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SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD APPROACH IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT

By

Ms. Salam SAAB
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
(FAO)

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Sustainable Livelihood Approach in Rural Development

- Generality
- Definition
- Key principles
- Analytical framework
- Emerging and evolution
- FAO used Approaches
- SLA Case studies
- Conclusions
- Challenges for use of SLA in FAO
- Recommendations



Definition

SLA definition:

A way of thinking about the objectives, scope and priorities for development.

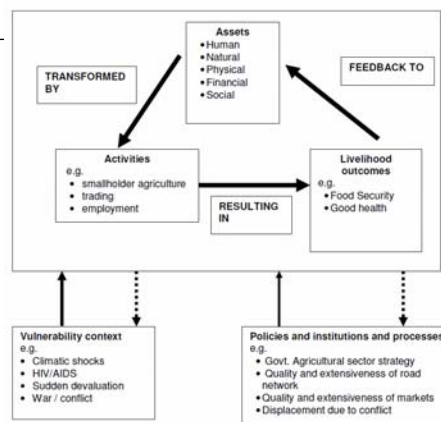
SLA comprised:

- Development objective
- Analytical framework
- A set of principles, which are at the heart of the approach.

SLA key principles

- People-centred.
- Holistic
- Responsive and Participatory
- Multi-level
- Conducted in partnership
- Sustainable - Economically, institutionally, socially and environmentally.
- Dynamic

Livelihood framework





Analytical framework

- SLA is based around the analysis of five capital assets (human, physical, financial, natural and social).
- Provides an analytical structure for building an understanding of livelihoods.
- Encourages users to think about existing livelihood patterns as a basis for planning development activities and spending.
- Use various existing tools such as social and stakeholder analysis, economic and rapid appraisal methods.



Analytical framework

This entails:

- the context in which (different groups of) people live.
- people's access to different types of assets .
- the institutions, policies and organizations which shape their livelihoods.
- the different strategies that they adopt in pursuit of their goals.



FAO used Approaches and/or Programmes

The main approaches applied by FAO are the following:

- IPM**: integrated pest management
- FIVIMS**: Food Insecurity and Vulnerability Information and Mapping Systems
- SEAG**: The Socio-Economic and Gender Analysis Programme
- CBRNM**: Community-Based Natural Resource Management
- LAA**: Latin American Approach.
- **FSA**: Farming system Approach

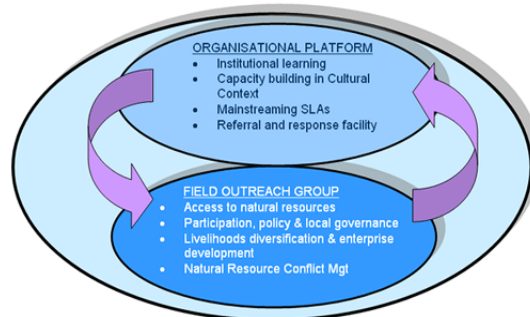


FAO SLA Evolution

- the approach was developed through the 1990's and crystallized as SLA in the late 1990's by the Department for International Development (DfID).
- Direct FAO engagement with the SLA framework in March 2000 through a forum comprised DfID, FAO, IFAD and the WFP and NGO's adopting SLA.
- The promotion of SLA is a key objective in the FAO Strategic Framework for 2000-2015 .
- An inter-department (LSP) was established within FAO with the financial support of DfID In order to improve the impact of FAO interventions at country level through the effective application of SLA to better support the livelihoods of the rural poor.

Thematic working groups

LSP Working Group



Thematic Working Groups ("sub-programmes") of the LSP

Livelihood Support Programme (LSP)

- Eight inter-disciplinary thematic working groups, each focusing on a different livelihoods-related issue .
- Overall management and coordination, including annual budget allocation is overseen by LSP Coordination Team.
- The PCT included the co-conveners of all eight thematic teams, a representative of FAO management, of the donor, several co-opted members, and the Programme Coordinator.
- Through this PCT the programme was managed in a non-hierarchical way.
- The programme is functioning as a testing ground for both team approaches and sustainable livelihoods principles.



Strengthens and weakness

Key Strengths

- Broad analysis of development problems.
- Focus on livelihood outcomes instead of project objectives.
- Analysis of complexity.
- Clear identification of principles.
- Enables a more realistic prediction of potential outcomes and impacts.



Strengthens and weakness

Weaknesses :

- Little practical experience.
- Fails to deal with politics and rights.
- Time and money consuming.
- Requires multidisciplinary teams and specialist training.
- Difficult to quantify information on capital assets gathered through SLA.
- No defined role for markets/economics.

Case Studies

1.4 Case Studies Reviewed

Country	Name	Implementing Organization	Entry Point	Project Time Frame
Bangladesh	Strengthening Household Access to Rain Garden Extension Services (SHARGE)	CARE	Agriculture	1999-2004
Bolivia	Inter-regional Project for Participatory Upland Conservation and Development	Government of Italy/FAO	Integrated Watershed Management	1992-2000 (three phases)
Cambodia	Participatory Natural Resource Management in the Tonle Sap Region	FAO/ Government of Cambodia	Community Fisheries and Forestry	1995-2004 (ongoing)
Ethiopia	The Ruba Lemme Integrated Rural Development Programme	Orfam	Agriculture	1995-2002
Gambia	The Lowlands Agricultural Development Programme (LADDP)	IFAD	Agriculture	1996-2004
Honduras	Rural Development in Lempra Sur Project (PROLUSUR)	FAO	Agriculture	1994-2002
Indonesia	DELIVERI – Decentralized Livestock Services in Eastern Indonesia	DfID	Livestock Services	1996-2001
Myanmar	Environmentally Sustainable Food Security and Micro-income Opportunities in Critical Watersheds	FAO/ Forest Department of the Government of Myanmar	Food security; Natural resource rehabilitation; Income-generating opportunities	1999-2002
Nepal	Empowerment of Women in Irrigation and Water Resource Management for Improved Food Security, Nutrition and Health (WNI)	FAO	Irrigation, Health, Nutrition	1999-2003
Pakistan	Inter-regional Project for Participatory Upland Conservation and Development	FAO/ Government of Pakistan	Integrated Watershed Management	1992-1999
Yemen	Community-Based Regional Development Programme (CBRDP)	FAO	Community Enterprises	1998-2003
Zambia	Improving Household Food Security and Nutrition through Community Empowerment in the Luapula Valley	FAO	Agriculture	1996-2001

Methodology analysis

Analysis has been conducted in 3 stages:

1-The first stage:

Examine whether the projects to be used incorporated an adequate number of SL .

2- The second stage:

Evaluating the impacts each project had had on the rural poor.

3- The third stage:

Addressing the value added by the SL approach in reducing poverty.



Case studies results of SL project impact on the rural poor

- All cases reviewed demonstrated evidence of increases in some/all five form of building assets and increased income .
- Very few cases contained documented evidence of changes or shifts in wealth classes, or direct impacts on the most poor.
- Some cases indicated increased resilience and the capacity to cope with natural or political shocks.
- The degree to which projects were socially inclusive and empowering varied greatly across projects.
- There were some cases in which the principles of governance and/or multi-level linkages were well illustrated



Conclusions

- SLA can contribute to real poverty reduction if applied effectively
- The more successful cases appeared to be those which had applied the greater number of SLA principles e.g. the three principles specific to the SLA and a mixture of other essential principles, in an effective manner.
- Lower levels of success were affected less by an absence of some SL principles per se, but rather weaknesses in project diagnosis, design, implementation and/or monitoring and evaluation.
- The analysis indicates that the SL principles addressing social inclusivity and environmental sustainability need to be kept more to the forefront.
- The main value-added of the SLA is a way to understand the complexity and subsistence of poor people's livelihoods.
- SLA has big ability to link macro policies to micro reality compared to other approaches
- SLA has a powerful effect during emergencies as it provides a holistic and robust framework.



Challenges for use of livelihoods approaches in FAO

- The SLA is extremely challenging when quantifying the impact on different capital assets. This means that the approach is best used in conjunction with other tools to derive detailed programming responses.
- Utilization of SLA should be supported by a commitment to the poor needs as they are not specifically focused in the approach.
- A large number of projects has dopted, explicitly or implicitly, to a differing degree, SL analysis, concepts and tools but Pure SLA projects are extremely rare.
- SLA requires working with multiple partners at various levels, which is a different way of operating than working with local partners only, and may require a different set of skills.
- the approach has had limited experience in the field such that the application of these principles is not yet truly tested.



Challenges for use of livelihoods approaches in FAO

- **Prioritizing Actions** :While the advantage of the SLA is its holistic approach, the analysis does not always result in clear directions on priority actions to improve livelihoods
- **Unpacking Policies, Institutions and Processes** The SLA is still a long way from providing a comprehensive analysis of how PIPs work on recommending strategies to change and improve them. Too many key variables are contained in one box in the framework without proper guidance for how these could be unpacked.
- The implications in the SLA application would mean that institutions have to change, and instigating changes in policies, institutions and processes often requires acting to changing the way that organizations work.



Recommendations

- Attention should be given to the way in which these principles are executed and not the number of principles per se, that is the key determinant of success.
- Attention to all SL principles is required to create sustainable impact.
- Necessity for government and UN agencies to appropriate the SLA



Thank you