

Module 2: Baseline Assessment
SESSION 18: UNDERSTANDING AGRICULTURAL ECONOMIES

FACILITATOR NOTES

Presentation	<i>Agricultural Economies.ppt</i>
Handouts	None
Practitioners' Guide Reference	Chapter 3 BACKGROUND ON RURAL AGRICULTURAL ECONOMIES
Time	30 minutes

Purpose and content

- To familiarise participants with aspects of agricultural production systems relevant to HEA, particularly in terms of the differences between, and interdependence of, poorer and richer households.
- To provide some of the basic knowledge that participants will need throughout their interviews and in the analysis sessions.

Objectives

By the end of this session, participants should be able to:

- List the key determinants of wealth in agricultural economies describe how they determine wealth.
- Describe some of the typical differences between the poor and better-off in terms of how they gain access to food and income, and how they spend their cash
- Describe the ways in which poorer and richer households are interdependent in an agricultural rural economy

When to run this session

This is Session 18 in the Baseline Training Module, but it could fit in at any of a number of different points within the module. It introduces concepts that are essential in building up participants' basic understanding of rural economies before they embark on fieldwork.

Key learning points

In rural agricultural economies:

- To be **better off** means to own productive assets, like livestock and land, and to make some profit off your production. To be **poorer** means to work for others.
- In terms of **food income**: the poorer you are, the less you produce on your own, and the more you purchase or work for in kind

- In terms of **cash income**: the richer you are, the more profit you can generate on your own production (crops, livestock, milk/meat, etc.). The poorer you are, the more you rely on selling your labour.
- In terms of **expenditure**: the poorer you are, the more of your total income is spent on food and basic household goods; little is left for school and health.

Session plan

Session plan summary		
<i>Activity</i>	<i>Methodology</i>	<i>Timing</i>
Understanding agricultural production systems	Presentation	30 minutes
	Discussion	
Total		30 minutes

ACTIVITY: UNDERSTANDING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION SYSTEMS (30 MINUTES)

This session consists largely of going through the presentation. Through the presentation, you should:

- Outline the key components of agricultural economies
- Describe what it means to be poorer and richer in terms of these components
- Describe differences between poorer and richer households in terms of how they obtain food and cash income, and what they spend their cash on
- Describe some of the seasonal aspects of an agricultural economy

While going through the presentation, encourage participants to ask questions and to offer their own examples and ideas.