

Forestry, Rural Livelihoods and Poverty Reduction: Results from Earlier Dialogues



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Dialogue

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TFD Priority Issue

- Role of forestry in rural economic development and poverty reduction
- Bring together stakeholders from industry, community, government, NGOs, finance sectors to identify barriers and possibilities
- Dialogues in South Africa, Indonesia, Bolivia and Russia



Forestry's Role

- Forestry can play a larger role in sustaining rural communities and improving quality of life
- New models and approaches may be necessary to realize the benefits
- Draw from the experience of forestry firms all over the world that are addressing this issue



South Africa

- Small-grower scheme for pine and eucalyptus production
- Employing locals in small-medium forestry enterprises
- Confronting high rates of unemployment, HIV/AIDS, poor infrastructure



Indonesia

- Small-grower scheme for fiber production
- Heavy reliance on contract labor, not employees
- Tension between locals and migrant laborers
- Companies must provide services and infrastructure not supplied by government



Bolivia

- Developing relationships between forest industry and indigenous communities
- Limited markets, poor infrastructure
- Role of forest certification and international funders
- Government anti-poverty policies sometimes hostile to forest industry



Commercial forestry has real potential to produce wealth

- Focus has been on non-timber forest products, not timber
- Must address equity in corporate-community relationship, and in relationship with informal employees



Pro-poor forestry can take many forms

- Must find balance between profit optimization and equitable benefit sharing
- Authoritative conflict-resolution process necessary

Models of pro-poor forestry



- Public forests managed for community benefit
- Small-medium enterprises run by or employing locals
- Large enterprises engaged in equitable partnerships with local communities



Enabling conditions and key drivers

- Policies and institutions
- Social and labor movements
- Long-term partnerships between sectors

Enabling conditions and key drivers



- Effective leadership and advocacy for social issues
- Well-developed markets for “ecosystem services”
- Well-defined standards and indicators of progress, baseline data and monitoring



Barriers

- Lack of established channels for collaboration
- Scale excludes small-medium enterprises
- Finance difficult to procure



Questions and Comments

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IAMAW
- Peter Gardiner-
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- James Griffiths-
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