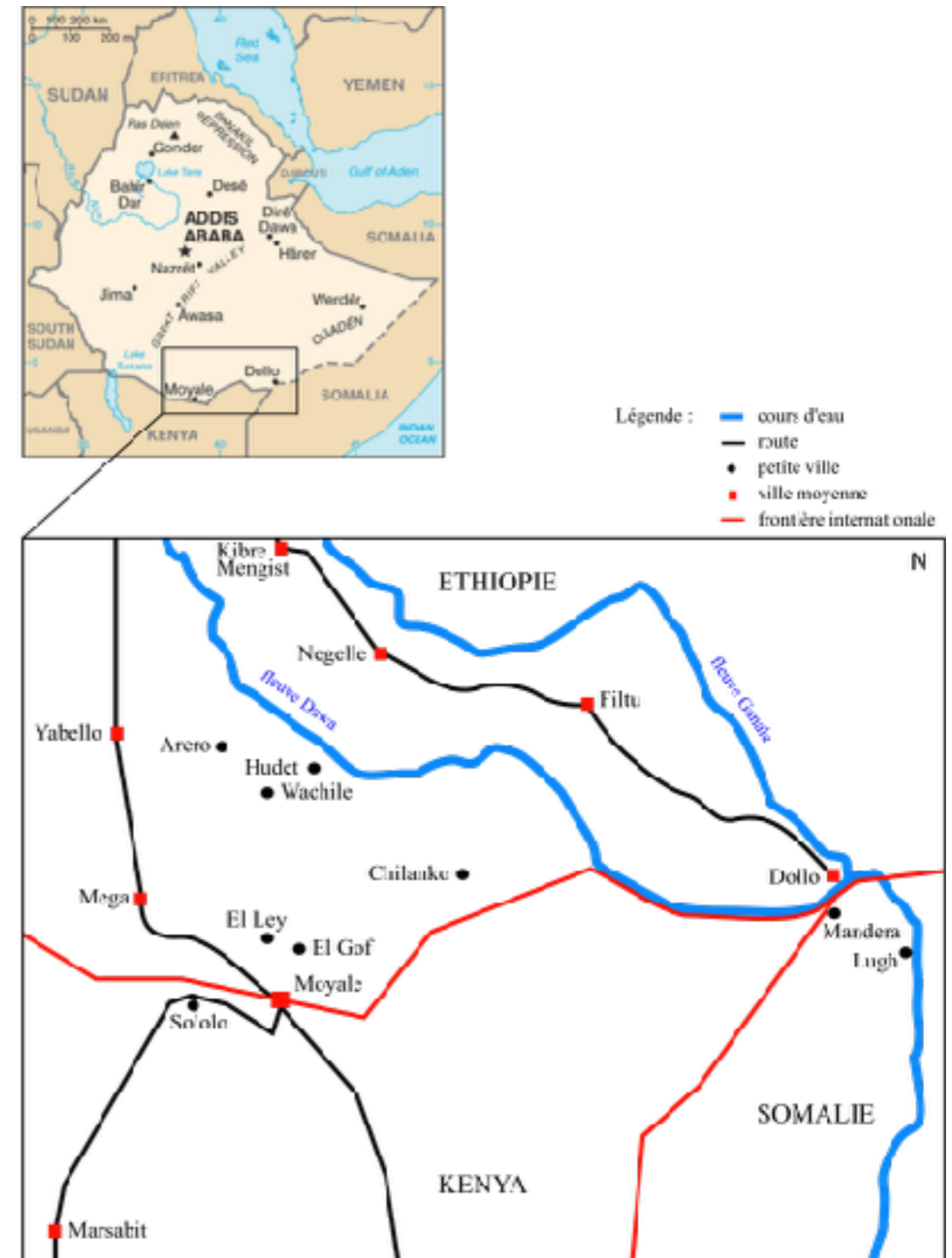
1. The **marginalization of pastoral communities** as the result of **historical processes and power relations** between Ethiopian highlands and pastoral borderlands
2. the analytical shift to study agro-pastoral livelihoods from “**copying with**” to “**take advantage of**” environmental variability
3. the **long history of cooptation of customary authorities** by government and development organizations and the creation of **hybrid institutions** between pastoral communities, local authorities and development actors
4. the **missing links in understanding pastoral production and socio-economic change** in Ethiopian pastoral regions, such as implication of *khat* consumption

# Project set-up

	<b><i>1<sup>st</sup> Phase</i></b> <b><i>Data management</i></b>	<b><i>2<sup>nd</sup> Phase</i></b> <b><i>Data production</i></b>	<b><i>3<sup>rd</sup> phase</i></b> <b><i>Outputs</i></b>
<b>COORDINATION UNIT</b>	Project set up (thematic areas and analytical framework) Networking & agreements with Ethiopian universities, research centers and media	Organization of reports and surveys coming from the field	Policy and media reports on CELEP website
<b>RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS</b>	Research agreements	Follow up of field surveys	Teaching modules Scientific publications Conferences
<b>LOCAL PARTNERS</b>	Networking with partners at local level	Follow-up in implementing fieldwork and data collection	Project planning

**A first action on water development issues**

# Insights from field research: the case of Southern Ethiopian lowlands



# Development as « de-socialisation » of water resources

This point can be explored by:

- 1) Deconstructing the rhetoric of water as a « scarce resource » by looking at seasonality of pastoral livelihoods in Southern Ethiopian lowlands

	Dic	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Mar	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Season	long dry				long rains			short dry			short rains	
Social activities	Critical period with severe living conditions; people and animals gather near perennial water points.				Closure of water points and prohibition of use of pastures nearby; beginning of migrations to more distant pastures; abundant animal production; a good time for weddings and other social activities (assemblies, councils)			Return of livestock to pastures near water points.			Nomadic hamlets move with herds to distant pastures. Work of handling of the water points.	

- 2) focusing on the « water committee », a management system which encourages **commoditization** of water access and reproduces **power relations** between pastoralists and the Ethiopian State

**Moving from this background...**

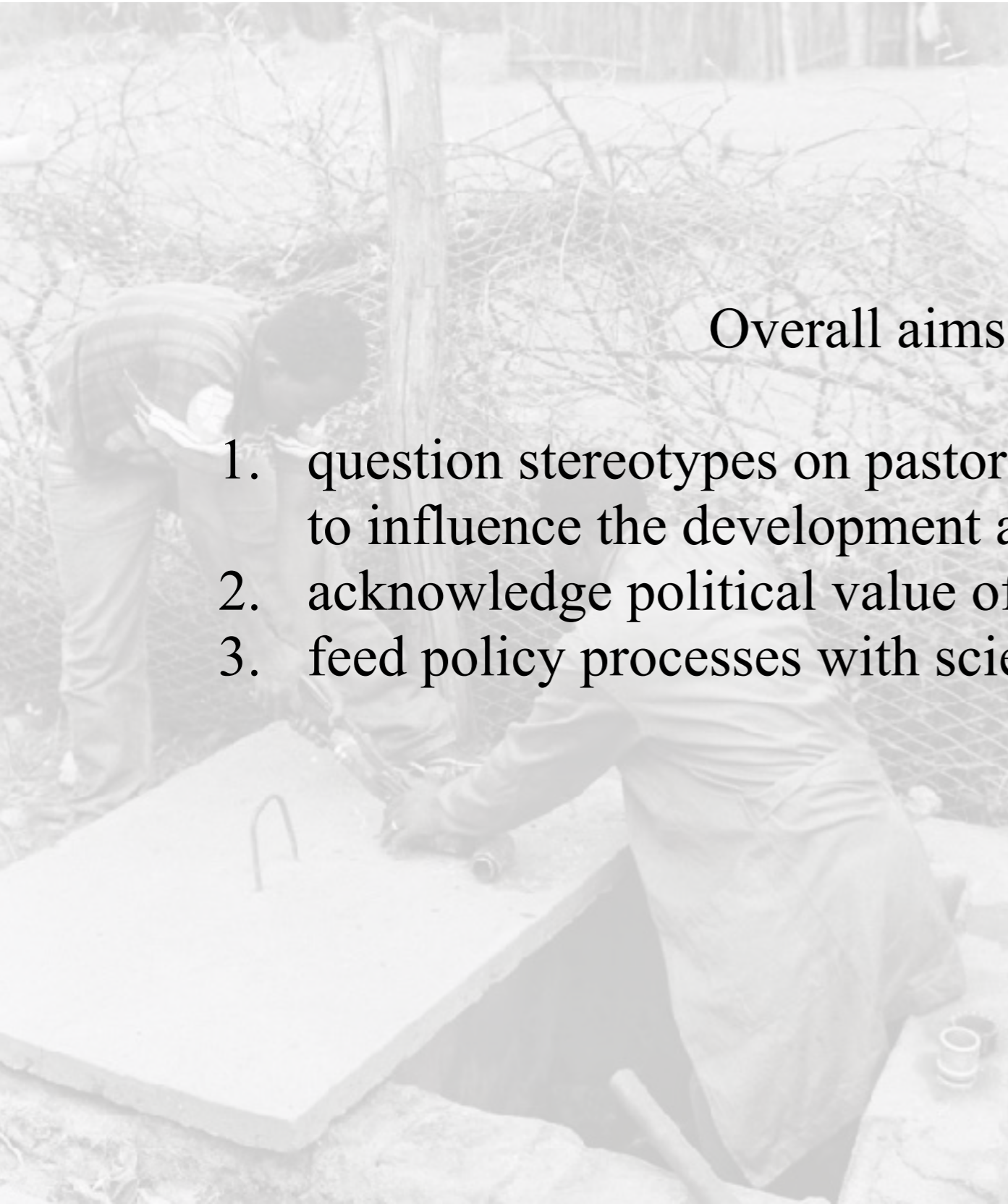
# How should we explain failures of water development interventions?



# Back to the Focus on Ethiopia

Overall aims of the project:

1. question stereotypes on pastoralism in Ethiopian public discourse to influence the development agenda
2. acknowledge political value of development interventions
3. feed policy processes with scientific research



**Thank you**

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