Improving food security – supporting sustainable production, access to resources, and livelihoods

Knowledge Generation and Sharing for Development and Policy Support

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CDE’s mission:

To contribute to sustainable development in countries of the North, South, and East, through:
- research partnerships
- education and training
- development of concepts and tools
- raising awareness,
- policy advice.
Food Security in the context of growing global challenges
Food Security has different dimensions, is a complex issue, and can be addressed in multiple ways.
Research on food insecurity and poverty in Lao PDR

Key questions:
- Where are food-insecure people living?
- What factors are influencing food insecurity?
- How should interventions be prioritised?
Detailed and spatially explicit knowledge to address food security is often lacking – preventing strategic priority setting and effective measures.
Typology of agricultural intensification and poverty alleviation: mainstream thinking and crucial exceptions

Legend
- Permanent_agri_majority-rich
- Swidden_agri_majority-poor

Source: Peter Messerli, CDE

Legend
- Permanent_agri_majority-poor
- Swidden_agri_majority-rich

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Areas of high incidence of food insecurity can be found both in favoured and in less-favoured areas

- High agricultural production in permanent agricultural systems is not associated with low incidence of poverty in all cases.

- Access to natural resources can reduce poverty (and food insecurity) in less-favoured areas with swidden agriculture and is an important asset for livelihoods.
The demand for spatially explicit data from donors and policymakers is high

“Maps on poverty and inequality”
“Socio-economic atlases”

Minot et al., 2006
Epprecht & Robinson, 2007
Epprecht et al., 2008

Epprecht & Heinimann, 2006
Messerli et al., 2008
Why spatially explicit socio-economic information?

> Additional dimension delivers insights not evident from statistical data

> Decision support tool for evidence-based planning at national and sub-national levels

> Integrative perspective on food security within the overall goals of poverty alleviation and sustainable development
CDE’s contributions to different dimensions of food security

OTHER EXAMPLES

Supporting sustainable production through SLM
• Soil and Water Conservation (WOCAT)

Inventories of “land grabs” (with ILC)

Governance of multi-functional agrarian systems

National poverty mapping Laos Vietnam, Tanzania

Author’s compilation based on Schmidhuber&Tubiello 2007 and other sources
Tropentag, Zurich, 15 September 2010
Sustainable Land Management is a crucial challenge for any sustainable food system
More information on WOCAT in parallel session GTZ/SDC today

Accessible database 2008/9:
- 51 countries with case studies on
  - 241 Technologies
  - 137 Approaches

WOCAT – Knowledge management and decision support for SLM
CDE’s contributions to different dimensions of food security

OTHER EXAMPLES

- Supporting sustainable production through SLM
  - Soil and Water Conservation (WOCAT)
  - Adaptation to Climate Change

- Inventories of “land grabs” (with ILC)

- Governance of multi-functional agrarian systems
  - National poverty mapping
    - Laos
    - Vietnam
    - Tanzania
Thank you for your attention!