Does institutional incompatibility lead to Maladaptation to impacts of climate change?

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Learning to Govern Pastoral dynamics

• Ever increasing economic and political importance of the drylands/pastoralists
  – Carbon sequestration capacity of ranges
  – Biofuel and high value industrial crop demand
  – Technological progress
  – Right, governance and voice

• The pastoral sector in Ethiopia is witnessing climate induced livelihood transitions
  – Frequent drought and destabilization of the system
  – High security risk...international boundaries
Learning to Govern Pastoral dynamics

• To smooth the transition and mitigate effects various initiatives have been in place.

• However, it is quite unknown as to what ‘incentives’, ‘choices’ and ‘outcomes’ motivate human behaviour to comply with the policies.

• The interlinkage between those ‘initiatives’ and ‘practical adaptation practices as well as their ‘consequences’ is less clear in indigenous pastoral communities’ context.
Methods

- Multiple stressed, Hamer in South Ethiopia
- Multistage study, people-centred approach/institutional analysis
- Case study to understand the incentives that motivate human behaviour
- Assuming volitional pragmatism

IAD framework adapted from Johann et al., 2009
Findings

Policies opted for ‘settlement/farming oriented’,
- Natural resource development
- Marketization,
- Institutional capacity building
  - Upward nested institutions
  - technical, than people-centered approach
  - Obscured property rights

Pastoral adaptation practices
- Livestock and rangeland based adaptation
- Determined by incentives embodied in ‘traditional rites of passage’.
  - Group grid position influence choices
  - Local discourse, dominate power relationship!
Key Findings

• **This institutional incompatibilities become apparent when formal rules of adaptation fail to conform to communal norms,** …so that ‘opportunistic behavior’ emerges (Knight, 1999, Theesfeld et al., 2010).

  – These discrepancies, have a high inefficiency and implications of long term mistrust between policy makers and pastoralists.

• **The mistrust is leading the pastoral communities with short term, survival oriented, and costly, reactive actions prompted by lack of viable alternatives.**
  – Maladaptation
Conclusions/Recommendations

For efficacy of adaptation policies, Panarchy of interventions, don’t often fit, doesn’t serve the purpose.

– policies, interventions need to consider heterogeneity among actors.

The incompatibility mainly emanates from large ‘social distance’ between policy makers, and final agents.

– Lack of proper Representation!

• Cognitive and affective bias matters!

• Therefore, the institutional architecture and communication practices need to be designed in a way that actually supports decision-making to climate change and sustainable economic development to fit in indigenous pastoral context.