

Sustainable Livelihoods Approach (SLA)

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- The sustainable livelihoods approach (SLA) is a way to **improve understanding of the livelihoods of poor people.**
- It draws on the main factors that affect poor people's livelihoods and the typical relationships between 5 factors.

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Sustainable Livelihoods Approach (SLA)

- used in planning new development activities and in assessing the contribution that existing activities have made to sustaining livelihoods.
- The sustainable livelihoods approach is a method of thinking about the objectives, scope, and priorities for development activities.
- SLA guides what are the main facts that affect livelihoods of local people and how they relate to one another.

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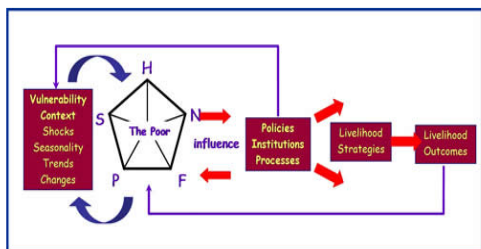
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- Livelihoods compose of resources or assets or capital (human, natural, social, physical and financial capital and access to use these)
- allow strategies to be employed in order to survive and fulfill desirable livelihood outcomes (DFID, 2001).

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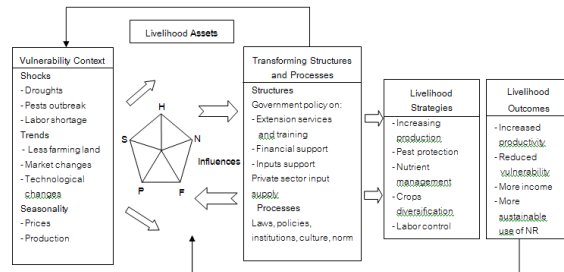


Source: DFID, 2001.

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H = Human Capital, N = Natural Capital, P = Physical Capital,
S = Social Capital, F = Financial Capital

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The guiding principles are:

Be people-centred. SLA begins by analysing people's livelihoods and how they change over time. The people themselves actively participate throughout the project cycle.

Be holistic. SLA acknowledges that people adopt many strategies to secure their livelihoods, and that many actors are involved; for example the private sector, ministries, community-based organizations and international organizations.

Be dynamic. SLA seeks to understand the dynamic nature of livelihoods and what influences them.

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- **Build on strengths.** SLA builds on people's perceived strengths and opportunities rather than focusing on their problems and needs. It supports existing livelihood strategies.
- **Promote micro-macro links.** SLA examines the influence of policies and institutions on livelihood options and highlights the need for policies to be informed by insights from the local level and by the priorities of the poor.
- **Encourage broad partnerships.** SLA counts on broad partnerships drawing on both the public and private sectors.
- **Aim for sustainability.** Sustainability is important if poverty reduction is to be lasting.

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Human Capital

- **Health**
- **Nutrition**
- **Education**
- **Knowledge and skills**
- **Capacity to work**
- **Capacity to adapt**

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Natural Capital

- Land and produce
- Water & aquatic resources
- Trees and forest products
- Wildlife
- Wild foods & fibres
- Biodiversity
- Environmental services

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Social Capital

- Networks and connections
 - patronage
 - neighbourhoods
 - kinship
- Relations of trust and mutual support
- Formal and informal groups
- Common rules and sanctions
- Collective representation
- Mechanisms for participation in decision-making
- Leadership

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Physical Capital

- **Infrastructure**
 - transport - roads, vehicles, etc.
 - secure shelter & buildings
 - water supply & sanitation
 - energy
 - communications
- **Tools and technology**
 - tools and equipment for production
 - seed, fertiliser, pesticides
 - traditional technology
 - Services

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Financial Capital

- Savings
- Credit/debt
- Remittances
- Pensions
- Wages

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The Asset Mix

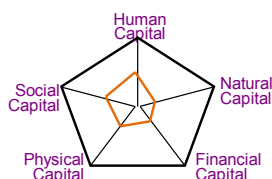
- Different households with different access to livelihood “assets”
- Livelihoods affected by:
 - diversity of assets
 - amount of assets
 - balance between assets

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So....
Landless
female
agricultural
labourer



- Human capital**
 - labour capacity
 - no education
 - limited skills
 - Natural capital**
 - landless
 - access to common property resources
 - Financial capital**
 - low wages
 - no access to credit
 - Physical capital**
 - poor water supply
 - poor housing
 - poor communications
 - Social capital**
 - low social status
 - discrimination against women
 - strong links with family & friends
 - traditions of reciprocal exchange
- = an extremely reduced “livelihood pentagon”

Slide 9

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Sustainable Livelihoods Framework

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“Vulnerability” Context

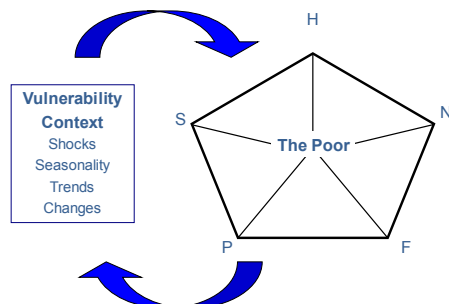
- **Shocks**
 - Floods, droughts, cyclones
 - Deaths in the family
 - Violence or civil unrest
 - Pest outbreak
- **Seasonality**
 - Price
 - production
- **Trends and changes**
 - Population
 - Environmental change
 - Technology
 - Markets and trade
 - Globalisation

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“Vulnerability” Context



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Policies, Institutions and Processes

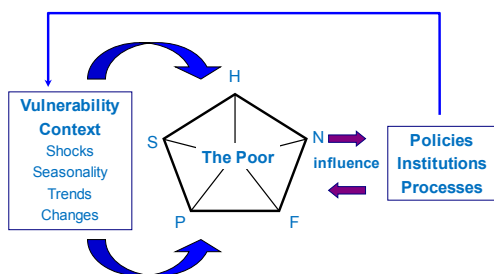
- **Policies**
 - of government
 - of different levels of government
 - of NGOs
 - of interational bodies
- **Institutions**
 - political, legislative & representative bodies
 - executive agencies
 - civil society & membership organisations
 - NGOs
 - law, money
 - political parties
 - commercial enterprises & corporations
- **Processes**
 - Rule/community rule, regulation
 - decision-making processes
 - social norms and customs
 - gender, caste, class
 - language

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Policies, Institutions & Processes



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Livelihood Strategies

Combining:

- the assets they can access

Taking account of:

- the vulnerability context

Supported or obstructed by:

- policies, institutions and processes.

.....leading to

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Livelihood Outcomes

Poverty - a "poor" livelihood outcome:

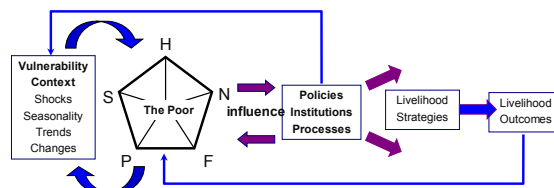
- based on a fragile or unbalanced set of livelihood assets
- unable to sustain to shocks, changes or trends
- not supported, or actively obstructed by policies, institutions and processes that do not allow assets to be used as they might
- livelihood options combined in a "bad" or unsustainable strategy

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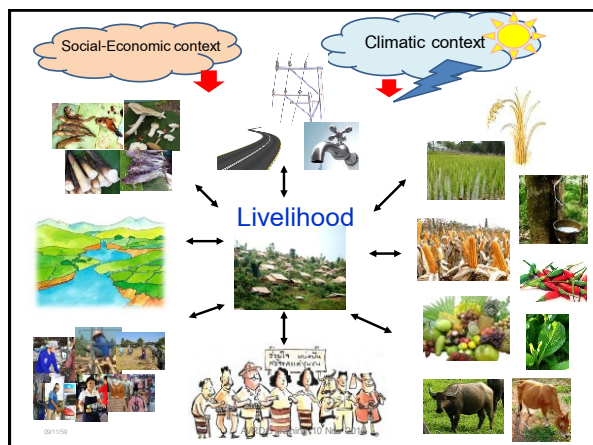
The Sustainable Livelihoods Framework



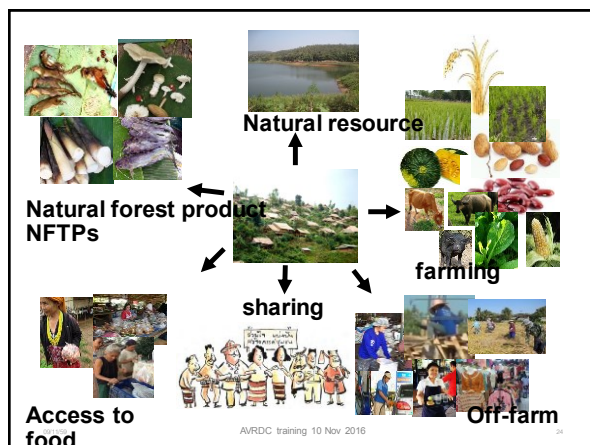
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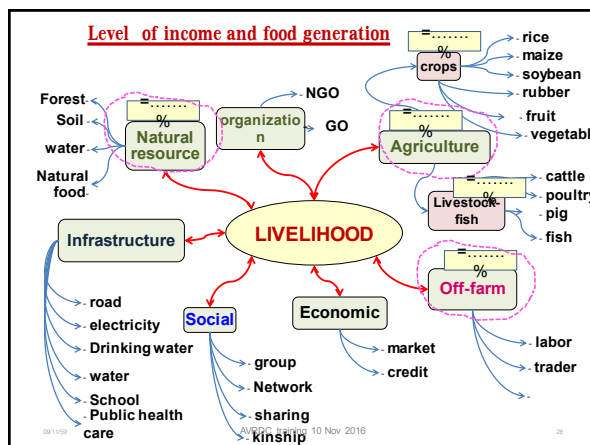
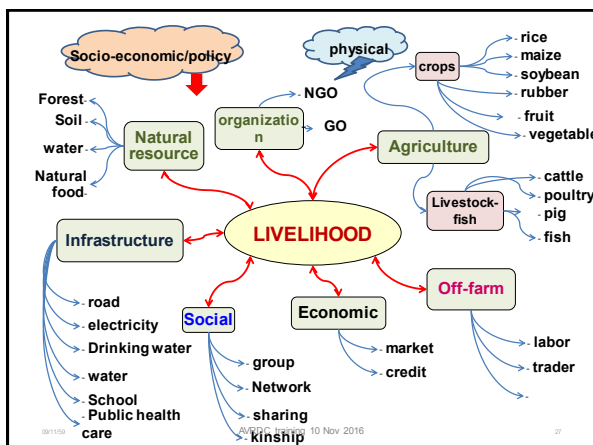
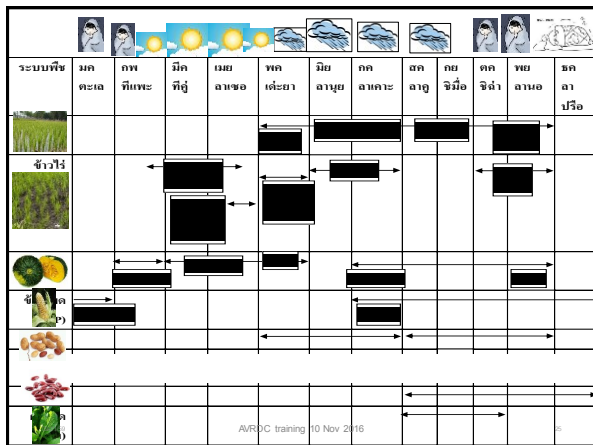


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Income/ Food source	Proportion (%)	Distribution of food/income from different sources					
		Rice 12%	Red bean 3%	pumpkin 4%	coffee 1%	banana 4%	Fruit 8%
Agriculture 47%	Crop 32%						
	Livestock 15%	pig 10%	chicken 5%				
Off-farm 31%	31%	Labor (village) 17%	Labor (city) 6%	trader 4%	Civil servant 4%		
Natural food product 17%	17%	Mushroom/vegetable 9%	insect 4%	fish 4%			
sharing 5%	5%	Merit					

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Group Exercise 2.1

1. Divide into 3 groups
2. List the vulnerability context
3. Identify the asset in the sheet (see example)
4. Identify the risk or problem in the asset sheet
5. Using the bean to make a raking : income source/food source

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Vulnerability context

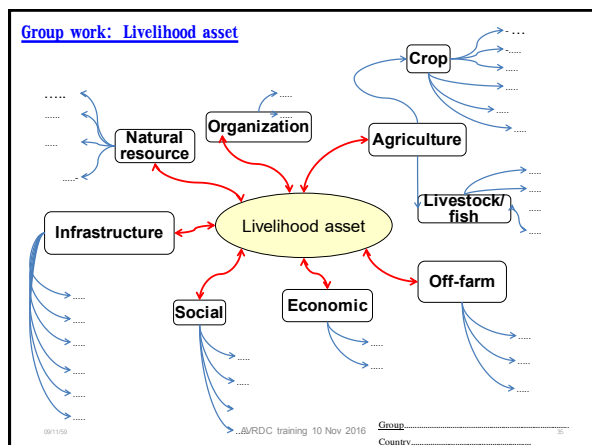
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Group work: Livelihood asset



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Group.....
Country.....

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