

# **LOCAL LIVELIHOODS VIS-À-VIS STATE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT POLICIES: ENSET, LIVESTOCK, AND CEREAL CROP INTERACTIONS IN THE KOKOSSA DISTRICT, ETHIOPIA**

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This paper discusses livelihood strategies of the Arsii Oromo people inhabiting Ethiopia's Kokossa district in relation to the state's agricultural development policies, and examines interactions of the recently introduced cereal-oriented agriculture extension program with the existing enset–livestock-based livelihood system. It outlines and discusses the effects of the cereal-based extension program on the local enset–livestock-based systems. Accordingly, cereal crops' extreme price reduction, the decline in traditional symbiotic relationships among people of neighboring districts that embraced different livelihood strategies, and the threat cereals expansion may hold for the continuing function of the enset–livestock-based livelihood system will be discussed. The aim of the paper is not to discredit the importance of agricultural extension programs as such. Instead, it calls for agroecology-based extension programs that do not disturb well-established systems of sustainable livelihood.

**Keywords:** Agricultural extension, Cereal crops, Competing productions, Enset-livestock-based livelihood, Kokossa district.