

# PENHA

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PASTORAL & ENVIRONMENTAL NETWORK IN THE HORN OF AFRICA

ISSUE NUMBER 9 | SEPTEMBER | 2012



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Agro-Pastoralist women from Eastern Sudan

## First annual NGO-UN Expo in Somaliland

PENHA, alongside 82 NGOs and UN agencies, participated in the Expo, held in Hargeisa over 29-30 August 2012. The event was organized by Dr. Saad Shire, Minister of National Planning and Development and a former PENHA Trustee.

With the broader goal of enhancing cooperation between government, NGOs and UN agencies, the Expo had several aims:

- To give the different agencies an opportunity to showcase their work

- To deepen understanding of the different agencies' activities, mandates and expertise
- To share ideas and information about good practice

A selected handful of agencies gave presentations. PENHA-Somaliland's Sadia Ahmed outlined PENHA's principles and programmes, highlighting the need to "invest in pastoralism", which accounts for a significant proportion of economic activity, employment and exports. PENHA's stall featured publications, including those in Somali, and slideshows on environmental rehabilitation and other project work.

Issues raised included the role of government; aid effectiveness; the importance of involving local people in deeper ways; making effective use of new communications technology; as well as the need to encourage the private sector to avoid dependency on aid.

Despite the challenges, there are grounds for optimism, with development agencies "working together for change".

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This issue of the PENHA Newsletter comes with our greetings. We hope you enjoy it and find it of interest. We have appreciated the comments that you have made on previous ones. Please keep them coming. The newsletter is also on our website: [www.penhanetwork.org](http://www.penhanetwork.org)

You can unsubscribe from the newsletter via a link at the end of this Newsletter.

## Equipment for Uganda women

The Rotary Club of Grantham, Kesteven, UK generously donated six tailoring boxes including a hand driven sewing machine, a table and assorted sewing material. These boxes were distributed in April 2012 by Elizabeth Katushabe, PENHA's local project officer, to six women's groups in the districts of Lwengo, Ssembabule, Kiruhura, Luwero and Katakwi, all in Western Uganda.

Just two weeks later, Zahara Kizza of the Senyange Women's Group said that the women were very grateful for this donation from the Rotary Club and they were already using it smoothly. "We ... have bought more material for those learning to sew, we have visited a school to apply for a contract to make school uniforms for them and there is a



**Elizabeth Katushabe with pastoralists in Uganda's cattle corridor**

woman who has been ... using needles to sew children's dresses, but this hand held sewing machine has come at the right time!" In August, PENHA rang the groups to find out how they were getting on. In all cases, there was real progress. In particular all of the groups were training others – especially young girls, many of whom were school drop outs. One report said of these girls "they are catching up very fast because they have an interest".

This activity is based on both the equipment which has been supplied by the Rotary Club as well as that by the Brentwood United Reformed Church the previous year. The women have benefitted from business skills training under PENHA's Danish-funded women's empowerment programme, gaining the self confidence and basic knowledge needed to develop their small businesses. This training has been spread by the women who had received the training so that it is on the way to being self sustaining.

## Pastoralist women from eastern Sudan

For the past four years, women in a number of villages have been attending training sessions to develop their skills as part of the Danish funded Women's Economic Empowerment Programme. The final stage was a public meeting and exhibition of their wares. A total of twelve women represented the eight groups in Kassala State. A display of their goods was made in the offices of the organisers of the event, the Pastoralist Environment Associ-

public, and the Kassala TV and radio covered the event.

The meeting was of particular benefit to the women who made useful contact with other women's groups, with government officials and with potential customers. They also got ideas for new handicraft items from other women and from the questions asked by people who attended the display.

### Nafisa Yasin Mohamed Amin – Women's Leader

Nafisa is married with four children and is from Awad village, Kassala State.. Her husband is disabled so that Nafisa is the sole household bread winner. She was selected by the Women's Rural Development Centre in Kassala State because of her use of local material (palm leaves) instead of plastic for making clothes baskets and for designing a car seat with air pockets, making it more hygienic. Her prowess was recognised by the Federal Ministry of Social Affairs which will be presenting her with a prize and a ticket to Khartoum. She was already a role model for other women – and in her future plans she intends to get more training when the opportunity arises and to improve her skills and products so she can compete in the local market.



**Handicrafts by Kassala pastoralist women**

ation in Kassala State (PEAKS) in the last three days of February. The display, and the workshop which took place alongside, was opened by the General Manager of the local Ministry of Social Affairs and a wide range of visitors attended, including those from the state government ministries, from local and international NGOs and from a number of international bodies such as UN agencies and the Japanese International Cooperation Agency. The display was open to the general

## Education in Eastern Sudan

Rotary Clubs in Lincolnshire have again given important support to schools around Kassala. Four boxes of educational material were sent by the Grantham Kesteven branch and Arabic language school books were bought in Khartoum with support from the Khartoum Club and money from the South Holland and the Lincolnshire District Rotary Clubs. All have been received in Kassala and await distribution after the rainy season .

## A new pastoralist centre completed in Eritrea

PENHA has been working with local pastoralists in the Gash Barka region in western Eritrea, near the Sudanese border. This it has done in partnership with the National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students (NUEYS). Training programmes with the local pastoralists has included training them in the production of animal feeds, including the use of the *Prosopis* shrub. It has supported the formation of local forums so that the pastoralists can represent themselves. A joint PENHA NUEYS needs assessment suggested that a pastoralist centre in Geluj would be an important focal point where they could meet each other to discuss, plan and act on various issues of concern; and also

where others (local administration, associations, etc.) could approach them. The centre could also serve as an office for the forum leaders to manage their affairs and to practice what they had been trained in (leather processing, fodder production, etc.).

The Pastoralist Centre has now been completed – as can be seen from the photo. It has been a collaborative venture. The sub-zonal administration granted a plot of land and also donated some of the construction material. It also supported the project in all its stages. The funding came from ICCO and Oxfam Novib of the Netherlands through PENHA and some

came from NUEYS itself. The whole projects was managed by



NUEYS from its local Gash Barka office.

Now the building is completed, it awaits use by the local pastoralists.

## Pastoralism and Development in Africa

Dynamic Change at the Margins - A new look at pastoralism in Africa

Two PENHA Board members, Prof. Gufu Oba and Prof. John Morton, John Livingstone and Everse Ruhindi of PENHA-Uganda, and Abdi Abdulahi Hussein of Pastoralist Concern, one of PENHA's Ethiopian partners, contributed to this important book, edited by Prof. Ian Scoones and Jeremy Lind of IDS/Sussex University.

*Pastoralism and Development In Africa* looks at 'development at the

margins' in the pastoral areas of the Horn of Africa. It highlights innovation and entrepreneurialism, cooperation and networking and diverse approaches. In 20 detailed chapters, leading development experts assess diverse pathways of development, going beyond the standard 'aid' and 'disaster' narratives. Without minimizing the profound challenges, the book emphasizes development successes, large and small. In growing African economies, a modern, dynamic pastoralism is emerging around growing rural towns, with women playing a greater role.

Often marginalised by states and development agencies, pastoralists have long struggled with drought, conflict and famine, but they are resourceful, entrepreneurial and innovative. Pastoralism works and pastoral societies are adaptable and flexible. This volume is a valuable resource for development practitioners and should be widely read.

Dr. Zeremariam Fre, PENHA's Director, will participate in the UK

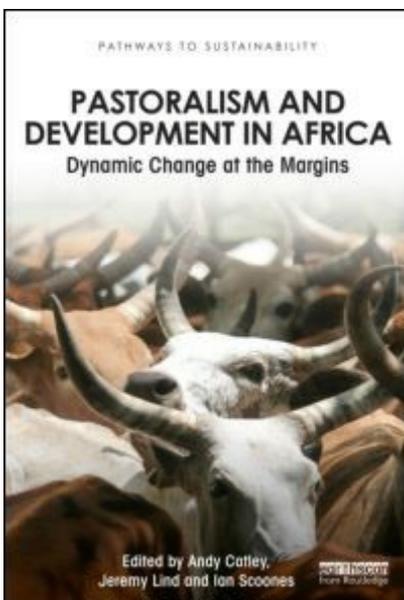
## Pastoralists from Geluj and Kassala working together

At the invitation of the Pastoralist Environment Association in Kassala State in Eastern Sudan, a group of eight pastoralists from Geluj in Gash Barka visited Kassala, just across the border, in April 2012. They discussed common issues. The PEAKS members shared their experience of setting up and running their own association. In addition, they showed the Eritreans how to produce animal feed using local materials including the *Prosopis* seed pods. The Eritreans returned to Geluj with eight plant choppers as well as supplies of molasses and sesame seed for the animal feed.

book launch on Tuesday 27 November.

Published by Earthscan/Routledge (July 2012, paperback - £24.95), the book can be obtained from the following website:

<http://www.routledge.com/books/details/9780415540728/>





## 'Food We Want' Sustainable, Local, Fair

"Food We Want" is an awareness raising campaign which aims to promote family farming and agroecology as effective solutions to combat hunger, reduce poverty and fight against climate change.

The Food We Want campaign, financed by the European Union, takes place in 8 countries (Italy, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Great Britain, Kenya, Mozambique and Tanzania), with the aim of sharing ideas, promoting com-

mon solutions and encouraging a public debate on sustainable agriculture. PENHA is the partner in the UK. Detailed information can be got from its website: [www.foodwewant.org/eng](http://www.foodwewant.org/eng)

With the collaboration of *Africans in London TV*, a video lasting just under four minutes has been produced – and can be downloaded from the following address:

[www.foodwewant.org/eng/news/To-Know-More-About-the-Project-Watch-It](http://www.foodwewant.org/eng/news/To-Know-More-About-the-Project-Watch-It)

### PENHA's new Trustees and volunteers

Dr. Essam Mohammed and John Plastow have just become PENHA Trustees.

Essam comes from Eritrea and worked for the Ministry of Fisheries. He did further studies in Japan where he gained a doctorate in International Development. He is now a researcher in Environmental Economics at the International Institute for Environment and Development.

John comes with a wide range of experience in overseas development with

agencies such as Oxfam (UK), ACCORD and Oxfam (Ireland) in Asia and in East Africa including the Horn of Africa. He is the UK Programme Director of CARE International.

PENHA has been greatly strengthened by the involvement of Essam and John, and we are delighted that they have joined us.

We also welcome Tesfaldet Okubayes as a volunteer from Eritrea who has worked in development in his own country.

### Where are our volunteers now?

Hiroshi Kuwata, a Master's student from Japan, volunteered for PENHA from 2008-2010. He worked in Britain for most of this time, but spent four months in eastern Sudan and Khartoum.



for the Japan International Cooperation Agency. I have a good memory of working with PENHA's Executive Director."

Hiroshi's work with JICA focused on increasing agricultural productivity. He participated in PENHA's

December 2011 regional conference in Ethiopia and has contributed useful ideas on agricultural development.

"Through PENHA related work, I have gained many things. I met many nice people whom I still keep in touch with. Regarding my career, PENHA connected me to Sudan where I am currently working

### PENHA'S Calendar

- Coalition of European Lobbies for Eastern African Pastoralism Annual meeting, Brussels 3-5 October
- Danida partners, Roskilde 4-8 October

- Food We Want partners, London 18-19 October
- Pastoralism and Development in Africa book launch London 27 November
- Christmas fundraising dinner, London, Friday 14 December **Book It**

## Supporting African pastoralists

PENHA's annual 10 km event (this was the fourth so far) took place when ten supporters walked 10 km through Epping Forest in Essex. The walk was a great outing for PENHA's London staff and for its supporters. Six of the walkers came from the Horn of Africa. A total of just under £1,800 was collected from over 40 contributors. A two minute video of the walk can be seen on the PENHA website.

The money raised is particularly important for PENHA as it allows us to support pastoralists and agro-pastoralists in the Horn of Africa in a flexible way. Thank you all donors for your support to PENHA's work.

### PENHA and the London Olympics

Bereket Tsegay, PENHA's Research and Communication Officer volunteered as a 'Games Maker' greeting and helping guests as part of the Protocol Team. He said; "It was a once a life time event in which the memories will always remain in the hearts of those who competed, volunteered and were spectators."



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