



CGIAR Annual General Meeting 2005

Stakeholder Meeting (Science Forum)
Marrakech, Morocco, December 6-7, 2005

Agenda Item 4. CGIAR Priorities: Science for the Poor **Parallel Session (e) Improving policies and facilitating institutional innovation**

Background/Process:

This session involves a keynote presentation by a Science Council-invited speaker, Chris Barrett (Cornell University, USA), to be followed by comments from three discussants.

Document:

The keynote paper discusses the challenge of improving policy and institutional innovation for poverty reduction. The poverty traps concept is considered in relation to six key features namely a focus on dynamics, multiple dynamic equilibrium, risk matters, exclusionary mechanisms, multi-dimensionality, and feedback effects across scales of analysis.

A dynamic and multidimensional approach to poverty has implications for agricultural research and development including the need for an asset based approach an emphasis on productivity growth and the use of systems thinking. These ideas are illustrated by two case studies from the East Africa Rangelands and the Highlands of Kenya and Madagascar. The role the CGIAR can play in both biophysical and social science research in sustainable poverty reduction is also considered in relation to the poverty traps conceptualization.

1. Poverty Traps and Agricultural Research: Improving Policies, Institutions and Technologies to Support Sustainable Poverty Reduction

Comments: