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Connecting Science-Derived Interventions to Livelihood Realities

**KATHERINE SNYDER¹, SONALI SENARATNA SELLAMUTTU², EVERISTO MAPEDZA³
AND ALAN DUNCAN⁴**

¹International Water Management Institute (IWMI), Addis Ababa

²International Water Management Institute, Laos

³International Water Management Institute, South Africa

⁴International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), Ethiopia

k.snyder@cgiar.org

Session: Livelihoods

Key Message

This session will explore how socio-cultural and political realities surrounding rural people's livelihoods constrain adoption and impact of scientifically-proven technical water management interventions.

Summary

This session will include researchers across the basins who are working closely on livelihoods issues in the selected basin sites to look critically at how proposed interventions may or may not have the desired impact on rural livelihood portfolios. In addition, this session will move towards providing some consensus across the basins on what exactly is meant by livelihoods and the aspects of livelihoods on which we can realistically have an impact. Specifically, we will highlight socio-cultural (including gender, social stratification, etc.) and political-economic factors that must be taken into consideration in proposed intervention design and impact assessment. Some of the questions to be addressed include: what kind of livelihood benefits do we foresee? How do these benefits have an effect on other aspects of the livelihood portfolio? How do benefits accrue to different community members? (men and

women, youth, poor/better off, etc.). The session endeavors to bring together the social science and biophysical perspectives and to provide a useful synthesis and framework for analysis of work across all the basins. While all the basin projects aim to improve livelihoods, often these livelihoods are poorly understood and integration with biophysical work and modeling proposes challenges. This session intends to provide guidelines for managing and overcoming these challenges.