

Final report... Ethiopian Project

1. Glantz; Addis Ababa, December 6-8, 1987

Ethiopia

The purpose of this meeting with the Ethiopian Met Service and the Relief and Rehabilitation Committee's Early Warning System's acting head was to determine the level of interest in continuing to pursue the Ethiopian climate impacts project. Repeated attempts to get a final acceptance from the Ethiopians did not achieve success.

This most recent meeting showed that there was still interested in an altered study. There is great interest in Ethiopia in early warning systems of which meteorological information is one part. Thus, the Met Service (NMSA), the RRC, and the University of Addis Ababa's Institute for Development Research (IDR) have expressed an interest in a UNEP sponsored activity related to this topic.

If we pursue the original project and modify in to meet the current (and somewhat different) needs of these groups, it will mean that I would have to spend a considerable amount of time to re-do the project document. Much time would be lost. Thus, I recommend that a more efficient way to address the concerns about early warning systems in general and the one in Ethiopia in particular would be to hold an action-oriented, small working group addressing key issues related to early warning systems. This group would have to weight the value and important (and priority) of the different EMS indicators that are used by the different EMS in various countries in Africa. These include but are not limited to grain and livestock prices in the marketplace, rainfall data, crop yield and production assessments, nutrition statistics, global weather information (e.g. El Nino events in the Pacific Ocean), and so forth. The purpose of this group would be to address important aspects of EMS: when should such information be made public? Who should have such information? What is considered optimal lead time for an EMS? How should anecdotal information coming from the field be used (weighted)? The successes and shortcomings of different EMS can be ascertained (. A few papers could be prepared for discussion at the meeting by consultants. The meeting would not be an ordinary workshop but would be an action-oriented one, requiring a follow-up phase for the purpose of trying to implement in the suggested changes in the present system. The follow-up phase would be one of the most important aspects of this meeting.

COST FOR THIS PROJECT: \$25,000. LOCATION: ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA