**RELEASE IN FULL** 

From:

Sullivan, Jacob J < SullivanJJ@state.gov>

Sent:

Tuesday, July 26, 2011 12:29 PM

To:

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Subject:

FW: HOA

On your question on farming ownership / techniques, some early analysis.

-----Original Message-----From: Ash, Nazanin S

Sent: Tuesday, July 26, 2011 10:51 AM

To: Sullivan, Jacob J; Walsh, Matthew P; Harrell, Peter E

Subject: RE: HOA

Jake, I'm headed out to do an SFRC brief on El Salvador PFG--here's the short answer we have so far, and we are waiting on additional inputs, including Ambassador Booth's, who'd like to weigh in but returns from travel today:

Re whether foreign-owned farms in Ethiopia are doing just as badly as the rest of the afflicted region:

--Foreign-owned farms are largely unaffected by the drought, because (a) they are not located in drought-affected areas; and (b) they have access to irrigation systems.

Re use of drought-resistant seeds:

--drought resistant seeds have not been used on much of a scale, given that commercial farms do not operate in drought-affected areas

Post points out the most affected populations are pastoralists (herders) in drought-affected regions, not farmers. The impact on livelihoods has been on livestock, not crops. There are some agro-pastoralists in some drought-affected areas, operating where there are year-round river systems for irrigation.

We have asked post for more detailed information about farmers in drought-affected areas, what kinds of farming practices/inputs (such as using drought-resistant seeds) help reduce impacts on drought -affected farmers, and whether we have any comparables from the current situation that illustrate how different farming practices contributed to differential impacts.