Expedition Fund Report-Kenya

To successfully complete a master’s degree at QMUL one is expected to write a dissertation that is well informed from either primary or secondary data. In the school of Geography this writing consists of 15000 words, these words must be outsourced somehow, and so that’s where research comes in.

My research work focused on the replication of the Kenya livestock insurance program (KLIP) to the larger arid and semi-arid regions. It was important to understand the impact of the project to the development course of the arid regions where it is practiced, and what it means for the livelihood of the people living in this region especially because their livelihood is 100% dependent on their livestock, mainly because of the arid nature of the landscape. This then would help to understand if the project can be replicated to the larger arid regions of not only Kenya but East Africa as they have similar characteristics.

In June 2019 I embarked on a two-week journey to Nairobi Kenya, to carry out interviews with the key stakeholders who foresee the day to day activities of the KLIP project. The objective was to have a feel of the impact of the project from the people who see the day to day activities of the project and not the receiver of the project, this approach was mainly because no research work had been done focusing on the driver stakeholders that included insurers and reinsurers who form a consortium, the ministry of agriculture, international livestock research institute among other stakeholders.

The nature of my research meant a face-to-face meeting with the interested participants was the best option; and therefore, a trip to Nairobi was unavoidable, all the stakeholders except the farmers have offices in Nairobi so this allowed me to access all stakeholders in one city within the two weeks period. Being a full-time student with limited financial resources, I applied and received a bursary of £300 which I used to cater for my accommodation and transport within the city and to buy a recording device for my interviews. My fieldwork lasted two weeks during which I conducted 15 interviews with key personnel in the State Department of Livestock, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, insurance companies that have been involved in the Kenya Livestock insurance program and they included: APA Insurance Ltd., UAP Insurance, CIC Insurance, Takaful insurance, Jubilee Insurance, Amaco Insurance, Heritage Insurance and Kenya Orient, a reinsurers partner: Swiss reinsurers and what I refer to as technical assistance partners: World Bank Group, International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) and financial sector which was BDO

Generally I had an exciting experience that not only benefited my research work, which I did well on the dissertation but also allowed me to improve my communication skills and interacting with senior people in the insurance industry and the world of development which goes a long way to reflecting positively on my cv. Needless to say Nairobi scenery was amazing but again June is too cold a month to go to Nairobi.

It goes without saying that this would not be possible without the support of QMUL expedition fund and I would, therefore, like to express my most sincerest gratitude to the Expedition Fund team who approved my application for this bursary in a timely manner and were always on standby to answer questions and concerns. I would like to encourage more QMUL students to make use of this platform to benefit their overall experience at QMUL.