The Global Community : Pathways to Rural Sustainability

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Outline

- Discuss 2 elements which in part compose the premise of the conference : <u>Globalisation</u> and <u>Urbanisation</u> as driving forces for rural change.

- Trace historical experience of international development co-operation leading to where we are today including a mention of where Canada and CIDA are.

Outline

- Use the emerging opportunities identified in these two reviews to attempt an answer to the question : What can be done to sustain rural communities and the physical environment in which they exist?

- Conclude by identifying a few areas where I believe research is important to advance your agenda.

Globalisation

- Globalisation is in the decline, but it is difficult to see.

- The door to "globalisation" was opened by the economic collapse of 1973.

- Globalisation peeked in 1995 with the WTO.

Globalisation (cont.)

- By the turn of the century it had become clear that nationalism and the nation states were stronger than they had been when globalisation began.
  - ✍ Formation of Slovenia and Croatia in 1991
  - ✍ Dayton Peace Accords of 1995 and racially based nations (the worst form)
  - ✍ Rwanda Genocide and the role of Paris, Washington and UN Security Council
  - ✍ Peru, Bolivia, Argentina, Brazil
  - ✍ Malaysia : Pulled currency off the market, made it non-convertible, pegged it low enough to favour exports, blocked the export of foreign capital and raised tariffs.
  - ✍ New Zeeland, Australia
  - ✍ Enron, WorldCom, Arthur-Anderson, Parmalat, AOL-Time Warner, Hollinger, Nortel

Urbanisation, Migration and Rural Sustainability

- Increased urbanisation – a problem for cities.

- Impact on rural sustainability

- What do we wish to sustain?

  - A group of people with a sense of place, culture, life style in a sustainable socio-ecological system ?

  - The natural resource base ?

  - A diverse and equitable range of livelihood options ?

Urbanisation, Migration and Rural Sustainability *(cont.)*

- Questions of scale, boundaries, stakeholders
- Voluntary migration – legitimate option, brain circulation, remittances – but disappearance of communities!
- Forced migration and the refugee problem.
- Defining the policy objective of rural sustainability is a political process – constitutive and distributive questions arise.
- Implementing pathways to the objective is a governance challenge.

International Development Co-operation in Perspective

- The development enterprise after WWII.
- North – South transfer of resources and technology, the expert with his delivery mechanism the project.
- Conceptualisations of the development process:
  - **Economical growth**
  - **Social Development**
  - **Socio-economic Development**
  - **Human Development**
  - **Basic needs Approach**
  - **Endogenous Development**
  - **Sustainable Development**
  - **Sustainable Human Development**
  - **Sustainable livelihoods**

International Development Co-operation in Perspective *(cont.)*

- Shaping the 21st Century OECD-DAC
- SAE Principles CIDA
  - **Local ownership**
  - **Program Approaches**
  - **Good Governance**
  - **Civil Society Participation**
  - **Partnerships**
  - **Untying Aid**
- Defining IDC – the MDG's

What Can Be Done ?

- Depends heavily on local circumstances but within a holarchic system from individual to global.

- Shift from techno-managerial, expert, elite, outsider driven processes to more participatory, consensual, equitable processes.

What Can Be Done? *(cont.)*

- Here are a few ideas :
  - **Start with an appreciation of rural <u>assets</u> of rural men and women, but also within the province, region, country… with local <u>adaptive strategies/history.</u>**
  - **Do not begin with needs (those will come later), dependence, disempowerment.**
  - **Visioning.**
  - **Action plans to move from where we are to where we want to be :**
    - **Local**
    - **Outside**

How Should It Be Done?
The Systems Approach

Complex Adaptive Systems Approach

- **Vulnerability Context: multi-level**
- **Assets Analysis (human, social ,natural , physical and economic)**
- **Use systems thinking to link policies , institutions and processes to vulnerability and assets**
- **Use double loop learning(learning how to learn)**

Assets

- **Human assets**
  - Knowledge
  - Skills
  - Creativity
  - Adaptive strategies

- **Social assets**
  - Governance
  - Decision making power
  - Community
  - Culture

- **Natural assets**
  - Land/soil
  - Water
  - Air
  - Flora and Fauna

- **Physical assets**
  - Buildings
  - Roads
  - Machinery
  - Crops/livestock

Sustainable Livelihoods

BOUNDARY JUDGEMENTS

- **Shift from problems, solutions and normal organisational life**
- **People, purposes and interacting issues emerging in conflict and /or cooperation**
- **Draw tentative boundaries around stakeholders, focussing on xxx, raising issues and dilemmas**
- **The boundaries define the action area**
- **Who is inside and benefits from it**
- **Who is outside and does not**
- **What are the consequences?**
- **How do we feel about that**
- **Boundaries are temporary and partial**

DEEPENING SYSTEMIC APPRECIATION

- Opening four windows on the action area
- Systems of Processes (efficiency and reliability)
- Systems of Structures (effectiveness)
- Systems of meaning (agreements etc)
- Systems of knowledge-power
  - (emancipating the privileged and unshackling the underprivileged)
- ✠ Prismatic thought ✠ options for action

Organisational Learning and Transformation

- (Using learning scenarios and systemic evaluation
- ☦ First scenario learns in the context of the future we might be heading for
- ☦ Second scenario learns about ideal futures
- ☦ Third scenario learns of ways to close the gap i.e. ways to move to ideal system properties or to shift the boundaries

All three scenarios are continually revisited

☦Systemic evaluation of issues and dilemmas of systems of processes, structures, meaning and knowledge-power, indicates performance of projects in these terms

☦ Provides information for reflection on and change where necessary

☦Seek balance between instrumental action and experimental action.

SLA applied to Guyana

- Assets analysis:
- Human Capital : Severely eroded internally (ex: transcription services) ,is the diaspora a possible asset
- Social capital : weak , high levels of distrust low levels of confidence in political system, police force ,judicial system enforceability of contracts
- Natural capital : abundant
- Physical and Economic :Weak.
- Applying the SLA at Success Village

Multi-level Vulnerability Analysis in Guyana

- **Individuals: Physical and economic security**
- **Groups : as above + crises of identity, trust, shared vision , leadership**
- **Local Government : Lack of capacity , resources , capture of public institutions for partisan interest……..**
- **National Government as above +revenue leakages, border disputes, macro-economics, commodity prices , debt management, politics**
- **Regional /International/ Global**

The Challenge
Power Differentials and Good Governance

Governance and its relation to other concepts and activities

Level	Activity	Concept
Meta	Politics	Governance
Macro	Policy	Policy-Making
Meso	Program	Public Admin
Micro	Project	Management

Operational Aspects

PowerAspect	Governance Focus	Program Concern	Institutional Issue
Articulation	Self-Organisation	Ownership	Empowerment
Mobilization	Social Capital	Capability	Civic Engagement
Distribution	Social Space	Access	Pluralism
Confirmation	Strength	Rights	Rule of Law

Research Questions and Some References

- While cities are sources of intense economic, social, cultural and political activity, do rural people feel marginalised?

- What do rural men and women consider their greatest asset? How can this be reinforced and linked to more S.L.?

- How can ICT's help to reverse marginalisation where desired? Can the idea of CATE help through value creation chains?

- How can empowered MP's in Canada restore rural relevance?

- Applying the S.L. approach in the Waterloo region – new partners ideas, tools and questions (Opportunities 2000 : Putting People First – Report 2004)

Research Questions and Some References

- Development goals tend to focus on the material condition while human rights goals tend to deal with normative constraints on power relations to ensure human dignity and the elimination of oppressive and repressive processes. Does HRAD have a special role to play in rural development?

- Scaling up effective grass roots experience in sustainable development needs people, tools, organisations and networks that effective in influencing policy. Explore how mediation between grass roots and policy formation processes can and does work in promoting sustainable agriculture and rural development?

Research Questions and Some Reference *(cont.)*

- What is the added value of S.L. approach and/or ESH approach to a "sustainable agriculture" approach to rural development?

- Some references:

  - **CIDA – Agriculture and Rural Development Policy 2003**

  - **Pathways to Participation, Cornwall and Pratt 2003**

  - **Transforming Bureaucracies, IIED 2000**

  - **Mediating Sustainability, Blauert and Zadek 1998**

Research Questions and Some Reference *(cont.)*

- Rural men and women are essentially entrepreneurs. Private Sector development principles and policies will be more effective than traditional "statist" approaches. Explore.

- Some references:
  - **See for example CIDA : Private Sector Policy 2003**
  - **UN Private Sector Report, Martin and Zedillo 2004**
  - **The Fortune at the Bottom of the Pyramid, Prahlad 2004**
  - **Growing Sustainable Businesses, Wheeler et al 2003**