

## Role of Irrigation in Poverty Alleviation and Enhancement of Livelihoods

*Proposed Position Paper*

*Adelaide 2012*

## Proposed Outline

1. Introduction
2. Definitions of Poverty
3. Opportunities for the Poor through Irrigation (with examples)
4. Continuing Challenges for the Poor
5. Pro-poor Interventions (with examples)
6. Conclusions

## 2. Definitions of Poverty

- a) Appreciating the Context
  - i. Absolute vs Relative Poverty
  - ii. Farmers and the Rural Poor in General
  - iii. Relevance of Eco-systems
  - iv. Rural-Urban Interactions
  - v. National and Regional Context
- b) Understanding the Vulnerabilities
  - i. Access to Water and Land
  - ii. Climate and Climate Variability
  - iii. Labour and Finance
  - iv. Markets
  - v. Competition for Resources
  - vi. Living with the Seasons

## 3. Opportunities for the Poor through Irrigation\*

- a) Broadening Access to Resources
    - i. Multiple Use of Systems
    - ii. Pro-poor Design of Irrigation
    - iii. Integration with Other Rural Livelihoods
    - iv. Exploiting the Gaps
  - b) Improving Resilience
    - i. Working with Eco-systems
    - ii. Designing for Sustainability
  - c) Increasing Livelihoods through Participation
    - i. Farmer Operations
    - ii. Farm and System Employment Opportunities
    - iii. Supply Chain Participation
    - iv. Producer Cooperation and Out-growing
- \* With examples

#### 4. Continuing Challenges for the Poor

- a) Eco-system Stress
- b) Population Shifts and Education
- c) Market Competition
- d) Land Fragmentation
- e) Intensive vs Extensive Systems
- f) Unsympathetic Design and Operation of Systems
- g) Climate Changes

#### 5. Pro-poor Interventions\*

- a) Observing and Learning
- b) Bottom-up Design and Management
  - i. Working with Social Systems
  - ii. Working with Technology
- c) Broadening Investment
  - i. Addressing Rural Livelihoods
- d) Increasing Resilience
  - i. Working with Eco-systems
- e) Encouraging Serendipity
  - i. Allowing for Multiple Use and Future Adaptation

\* With examples

#### Examples

- Integrated in text and in boxes
- Main examples needed
  - Opportunities for the Poor through Irrigation
    - Broadening access (eg multiple use)
    - Improving resilience
    - Increasing participation
  - Pro-poor Interventions
    - Working with social systems
    - Addressing rural livelihoods
    - Working with eco-systems