

Harvesting Solutions: How Poor Rural People Overcome Poverty

Overview for Joint Poverty Reports
Day

ODI - 8 July 2008

IFAD and rural poverty reduction

- Only UN agency focused on rural poverty
- 30 years of experience working with poor rural people, governments, other partners
- Vision of development with poor people as key agents, with enabling institutions and actors
- Operations: funding projects through country programs, capacity building of organizations of smallholders and rural poor, policy dialogue

Why this publication?

- To mobilize **pro-poor agenda and call for action**
- To re-state **centrality of agriculture to MDGs**
- To show **it is possible** to overcome rural poverty
- To show that **poor rural people and smallholder farmers can help to solve some global challenges**
- To bring out **poor rural people's perspectives**
- To illustrate **great diversity of challenges, solutions**

The conceptual framework

- No theory of rural poverty – focus on some **concrete challenges and solutions**
- Poor rural people as **diverse agents** and **key source of knowledge and of solutions**
- *Notion of challenge: Objective + obstacle*
- Each challenge belongs to an **agent/context**
- Agents/contexts affected by rapid

Five sets of challenges, not comprehensive. The basis is IFAD experience and Strategic Framework

...ACCESS & BENEFIT FROM REMUNERATIVE & EQUITABLE MARKETS?"

...ACCESS & MANAGE SUSTAINABLY NATURAL RESOURCES?"

Common thread: how rural people have access + capacity to benefit from some key assets and processes

...ACCESS & BENEFIT FROM AGRICULTURAL SERVICES?"

5 SETS OF CHALLENGES
"HOW TO..."

...ACCESS & BENEFIT FROM NON-FARM OPPORTUNITIES FOR EMPLOYMENT & ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT?"

...ACCESS & PARTICIPATE IN GOVERNANCE PROCESSES?"

Governance context

Better access to natural resources and capacity to manage them sustainably

Better access to and capacity to take advantage of improved agricultural services

Improved rural livelihoods and pathways out of poverty

Better access and capacity to take advantage of opportunities for rural non-farm employment, enterprise development

Better access to and capacity to take advantage of transparent markets

Key transformative processes

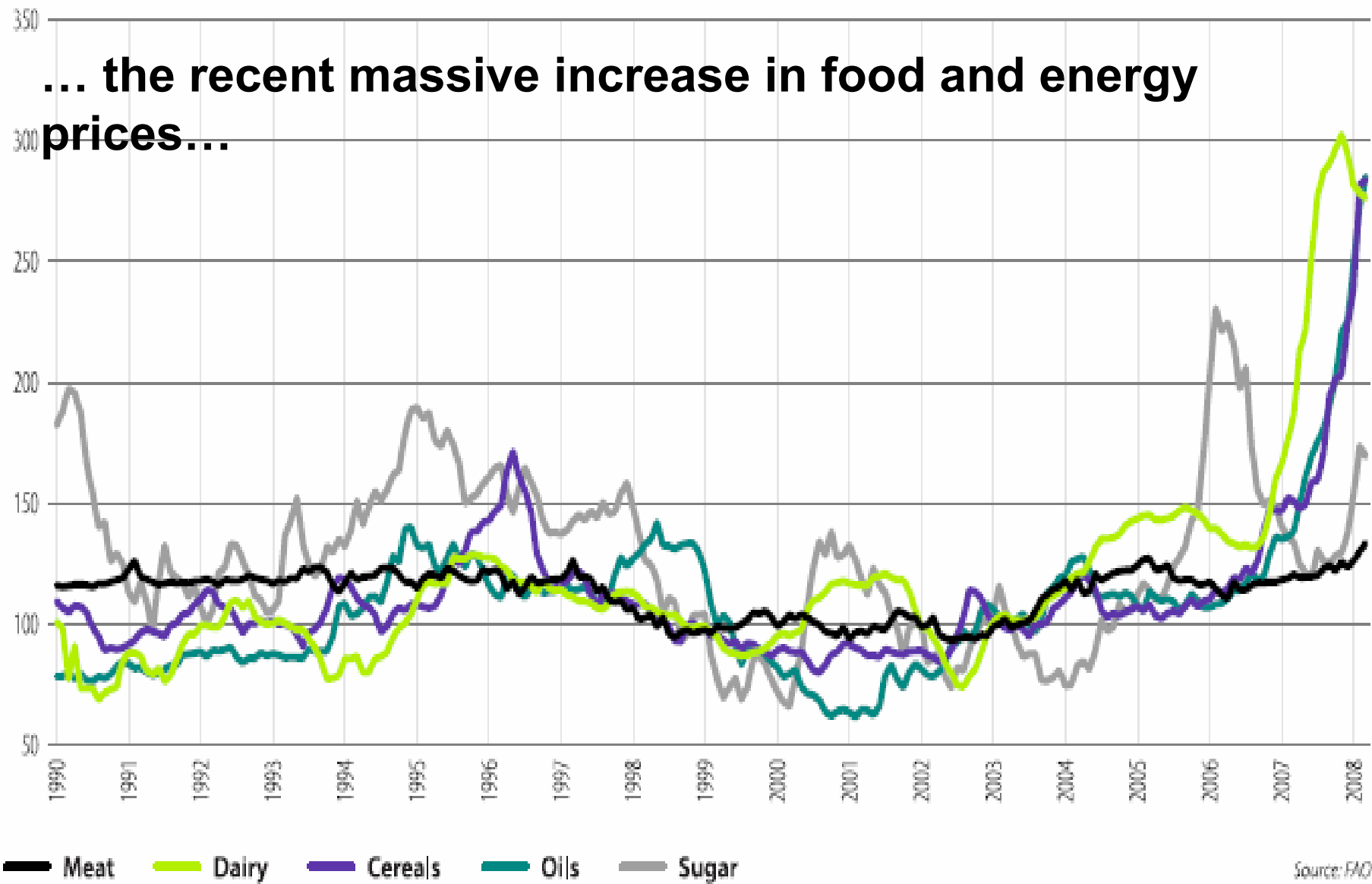
Key processes of change include climate change and related environmental hazards



.. growing agro-fuel production and resulting competition over some natural resources

Figure 1

Monthly FAO price indices for basic food commodity groups (1998-2000=100)



...intensification of urbanization and related transformation of rural-urban ties...



... diffusion of new technologies (ICTs, biotechnologies, others) to rural areas... unprecedented integration of

Other key processes and factors of change:

- Growing migration and remittance flows
- Emerging trans-boundary diseases
- Increasing role of private sector (and foundations) in development and agriculture
- Emerging economies (China, India, others)
- Some new governance structures/processes

These changes bring new challenges for rural poor women and men and for smallholders...

E.g.: how to secure access to natural resources given increasing scarcity and competition due to climate change and agrofuel production?



Or: How to meet high quality standards in increasingly integrated market value chains?

... while old challenges need to be addressed under changing circumstances

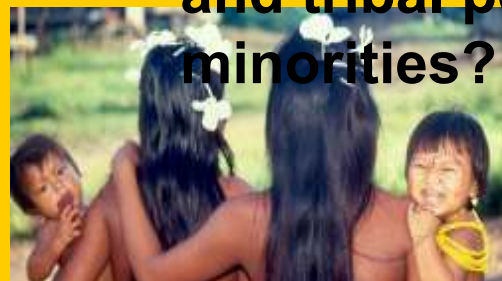


E.g.: How to access services suited to new environmental and market circumstances? how to address degradation of natural resources under climate change? how to manage resource-based conflict given increased



How to make governance processes accountable to all, including rural women, indigenous and tribal peoples, minorities?

How to secure on and off-farm training and employment, especially for young rural women and men? Etc

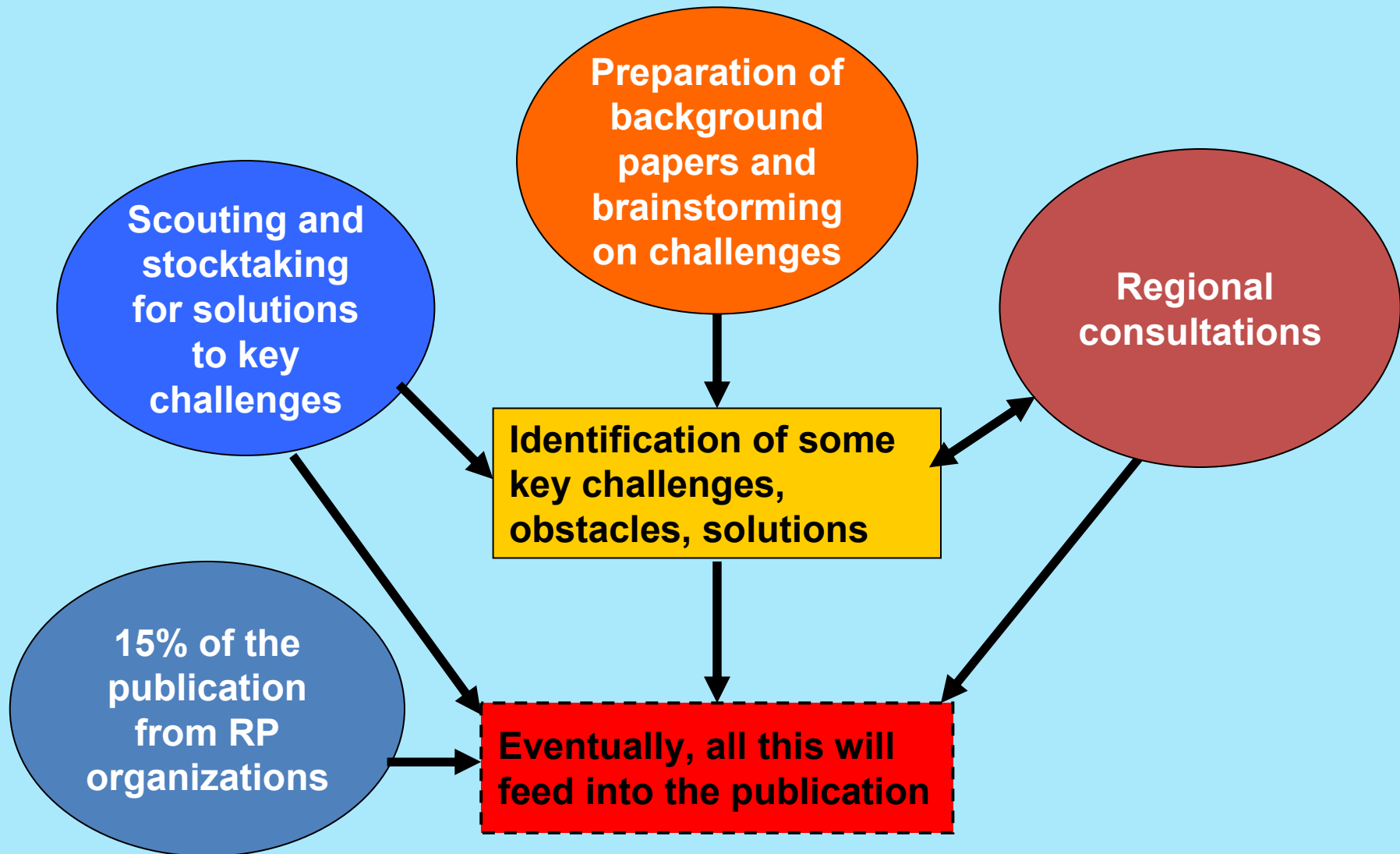


Poor people already find successful solutions to these and other challenges every day



We need to build and scale up from these solutions beyond the

Overview of the process



Scouting and stocktaking

- Corporate process, **enables all divisions to share their knowledge** and use their networks
- Aims to **identify innovative and sustainable solutions** to challenges facing the poor
- Focuses on **solutions driven by rural poor**
- Captures **stories of empowerment**
- Involves **both IFAD networks and non-IFAD**
- **Process:** online scouting database, screening, development of full narratives

Regional consultations

GOAL: build a constituency, identify regional priority

solutions



2 OBJECTIVES:

- (a) Identify/discuss **priority challenges** faced by poor rural people in each region
- (b) Discuss **successful responses and lessons for replication and up**

Five consultations led by regional divisions:

1. Cairo, Egypt, 29 June-1 July
2. Dakar, Senegal, week of 16-18 July
3. Nairobi, Kenya, 15-16 July
4. Manila, Philippines, 22-24 July
5. Quito, Ecuador, 1-3 August

Participants:

1. Share a focus on perspectives of poor rural people
2. Gender balance
3. About 1/3 policymakers and staff from country programmes, 1/3 organizations of poor rural