

The CLACSO-CROP Programme, Makerere University, The Nile Basin Programme (NBRP) and The Nordic Africa Institute (NAI) issue this **call for papers** for a cross-continental and interdisciplinary seminar on

“Poverty, Water and Local Development”

The CLACSO-CROP Programme, Makerere University, The Nile Basin Programme (NBRP) and The Nordic Africa Institute (NAI) jointly organize a cross-continental and interdisciplinary seminar on *“Poverty, Water and Local Development”* in Kampala, Uganda, **November 28-30, 2011.**

Over the last decades, the multilateral institutions and the development agencies have promoted and strengthened a particular view of the relationship(s) between poverty, water, and development. In this conventional perspective, the fight against poverty is assumed to be a task that is essentially fulfilled by just providing water to the poor in order to meet their nutritional needs, cleaning and sanitation. In the 21st century, however, such an approach does not prevent the production, and reproduction of poverty through generations.

A challenge is that in many ‘developing’ countries the policies include (1) the adaptation of the national economies and societies to climate change; (2) the promotion of biofuels as a policy of energy security strategies, and (3) the international trade of commodities. This result in water allocation practices which are in general inequitable, inefficient, and unsustainable. Since water is increasingly perceived as a scarce natural asset, "More Value per Drop" has become the new credo for achieving the same old goals. As a result, water governance institutions are tacitly discriminating against poor households and economies.

In order to create a socially equitable and sustainable development, this orthodox view of the water-poverty-development nexus must be overcome. As a contribution to accelerate and strengthen this paradigmatic change, we invite scholars from all disciplines to contribute with multidisciplinary and critical papers on the relationship of water, poverty and local development in the 21st century. Academics from Africa and Latin America are especially invited to participate.

This seminar will focus on, but not be limited to, questions like:

- ◆ Are public investments promoting water justice? Do local governments have fair institutions and procedures for addressing water-related conflicts? Are local governments committed to support an environmentally sound management of watersheds and ecosystems? Is the right to water being actually enforced by local authorities and national governments? Do public policies include specific targeted actions to support the poorest households and for adaptation to climate change and related problems?
- ◆ Are energy-related infrastructure investments being designed and implemented without taking into account their impact on water resources? Are water policies and programs related to food security problems? How do plans for generating electricity deal with poverty reduction and water scarcity? How do water insecurity effect the future options available for the poor? Are water policies promoting equitable and sustainable development? Are water policies actually promoting equitable and sustainable development?
- ◆ What is the achievement and relevance of local water policies with respect to the Millennium Development Goals? Are water related investments and policies designed to improve the living conditions of the poor?
- ◆ How do export-oriented growth models increase the degradation of water resources and ecosystems? Are local conflicts of water resources being fostered by transnational actors, actions and interests? Are policies to attract foreign direct investment diverting water resources away from the poor’s economies and households? How are the mining industry and other extractive enterprises creating long-term effects capable of reducing the livelihoods of the society in general and the poor in particular?

The event will bring together a maximum of 25 participants across all university disciplines. This Call for Papers is open to potential participants throughout the world although preference will be given to researchers based in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean. We expect that all participants selected will be active in both the presentations and discussions of papers and we require personal presence at all the days of the seminar. The organizers will cover costs for lodging and meals during the days of the event. In the case of co-authored papers, only one of the authors may participate in the application process for a travel grant. In general, selected participants are responsible for their own travel expenses and health insurance. There will be a limited number of travel grants available. These will be assigned according to criteria, which include geographic origin, and the relevance, quality, and originality of the abstracts that have been submitted. In the case of co-authored papers, only one of the authors may participate in the application process for a travel grant. The Seminar will be conducted in English.

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACTS IS: MONDAY AUGUST 15, 2011

The Abstract should include: the title of the proposed paper and a summary of its theme, including its central argument and hypothesis or research question. References to theory, methodology, and findings of the proposed paper **SHOULD NOT EXCEED ONE PAGE IN LENGTH**. A brief (max. 1 page) CV with a list of your recent publications should be included together with the abstract. Please also *clearly* indicate your name, title, gender, nationality, postal and electronic address, and telephone and FAX numbers if applicable. The abstract and summary of your CV (max 2 pages, notice that submissions exceeding 2 pages will not be evaluated by the Academic Programme committee) should be sent via e-mail to the **2 (two)** following addresses:

The CLACSO-CROP Program, e-mail: [clacso-crop@clacso.edu.ar]
CROP Secretariat, e-mail: [crop@uib.no]

The participants will be notified once the Academic Committee determines whether a proposal has been accepted or not, and be given information regarding the format/guidelines for the final version of papers, which must be submitted by **Friday October 21, 2011**. More information regarding this event can be requested from the CLACSO-CROP Program or the CROP Secretariat at the above-mentioned addresses.