

WG-POVERTY Internal Workshop

Yogyakarta, Indonesia,
October 2010

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1. Role of Irrigation Development in Poverty Alleviation in India by R C Jha, presented by A K Bajaj, Chairman CWC, India
2. Definitions of Poverty by Prof Linden Vincent, University of Wageningen, Netherlands
3. Multiple Uses of Farm Storages by Andre Roux, South Africa
4. Employment Opportunities for the Landless Poor by Peter Lee, PH ICID, England

Three examples from Brazil

- All excellent examples of:
 - Professionally run family enterprises
 - Each "best in class"
- 1. Salad supplier on 6ha
- 2. Fruit and orchard farmer on 618ha
- 3. Vegetable grower on 2800ha

Farm sizes need to be scaled to be comparable with those in more resource rich agricultural systems (eg humid tropics or large riparian systems), but can be compared with each other and maybe those in other areas (eg non-riparian savannah)

Small Scale Salad Supplier

- Growing lettuce, coriander, broccoli, okra, spring (bunching) onions and tomato
 - Also banana and cassava
- Produce delivered and sold directly
 - 9 supermarkets in the local town
 - Size of market and prices limited
 - Difficult to match supply to demand (glut prone)
- Employs 1.25 people on 6Ha (0.2 jobs/ha)
 - Owner plus one helper for 1 week/month
 - Farmer works long hours, can take no holidays
 - Financially insecure, but more successful than most in this class

Fruit Farmer



Vegetable Grower

- Grows potato, carrot, onion, maize and wheat
 - 2800ha irrigated by centre pivots
- Sells directly and through wholesale markets
 - Packing sheds and delivery to remote markets
- Employs 1870 people (0.7 jobs/ha)
 - Increased from 1250 two years previously
 - Further expansion and replication likely
 - Mostly employs local people from 3 villages within 20-30km
 - Many employees are women, and working conditions are excellent and pretty secure

Agriculture and poverty

- Agriculture crucial to alleviation of rural poverty
 - But the prejudice against large units needs to be questioned
 - Especially for resource poor regions (eg Africa)
 - Beware political and romantic notions
 - More people can be employed in better, more secure conditions in large units
 - Small units are fine for subsistence, but poverty eradication will need bigger units capable of generating wealth
- Opportunities for unit consolidation need to be part of long term planning
 - Irrigation systems need to be adaptable
 - Not museums of rural poverty

Finally...



All three examples depend on farm reservoirs