



Effective Poverty Tracking System of the PRS

I. Background:

<p>1. Name of innovation: Tracking system of the Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS) Process</p> <p>2. Country - Region: Regional</p> <p>3. Organization and originator: IFPRI</p>	<p>5. Actors involved: IFRI, NGOs, Local Communities, IFAD, GTZ.</p> <p>6. Implementation date: 2006</p> <p>7. Type of innovation: (Technological, institutional, policy or knowledge sharing) - Institutional, Policy and Knowledge Sharing</p>
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II. Key Issues:

8. Summary:

The innovation aims at developing low-cost instruments, tools and guidelines for monitoring and evaluating the processes, outcomes and impacts of proposed PRS options towards rural poverty so as to make the PRS a viable framework for poverty reduction. The innovation consists in three main components: (i) Tracking and reporting system (TRS), (ii) Research and development on key PRSP rural poverty issues and processes and (iii) Capacity-building and dissemination.

The first component, the TRS, includes the main following activities: Review and analyze the rural dimensions and the rural policy program and resource implications as developed by the interim and/or existing full PRSPs, assess the degree of ownership and commitment by government and other key national stakeholders towards the PRSP process, synthesize the Performance Based Allocation System (PBAS) assessment reports and conduct literature reviews on key relevant themes to the PRSP.

The second component, R&D, is based on an in-dept analysis of existing rural poverty assessments by characterizing the content and coverage of rural poverty, an ex-ante and ex-post analysis of PRSP options, programmes, and processes for the rural areas including the alignment of the rural policy and institutional frameworks to these options, an assessment of the institutional arrangements and mechanisms for implementing, monitoring, and evaluation of the rural elements of the PRSP, a research of key PRS issues and an in-depth household and stakeholder surveys.

Finally, the third component, Capacity building and dissemination, includes: development of an exchange network on PRS related issues, setting up a tool box of methodologies, guidelines and approaches, raising awareness and dissemination and training and capacity building.

Final results achieved by the PRSPs adopted in the various Western and Central African countries vary greatly with respect to the degree of country ownership, the commitment of governments to poverty reduction, the quality of the participatory process and the quality and depth of poverty assessment.

9. What issue does the innovation address?

- Lack of clear instruments for monitoring and evaluating outcomes and impacts associated with proposed PRSP options on the reduction of rural poverty;
- Poor approaches to rural areas, which house most of the poor people (urban bias);
- Low Participation of stakeholders.

10. Key success factors for replication:

In 2004, IFAD Rural Finance Thematic Group decided to carry out an in depth review on the FSA model, in order to built on the experience gained so far and prepare the replication of this innovative approach to other countries and regions. This exercise allowed IFAD to internalize and disseminate the lessons learnt from the review. *First*, a field study was conducted among FSAs in Kenya and Benin – the two countries where FSAs had far-reaching impact. The study led to country reports describing and analysing the FSAs situation over their ten years of existence. It also allowed positioning FSAs within the countries' financial landscapes while providing suggestions to further strengthen them so they can become sustainable. *Secondly*, as part of this review, two workshops on knowledge sharing on the FSA model were organized in 2007 – the first one in Benin and the second in IFAD – to share the major findings of the review in view of (i) assessing the impact and (ii) exploring the up-scaling and replication of the model in other countries. In view of a sustainable replication of the FSA model in poor rural areas, recommendations have been shared with the workshops' participants on (i) the Institutional set-up for a sustainable FSA network; (ii) the geographic & socio-economic requirements to establish an FSA regional network; (iii) the adapted financial products and services to be further experimented; (iv) the professional management of FSAs human resources; (v) The efficient role of the FSA different bodies; (vi) the optimal profile for support NGOs and/ or management service providers; and (vii) The FSA network profitability.

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11. Accessibility: (Poor, gender, youth, migrants...)

The systematic approach developed can effectively reach poor people, with a specific focus on gender needs. Accessibility is developed through the depth household and stakeholder surveys.

12. Difficulties encountered:

- Identification of indicators to be used especially at the starting point;
- Need to develop an easily accessible database.

13. Financial aspects:

USD 500 000 dollar Grant from IFAD to IFPRI over a period of 3 years from September 2006.

III. Technical Summary:

(Main technical characteristics - In addition to section 8 summary)

The innovation has been developed on the need of developing a more systematic approach to monitoring and assessing the degree to which the key dimensions of rural poverty are taken into account and the coherence and depth of proposed options for action (policy, technical and institutional) and programmes specifically to address rural poverty. This is due in part to the fact that most PRSs are piloted by Ministries of Finance. Ministries of Agriculture or Rural Development are often not closely involved in the process and frequently lack the influence or capacity to advocate for more attention to be paid to the sector.

IV. Follow up:

15. Key contacts:

Information given in the previous sections

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16. Useful web link:

17. Key documents: (Name of the document + Link or Contact or Co ordinates)