Farming, Systems and Research: Knowledge, uncertainty and politics

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40 + years of FSR.....
Farming
Farming

Hazards and Opportunities

Dynamics and Diversity

CONTEXTS, CONDITIONS AND TRENDS

LIVELIHOOD RESOURCES

LIVELIHOOD PROCESSES & ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURES

LIVELIHOOD STRATEGIES

SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD OUTCOMES

Policy

History

Politics

Macro-economic conditions

Terms of trade

Climate

Agro-ecology

Demography

Social differentiation

Natural capital

Economic/financial capital

Human capital

Social capital

Institutions and Organisations

Agricultural intensification - extensification

Livelihood diversification

Migration

Livelihood

1. Increased numbers of working days created
2. Poverty reduced
3. Well-being and capabilities improved

Sustainability

4. Livelihood adaptation, vulnerability and resilience enhanced
5. Natural resource base sustainability ensured

Contextual analysis of conditions and trends and assessment of policy selling

Analysis of livelihood resources: trade-offs, combinations, sequences, trends

Analysis of institutional/organisational influences on access to livelihood resources and composition of livelihood strategy portfolio

Analysis of livelihood strategy portfolios and pathways

Analysis of outcomes and trade-offs
Farming
Farming

Adapted by Christy Shu, Center for Environmental Farming Systems.
From: Wilkins, J. and Eames-Skeatly, M. Discovering the Food System: An experiential learning program for young and inquiring minds. Cornell University, Departments of Nutritional Science and Horticulture. http://www.discoverfoodeys.cornell.edu/
Farming

agrarian political economy
Systems
**Systems**
Systems
Systems: knowledges and pathways......

plural frames  
diverse pictures  
under-determined realities

contending knowledges and values
business
government

effect
cause

local people

time

'Scope'

'Scoped pathway'
Research

METHODS for opening up, broadening out

Narrow
- expert / analytic

Participatory / deliberative

Cost-benefit analysis
- risk assessment
- stakeholder negotiation
- citizen's juries
- interactive modelling
- decision analysis
- participatory sensitivity analysis
- intervention futures
- PIPA

Opening up
- multi-site ethnographic methods
- concurrent evidence
- plural photovoice
- PIPA

Closing down
- open hearings
- structured interviews
- interactive foresight
- participatory appraisal
- q-mapping
- open space

Inputs
- scientometric mapping
- consensus conference
- participant observation
- innovation histories
- system histories

Outputs
Research... for change

Power & Politics

Increased structuration of activities in local practices

Socio-technical landscape (exogenous context)

Landscape developments put pressure on existing regime, which opens up, creating windows of opportunities for novelties

New regime influences landscape

New configuration breaks through, taking advantage of "windows of opportunity." Adjustment occurs in socio-technical regime

Aligns

We Spark

We Shape

Processes on the basis of expectations and visions.
Multiple dimensions (co-construction).
Seamless web
Research
FSR: the next 40 years?

- **Beyond farming and farmers**: political economies of livelihoods and agrarian change
- **Framing systems**: uncertainty and the politics of knowledge and innovation
- **Research for transformation**: transdisciplinarity alliances for change