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**CAPSA Monograph No. 50**

**Proceedings of the Regional Meeting**

**Towards a Joint Regional Agenda  
for the Alleviation of Poverty  
through Agriculture and  
Secondary Crop Development  
Bangkok, 21-22 November 2007**

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## Appendix 4. Key Points for Discussion Session

### Re: Poverty Alleviation

- A. Mainstream: Multi-sectoral community & area development programmes.  
Community targeted (grants, infrastructure, services)
- B. Specific targeted programmes:
  - insurance schemes (life, death, crops);
  - gender schemes;
  - credit schemes;
  - irrigation schemes.
  - employment schemes;
  - direct cash transfers;
  - market linkage
- C. Subsidies:
  - Energy subsidies;
  - Food subsidies;
  - Price support;
  - Seed support;
  - Fertilizer support

### Observations:

- A. Place of agriculture is small but most programmes touch/influence agriculture.
- B. Plethora of policies and programmes. Some (energy & food) are very expensive.
- C. Agri GDP decreases over time.
- D. In all developing countries poverty is concentrated in rural areas, especially in rainfed, dry and isolated areas. Dependence of the poor on agriculture and secondary crops varies between 60-95 per cent.

### Key Problems:

- 1. What happens to excess labour – can it be absorbed in other sectors? – answer: only partly.
- 2. Increasing income gap urban – rural.

3. How to include people in isolated and marginal areas.
4. Risk is high for poor people.

**Questions:**

- Upscaling? Seems a problem with agriculture focused projects but less so with broader area community targeted welfare projects.
- Can we find 'cluster multipliers': e.g. combinations of interventions which strengthen one another for example, roads plus R&D? or agriculture plus education?
- Long-term causes of poverty? Characteristics?
- Do we know the effect of the various policies?
- We should define poverty in a dynamic way – i.e. 50 per cent less than upper 50 per cent median.
- Contract farming, small farmers market linkage: there is a need to consider risk sharing – to ensure farmers are not exploited.
- Price fluctuations and behaviour under increasing globalization and cross border trade.
- Do we need a generic approach for development in isolated and sometimes conflict prone areas?

**Prospects:**

- G M O
- Bioenergy
- Post-harvest/value adding activities
- Diversification
- Others