

Adaptation Committee

Expert meeting on promoting livelihoods and economic diversification to build resilience in the context of planning, prioritizing and implementing adaptation

Report to plenary

Session “Livelihoods diversification at household and community levels”

Group 1

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Falilitator: Vositha Wijenayake

Rapporteur: Max Buege

Identified household and community level trends and key drivers of livelihood diversification

- ❖ **Communities can be active drivers of economic diversification**
 - Communities often actively seek diversification (e.g. how to improve traditional farming systems), yet often with little government support
 - Women (groups) can be active drivers for improved means of income (ex. Papua New Guinea)
 - Schools can be hubs for knowledge & knowledge transfer
 - ❖ **But they can also resist change... The context matters!**
 - The change from monocultures back to more traditional mixed-crop agriculture can be difficult due to habits, routines etc. (e.g. Maize)
 - ❖ **The youth can be more willing to try new ways of farming, business, etc. They can be ambassadors for change**
 - ❖ **Farmer organizations are key actors when it comes to reorganizing the local economy/production patterns**
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The role that different approaches, measures and tools can play in livelihood diversification

- ❖ **New technologies** (solar panels, biomass) can be helpful instruments to foster new and more diverse ways of production
- ❖ **Value added upgrading** can lead to more product variety and new export markets (e.g. Coffee in Costa Rica)
- ❖ **Information, education, training** are needed to convince local communities to introduce new products (e.g. crops, bee hives)
- ❖ **Enabling** governance & economic governance **environment** (tax incentives)
- ❖ **Financial infrastructure** to bridge the time gap (planting now, harvesting only 2 or 3 years later) (e.g. seed money, insurance, microfinance)
- ❖ **Capacity building/Training** can improve skills (service diversification)
- ❖ **Better data, indicators & analyses** are a prerequisite for understanding the costs of external risks + and the costs and benefits of diversification
- ❖ **Storage infrastructure** is part of diversification infrastructure
- ❖ “Integrated didactic farms” – **holistic approach**



Identified characteristics and successes in incentivizing livelihood diversification

- ❖ Analyzing interests, priorities and culture of the community is important to offer targeted support
- ❖ Continuity with communities & families is important (difficult to propose radical change): Small and incremental change allows more buy-in & acceptance!
- ❖ Sharing successful experiences helps identifying successful diversification strategies
- ❖ Enhancing knowledge about the economic (micro-)cosmos allows for better links between different product and services markets (e.g. better understanding of consumer demand helps farmers and consumers alike)
- ❖ Bringing consumers and farmers together (e.g. visiting organic farms) can allow for higher consumer fidelity and new means of income
- ❖ Long term promises/contracts (e.g. property rights) can improve accountability
- ❖ Enabling migration: Migration with dignity! (e.g. via skills)



Observations on the relationship between livelihood diversification, resilience and economic diversification

- ❖ Livelihood diversification has to be considered at different forms of 'livelihood' (surviving, subsistence, market activity)
- ❖ Economic diversification (macro level) and livelihood diversification (meso and micro level) have to be closely interconnected, both, via bottom-up and top-down approaches (but often the latter are based on local experiences!)
- ❖ Economic patterns might lock in (e.g. mining vs. more flexible, small stakeholder production)
- ❖ "Awareness" is at the heart of livelihood diversification, resilience and economic diversification
- ❖ Initiatives that are not smart or context-specific can be a waste of tax payers money

