Building employment and decent work into sustainable recovery and development
Turin, 29 Nov - 1 Dec 2010

Rural Employment and Decent Work

Eve Crowley, Deputy Director
Gender, Equity and Rural Employment Division
FAO
Why agriculture and rural employment?
Importance of rural (and agricultural) employment

The facts:

- 3 billion people live in rural areas of developing countries, incl. 75% of the world’s poor

- Agriculture provides
  - 1.3 billion jobs for small farmers/landless workers, including jobs for 450 million wage workers
  - Livelihoods for 86% of rural people (2.6 billion)

- Agriculture employs 60% of all child labourers

Agriculture is

- Central to national and rural development
- Dynamically related to the non-farm economy and rural-urban continuum
- Hampered by inequalities (gender, age, scale)

MDG Target 1C: “halve the proportion of people who suffer from hunger”

FAO Global Goals:
Reduction of hunger / Elimination of poverty /
Sustainable management of natural resources

New FAO Strategic Framework

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>E</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>G</th>
<th>H</th>
<th>I</th>
<th>K</th>
<th>L</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Crop production</td>
<td>Livestock production</td>
<td>Fisheries, aquaculture</td>
<td>Food safety</td>
<td>Forest, tree management</td>
<td>Natural res. mgmt, environ challenges</td>
<td>Markets for livelihoods, rural devel.</td>
<td>Food security, nutrition</td>
<td>Emergency preparedness + response</td>
<td>Gender equity in access</td>
<td>Investment in agriculture + rural devel.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
FAO’s Contribution to Decent Work

**Employment creation**
policies, services, technologies, skills, enterprises for small producers to increase/diversify incomes/livelihoods, save labor and access financial services

**Social protection:**
voluntary standards and codes of practice (pesticide, good agricultural practices, logging, safety at sea, right to food)

**Standards and rights at work:**
to reduce gender-based discrimination, child labor, and strengthen disaggregated data, legislation, rural associations, skills/vocational training

**Governance and social dialogue:**
producer and natural resource users’ associations, participation in policy formulation
Commercial development (marketing, trade, management, finance, market linkages, accessing inputs, standards/certification)

Value chain support

Production, processing, management, techniques/approaches, efficiency, productivity

Sustainable natural resource management

Food quality, safety, nutrition, home gardening

Mainstreaming support/system responsiveness to producers/workers (i.e. research, extension)

Enabling environment, participation in policy

FAO support

More and better jobs

Policy makers
Programmes/Institutions
Consumers
Workers, vulnerable groups
Enterprises
Farm, fish, forest producers
NR managers/risks

Value chain support

Inclusive/equitable organizations, decent conditions

Mainstreaming support/system responsiveness to producers/workers (i.e. research, extension)
FAO involvement in UN-wide initiatives

**System-wide initiatives**

- Comprehensive Framework for Action + World Committee on Food Security
- Plan of Action Second UN Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017): “Full employment and decent work for all”
- 2009 CEB Crisis Initiatives: Global Jobs Pact and Social Protection Floor Initiatives

**Strategic partnerships**

- FAO-ILO Memorandum of Understanding 2004
- Strategic partnership with ILO-Africa
- FAO-IFAD-ILO Gender and Rural Employment (2008-2011)
- International Partnership for Cooperation on Child Labour in Agriculture (FAO, ILO, IFAD, IFPRI (CGIAR), and IUF)
Warehouse receipt system
Western & Southern Africa, India

In Niger:
33% increase in stock value (in 4-6 months of storage)
New incomes from off-season cultivation activities
18% of food stocks used for the lean season
Access to International Markets

Fiji

- $1 million in export earnings (Nature Way Cooperative)
- $410,000 in farmer income generated annually
- 530 full time jobs (2008)- Expected to double by 2011
National Fisheries Post Harvest Operators Platform The Gambia

- Inclusion of Fisheries Post Harvest issues in the Poverty Reduction Strategy Programme II (October 2006)
- Participation in the formulation of Fisheries Act (2007)
Key dimensions of FAO’s work on employment

i. Knowledge management

ii. Mainstreaming within FAO

iii. Country level policy advice and capacity development

iv. Technical assistance
1. Knowledge management and sharing

- State of Food and Agriculture: Women and Agriculture (2010-11)
- Gender & land rights database
- Agri-gender statistical toolkit
- FAO/ILO/IFAD “Gender dimensions of agricultural and rural employment: Differentiated pathways out of poverty” (2009/10)
3. Integrated approach to country support

Strategic country approach:

- Strengthening policy, legislative and institutional frameworks
- Capacity development
- Piloting programmes and institutional mechanisms

Example: decent rural employment and entrepreneurship for youth:

- Institutionalizing Junior Farmer Field and Life Schools (JFFLS) /Young Farmer Associations (YFAs) nationally
Discussion

- How best can we combine forces to maximize results?
  - better use of existing mechanisms/partnerships?
  - good practices to be scaled-up?
  - better policy coherence/more integrated approaches at country level?
  - identifying gaps and how to overcome them?
Thank you