

NORMAN MESSER

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Personal Details

Date of birth: 8 July 1968

Nationality: German

Main field of specialisation

Rural sociology

Education

Master of Arts in Development Studies School of Oriental and African Studies

1993 (SOAS), University of London, UK

Bachelor of Science (Geography) London School of Economics and Political

1992 Science (LSE), University of London, UK

Work Experience

Independent Consultant

March-December 2004: IFAD Consultant (PA) assisting in country portfolio management (Ghana and Cape Verde) and several divisional activities (community-driven/policy/strategy development, local institutional strengthening, etc.). Participation in interim project evaluations, technical workshops (incl. on local development at the World Bank: http://www1.worldbank.org/sp/ldconference/PS2_S14.asp), programme start-up workshops, etc., country strategy development (Ghana) workshops and missions.

Co-Author, with Alain Onibon, of the IFAD "Practitioner's Guide for Institutional Analysis in Rural Development Programmes" (to be validated at an international workshop in Rome scheduled for 22-23 Sept. 2004).

January-February 2004: IFAD Consultant (PF) on the formulation mission of a Transitional Project of Post-Conflict Reconstruction in Burundi as institutions specialist. IFAD Consultant (PA) for the drafting of Guidelines for Institutional Diagnostics and Evaluation.

December 2003: Mission leader on a FAO-Netherlands Partnership Programme consultancy to formulate a project on 'Pro-Poor Local Institutional Support In Siem Reap Province, Cambodia'. The objective of this undertaking was, in sum, to formulate a rural development project that will enhance food security and incomes, particularly of the poorest households, through the improvement of selected capacities of local civil society organisations and institutions.

October-November 2003: IFAD Consultant to draft a strategy paper on "Rural Transformation for the Poor", External Affairs Department.

FAO Consultant on a literature review on 'The Role of Local Institutions and their Interaction in Disaster Risk Mitigation' for the FAO/DfID Sustainable Livelihoods Programme. The objective of this undertaking was, in sum, to provide insights into some best practices and 'lessons learnt' for future institutional development interventions in DRM.

August-September 2003: Mission leader (Consultant) on a joint IFAD-World Bank Field Mission to assess the 'Impact of Conflict on Human, Institutional and Natural Resources' in Burundi using Conflict Analysis tools. The objective of this undertaking was, in sum, to coordinate the contributions of the (9) mission members and provide the lead technical input for the drafting of a Conflict Assessment Report (CAR).

June 2003: IFAD Consultant on the drafting of: a Project Inception Report of the 'Rural Reconstruction and Recovery Programme' (Burundi). The objective of this undertaking was, in sum, to lay down the basic contents of this proposed Programme for it to be further developed during the subsequent formulation mission.

April-May 2003: IFAD Consultant on two research programmes on 'The Impact of Conflict on Human, Institutional and Natural Resources' (Burundi). The objective of this undertaking was, in sum, to provide a coherent and scientifically rigorous methodology for capturing the impact of the ongoing conflict in Burundi on the livelihood resources of the rural poor.

March 2003: IFAD Consultant on an appraisal mission to Rwanda as local institutions specialist (*organisations professionnelles*) for the Rural Small and Microenterprise Project, Phase II (PPMER II/IFAD Loan 613-RW) and on the drafting of the PPPMER 2 Strategic Project Brief. The objective of this undertaking was, in sum, to determine the role of local institutions in private/public sector development & resource allocation processes.

January-February 2003: IFAD Consultant on a research-cum-implementation support mission to northern Ghana for the Upper-East Region Land Conservation and Smallholder Rehabilitation Project Phase II (LACOSREP II/IFAD Loan 503-GH) and the Upper West Agricultural Development Project (UWADEP/IFAD Loan 388-GH). The objective of this undertaking was, in sum, to assess the scope for empowerment of Water User Associations established under these two irrigated agricultural development projects.

October-November 2002: FAO Consultant on an Evaluation Mission to Mauritania for the Oasis Development Project, Phase II (OASIS II/IFAD Loan 43-MR) as institutional specialist. The objective of this undertaking was, in sum, to evaluate the pro-poor performance of the local oasis development associations and to investigate their wider institutional and legal environment.

August-September 2002: IFAD Consultant on an implementation support mission to Rwanda (Umutara Community Resources & Infrastructure Development Project/IFAD Loan 537-RW) as rural sociologist. The objective of this undertaking was, in sum, to draft an additional section for the Project Implementation Guidelines to deal with the decentralised bottom-up and demand-led implementation of this vast, cross-sectoral participatory RD project, outlining, *inter alia*, the articulation of local government entities with project service providers/local civil society institutions.

May-June 2002: IFAD Consultant on a programme appraisal mission to Ghana for the Rural Enterprises Project, Phase II (REP II/IFAD Loan 588-GH) as rural sociologist/local development specialist. The objective of that undertaking was, in sum, to spell out the roles of local government, local trade associations a. o. local institutions in project implementation, based on a rapid assessment of their capacity and preparedness to take part in this income diversification project, and to formulate a local institutional development component including the networking & 'scaling-up' of trade associations through coalitions/federations.

March-April 2002: IFAD Consultant for the World Bank Mid-Term Review (MTR) of the Root and Tuber Improvement Programme (RTIP/IFAD Loan 461-GH) as rural sociologist/targeting specialist. The objective of that undertaking was, in sum, to assess progress made so far with respect to the programme's community development objectives and to suggest ways to improve local-level targeting mechanisms of the resource-poor as well as the sustainability of the local institutions in charge of planting material multiplication.

November-February 2002: Finalisation of "Methodological Guidelines on Understanding Linkages between Household Livelihood Strategies and Local Institutions", with Philip Townsley. Drafting of a concept note on the role of joint liability groups a.o. (local) institutional aspects in rural finance for agricultural medium- to long-term lending and leasing; selected inputs to the AGSM (FAO)/World Bank research programme on the same topic.

September-October 2001: IFAD Consultant for a project formulation-cum-appraisal mission to Rwanda (Umutara Community Resources & Infrastructure Development Project II/IFAD Loan 537-RW) as rural sociologist for a participatory institutional assessment. The objective of that undertaking was, in sum, to provide an appraisal of the local – particularly the lowest – government entities in this newly created province to act as active project partners, and the implications this has for targeting vulnerable households, e.g. transhumant pastoralists, and participatory processes for bottom-up, demand-led implementation.

July-August 2001: Consultant for a FAO Investment Centre (TCI) project completion mission to Sri Lanka (NW Province Dry Zone Participatory Development Project/IFAD Loan 309-SRI) as participatory impact assessment specialist. The objective of that undertaking was, in sum, to investigate the impacts that this integrated rural development project has had on local livelihoods, with a particular emphasis on changing land tenure regimes and (individual and common) property relations as a result of minor irrigation tank rehabilitation and the local institutional dimension of regulation, operation & maintenance.

May-June 2001: IFAD Consultant on a World Bank mission to Ghana for the MTR of the Villages Infrastructure Project (VIP/IFAD Loan 429-GH). The objective of that under-taking was, in sum, to assess whether and how IFAD's target group of poor smallholder farmers are reached through this cross-sectoral multi-donor project, and to suggest an improved (more participatory and decentralised, demand-driven) *modus operandi*.

March-April 2001: Consultant on a IFAD mission to Ghana to prepare the MTR of VIP. The objective of that undertaking was, in sum, to carry out a preliminary assessment of this nation-wide project's impact on the livelihoods of the poor by looking at specific issues flagged by IFAD, such, as, especially, the practice and field-level reality of the part-decentralised, part-deconcentrated local government units called District Assemblies.

January-February 2001: Preparation of a paper on 'Decentralisation and devolution of forest resources management: an analytical diagnosis prior to topic development' for Community Forestry Unit, FAO.

December 2000: Local institutions specialist on a FAO (TCI) rapid participatory impact assessment mission to The Gambia for the community mobilisation component of the Lowlands Agricultural Development Programme (IFAD Loan 375-GM). The objective of that undertaking was, in sum, to measure qualitative and quantitative impact on rural livelihoods in general, and lowlands rice and uplands vegetables production in particular, including changing land tenure relations and women's access to irrigated plots.

May-November 2000: Author of a paper used as an input by Visiting Expert Prof. J. Bingen for the FAO-Michigan State University research programme "Strengthening local organization capacities for sustainable food security policies and programmes". Technical editing of the SDAR Working Paper series on Household Livelihood Strategies and Local Institutions. Drafting of "Methodological Guidelines on Understanding Linkages between Household Livelihood Strategies and Local Institutions", with Philip Townsley.

In the course of all fieldwork assignments described above, a number of PRA, RRA a. o. participatory tools were applied; I sometimes acted as a trainer on their use, as well as on the use of a range of analytical tools and methods, including but not limited to institutional analysis.

Rural Development Organisation Officer, P-2, FAO Rural Development Division

1/5/97-30/4/00. Rural development policy analysis with emphasis on poverty reduction, decentralisation and participatory natural resource management for food security at the household and community level. Active participation in international workshops and electronic conferences related to poverty, environmental degradation, natural resource management, people's participation, institutional analysis and restructuring, decentralisation, agricultural and rural development policy formulation. Co-ordinator of a weekly Reading Committee leading up to the Technical Consultation on Decentralization, held at FAO Headquarters, December 1997. Co-moderator of an electronic conference on Sustainable Livelihoods for the 'Siena-Forum'. Programme/Project pre-appraisal, identification and formulation. Backstopping of field projects, including research projects on "Rural Household Income Strategies for Poverty Alleviation and Interactions with the Local Institutional Environment" and "Comparative Analysis of Traditional Structures in Decentralisation Policies and Programmes". In the framework of the former, fieldwork in Gujarat, India, and Indonesia; drafting of modules of different research steps in the methodology, including PRA and RRA tools, institutional profiles, etc., and to inform the Socio-Economic Constraints Analysis of FAO's SPFS. In the framework of the "Comparative Analysis...", main author, co-author and co-ordinator of all case studies, of PSD including research methodology, semi-structured interview modules.

Consultant, FAO Agriculture and Economic Development Analysis Division

1/8/95-30/4/97. Assisting in the FAO project on 'Optimizing linkages between the farm and the off-farm sector', preparation of a paper 'The importance of the nonfarm income of farm households', preparation of selected issues papers for The State of Food and Agriculture, assisting the Agricultural Sector in Economic Development Service in the preparation of analytical work and synthesis papers. Performing other duties as required.

Consultant at Mercedes-Benz AG, Stuttgart, Germany

1/2/95-1/4/95. Research project on dealers' necessary investment in Asia.

Field worker with the NGO "Fundação Nacional de Apoio Às Associações de Moradores", Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

1/4/94-1/8/94. Extension work in urban slums (*favelas* - Duque de Caxias, Rosario, and Pavãozinho) including the provision of basic foodstuffs and medicines at wholesale prices; some logistical and supervisory duties and responsibilities.

Selected Publications

- " "The Role of Local Institutions and their Interaction in Disaster Risk Mitigation (DRM)", SDAR/FAO, September 2003, <ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/006/AD710E/AD710E00.pdf>.
- " "Local Institutions and Livelihoods: Guidelines for analysis", with Philip Townsley, SDA/FAO, 2003, ISBN 92-5105049-X, <http://www.fao.org/DOCREP/006/Y5084E/Y5084E00.HTM>, available in English, French, Spanish, and Arabic.
- " "Mapping Traditional Structures to inform Decentralisation Policies: illustrations from three countries in Sub-Saharan Africa and the Near East", SDAR/FAO, January 2001, <ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/006/AD721E/AD721E00.pdf>.
- " "Decentralisation and devolution of forest resources management: An analytical diagnosis", FAO/FONP Community Forestry Unit, excerpts published in *Unasy/va*, 2000.
- " "Capital Social et Participation dans la Gestion Décentralisée des Ressources Naturelles," in *"Développement Local et Gestion des Ressources Naturelles en Afrique Subsaharienne"*, Panafrican Institute for Development, Douala, Cameroon, - ISBN 2-908464-06-3, 1999.
- " "Relating Social Capital, Traditional Community Institutions and Decentralisation Processes", World Bank Online Sourcebook on Decentralisation and Local Development, <http://www.ciesin.org/decentralization/English/Issues/relating.html>, in English and French, 1998.
- " "Decentralisation and Rural Food Security: Some Theoretical & Empirical Relations," <http://www.fao.org/waicent/faoinfo/sustdev/ltdirect/lr97/landrf.htm>, *Land Reform*, 1/97, 1997.
- " "The Republic of South Africa: an Assessment for Collaborative Rural Development Work", 1997.
- " "The Threat of Desertification", *The State Of Food and Agriculture 1996*, FAO, <http://www.fao.org/docrep/003/w1358e/w1358e00.htm#TopOfPage>, available in English, French, Spanish, Arabic, and Chinese.