



## **OVERVIEW**

# **MOBILIZING RURAL INSTITUTIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD AND EQUITABLE DEVELOPMENT**

*February 12, 2007*

**World Bank, Washington, DC.**

The proposed workshop is part of joint initiative from the Agriculture and Rural Development (ARD) and the Social Development (SDV) Departments in FY07-08 to assess and build on the potential of rural institutions<sup>1</sup> to augment access to public and private services to the rural poor. The medium-term goal is to enable rural populations to sustain/diversify rural livelihoods, cope with the pressures of climate change and manage their natural resources more effectively. The development objective is to help client countries overcome spatially- induced exclusion in livelihoods through adaptation of, and partnerships with, rural institutions. The World Bank must better understand how rural organizations can be strengthened and how they, together with the other stakeholders in rural innovation systems, contribute to sustainable development and enhanced technological and institutional change. The first day of the workshop (Feb 12) will feed into the second day CGIAR's discussions (Feb 13) to help CGIAR to define a framework plan for research on RIs.

## **OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKSHOP**

The Feb 12 WB/CGIAR workshop's objective is to give an opportunity for WB and CGIAR professionals to discuss ongoing support to rural institutions, identify gaps in the existing research agenda and propose ways to strengthen linkages between research on RIs and development operations.

## **DESCRIPTION**

This workshop is part of a 2 days event, a workshop sponsored by the World Bank on February 12 and the CGIAR's workshop on February 13 to prepare a framework plan for priority 5C research on rural institutions and their governance.

On February 12, the WB will host a workshop on "mobilizing rural institutions for sustainable livelihood and equitable development" in which latest researches and initiatives in this area will be presented to explore the issues and to hear from current experts in this area. This workshop will discuss the current ongoing analytical work launched under the TFESSD to review rural institutions and their role in economic and social development, and the Bank's potential role in supporting these institutions rural institutions and to seek feed back from WB and CGIAR professionals. This topic would be particularly important for our CGIAR colleagues who will meet the next day (February 13) to discuss their research framework on rural institutions.

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<sup>1</sup> The focus in this initiative is on institutions that are relevant to rural livelihoods and that have organizational form, as these are relatively concrete and delimited and have capacities that can be enhanced for the purpose of supporting sustainable livelihood creation. This includes farmer organizations, private-public-CSO partnerships, Community Based Organization, Self Help Groups, etc.

## **STRUCTURE**

The February 12 workshop will bring together World Bank, CGIAR centers, academics and practitioners working in the field of mobilizing rural institutions for sustainable livelihoods and equitable development. The **purpose** will be to discuss ongoing support to rural institutions, identify gaps in the existing research agenda and propose ways to strengthen linkages between research on RIs and development operations. The first day of the workshop will feed into the second day's discussions and will help CGIAR to define a framework plan for CGIAR research on RIs.

### **Morning: Panel Discussion on latest research and finding on mobilizing rural institutions for sustainable livelihood.**

The **morning** session will bring the perspective of external practitioners and researchers. Presenters will highlight their experience in support to RIs, identify gaps in the research agenda and in operational support to RIs, and propose priority areas for research. Presentations shall not exceed 20 minutes (will be grouped by themes) and will be followed by 40-50 minutes of discussion/response from the CGIAR and WB participants.

#### **Composition of the panel**

The Panel discussion will be co-chaired by Jiayi Zou (Executive Director, WB) and by Steen Jorgensen (Sector Manager- SDV).

The following key speakers will participate to the panel discussion:

Steve McCarthy (ACDI/VOCA )

Parmesh Shah (World Bank)

Jonathan Kydd (Imperial College)

Arun Agrawal (Univ of Michigan)

### **Afternoon : Presentation of the TFESSD activities and group discussion on the proposed case studies.**

The **afternoon** session will be more focused on the ongoing Trust Fund ESSD initiative on rural institutions and will be used to present the various activities (including the associated Agriculture Innovation Systems activities and the case studies). The discussion will focus on the main themes of study, methodology and complementarities with ongoing research.

## **KEY ISSUES**

The main **issues for discussion** at the workshop would be:

1. Identify the gaps in the existing research agenda and propose ways to strengthen linkages between research on RIs and development operations.
2. Identify the key research elements of the framework plan (case studies and AIS).
3. Identify research partners potentially available and interested in contributing to ongoing TFESSD initiatives.
4. How could the World Bank and CGIAR coordinate their efforts in this regard