

# SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS IN CANADA

TOWARDS AN INTERACTIVE  
POLICY FRAMEWORK

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# THE EXISTING POLICY CONTEXT

- What are Canada's national development policy goals and objectives
- How different are these at the provincial levels and what are the inter-relationships?
- How do they translate at the municipal and community levels?
- What are the sources of rural policy? Who are the key actors? How can they be influenced

# THE EXISTING POLICY CONTEXT CONTINUED

- How is policy performance measured?
- What are the measurement indicators and criteria: rural-urban-rural migration rates? rural poverty trends absolute/relative to urban? Vulnerability indices? ecosystem integrity? popular participation in civil society groups, in political processes? levels of trust? shared vision and values? systems behaviour ?

# LIVELIHOOD CONCEPT

- LIVELIHOODS CONSIST OF:
- Activities: jobs, formal, informal, self employment
- Assets: human, social, natural, physical/economic, (time?)
- Entitlements: UI, pensions, social safety nets, human rights

# SUSTAINABILITY CRITERIA

- Vulnerability and the capacity to cope with and recover from shocks and stresses
- Economic efficacy
- Social(including gender)equity
- Ecological integrity

# THE SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS APPROACH

- Assets vs Needs
- Self- Empowerment
- Visioning(in measurement terms)
- Local Action
- Outside Action

# ACTION

- POLICY : macro-meso-micro linkages, policy processes, policy content
- GOVERNANCE: bottom-up/top-down interactions, horizontal institutional interactions e.g local government-civil society interactions, local level authority, capacity etc (decentralisation issues)

# ACTION CONTINUED

- TECHNOLOGY: farming, biotech information and communication, energy, transport
- INVESTMENT: finance, rural credit, domestic and foreign investment, markets domestic and international

# ADDED VALUE

- An interactive evolutionary systems approach
- Participatory: putting local priorities first within national policy context
- Flexibility to begin in a given sector and grow cross-sectorially
- Scope to centrally integrate sustainability and gender equity issues
- Negotiated solutions: indicators, policies, vision

# APPLICATION TO AN ADVANCED ECONOMY

CONTINUOUS ASSET TRANSFORMATION  
ENGINE:(CATE)

ASSETS: Natural, Physical, Human, Social

TRANSFORMATION TO: Livelihood capital  
to livelihood flows(income, services etc)

# CATE contd

- TRANSFORMATION MECHANISMS:
- Value creation chains
- Value added communities(VAC)- networks external to brand-owning , companies, interfacing the entire length of the supply – demand chain
- Brand owning companies focusing on B2B B2C and B2B2C e-business relationships

# VALUE ADDING COMMUNITIES (VACS)

VACS include producers, traders, contractors consumers, etc. and they provide a central platform for:

- Transaction automation
- Information aggregation
- Improved market liquidity
- Extended market reach
- Reduced product, process, and sales costs

# LINKS TO COMPLEX ADAPTIVE SYSTEMS

- Large networks will begin to --exhibit some degree of intelligence-- through capacities for recognizing patterns; self-organizing behavior; morphing to more efficient models
- This system can then be studied in dynamic interaction with national systems for policy and management purposes.

# Conventional and Complex Policy Analysis

- A policy is a statement of intention that provides direction among competing positions
- **Conventional:** *sequential* define problem, identify alternatives, agree criteria to evaluate alternatives, gather info, decide on recommendations, communicate them
- **Complex :** Multiple approaches leading to convergence from as many directions as possible

# SL as CAS

- SL needs to be treated as CAS because of uncertainty, unpredictability, socio-ecological heterogeneity, little or no stability in Govt objectives, weak to non-existent institutional memory, unclear cause and effect relationships, rapid change
- Complex policy analysis :*triangulation*

# Complex Policy Analysis(CxPA)

- **Convergence in Triangulation increases confidence but not certainty or truth**
- **If convergence is weak, generalizations are difficult and case by case is required**
- **CxPA for SL requires 1) interactive data collection based on assets, functionings, capabilities, entitlements 2) asking what's the story here 3) reduce gap between info users and gatherers 4) Be prepared to accommodate surprises**

## CxPA (cont'd)

- **Beware of analogies from the past or elsewhere-they might not work again**
- **Identify what people are able to do not only what needs to be done**
- **Ensure recommended policy options have scope for redesign in face of surprise**
- **Evaluation criteria against original objectives but also counter-factual ,unintended etc...**

# PUBLIC POLICY CHOICES

- **Sources of public policy: advocacy/lobby groups, social movements, researchers , academics ,media, crises, politicians,....**
- **Political platforms, societal expectations, political ideology, world views, power from the center, the democratic deficit**
- **Governance arrangements, civil society , private sector etc.**